



**FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION
ILLINOIS PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD**

APPELLANT: Thomas Gutman
DOCKET NO.: 24-24994.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 05-33-114-019-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Thomas Gutman, the appellant, by attorney Brian S. Maher, of Weis, DuBrock, Doody & Maher in Chicago; and the Cook County Board of Review.

Based on the facts and exhibits presented in this matter, the Property Tax Appeal Board hereby finds **a reduction** in the assessment of the property as established by the **Cook** County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

LAND: \$11,550
IMPR.: \$37,760
TOTAL: \$49,310

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

Statement of Jurisdiction

The appellant timely filed the appeal from a decision of the Cook County Board of Review pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) challenging the assessment for the 2024 tax year. The Property Tax Appeal Board finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of the appeal.

Findings of Fact

The subject property consists of a 2-story dwelling of masonry exterior construction with 1,490 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 84 years old. Features of the home include a full basement, a fireplace, and a 1-car garage.¹ The property has a 6,600 square foot site and is located in Wilmette, New Trier Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-05 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends assessment inequity with respect to the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on three comparables located within the same assessment neighborhood as the subject. The comparables consist of class 2-05, 2-story dwellings of masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 1,540 to

¹ The parties differ on whether the subject dwelling has central air conditioning. Neither party refuted the other parties' description of the subject or provided supplemental evidence to resolve this discrepancy.

1,697 square feet of living area. The homes are 71 to 83 years old. Each comparable has a partial basement with "unknown" disclosed for the finished area, central air conditioning and a 1-car garage. Two comparables each have 1 fireplace. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$32,475 to \$42,450 or from \$20.98 to \$26.77 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$34,195 or \$22.95 per square foot of living area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject property of \$51,333. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$39,783 or \$26.70 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four comparables located within the same assessment neighborhood as the subject. The comparables consist of class 2-05, 2-story dwellings of masonry or frame or masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 1,378 to 2,178 square feet of living area. The homes are 72 to 99 years old. Each comparable has a partial or full basement with one having finished area, and a 1-car garage. One comparable has central air conditioning, and three comparables each have 1 fireplace. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$37,013 to \$55,450 or from \$24.30 to \$26.86 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested that the subject's assessment be confirmed.

Conclusion of Law

The appellant contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. When unequal treatment in the assessment process is the basis of the appeal, the inequity of the assessments must be proved by clear and convincing evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of unequal treatment in the assessment process should consist of documentation of the assessments for the assessment year in question of not less than three comparable properties showing the similarity, proximity and lack of distinguishing characteristics of the assessment comparables to the subject property. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(b). The Board finds the appellant met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The parties submitted seven suggested comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables #1 and #3 as well as the board of review's comparables #1 and #3 which are less similar to the subject in age and/or dwelling size than the other comparables in the record.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the parties' remaining comparables which are overall most similar to the subject in location, design, age, dwelling size, and some features. These three comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$32,475 to \$38,507 or from \$21.09 to \$26.86 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$39,783 or \$26.70 per square foot of living area falls above the range established by the best comparables in this record on an overall improvement assessment basis and within the range on a per square foot basis. After considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences in features from the subject, the Board finds the appellant demonstrated with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed and a reduction in the subject's assessment is justified.

This is a final administrative decision of the Property Tax Appeal Board which is subject to review in the Circuit Court or Appellate Court under the provisions of the Administrative Review Law (735 ILCS 5/3-101 et seq.) and section 16-195 of the Property Tax Code. Pursuant to Section 1910.50(d) of the rules of the Property Tax Appeal Board (86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.50(d)) the proceeding before the Property Tax Appeal Board is terminated when the decision is rendered. The Property Tax Appeal Board does not require any motion or request for reconsideration.



Chairman



Member



Member



Member



Member

DISSENTING: _____

CERTIFICATION

As Clerk of the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board and the keeper of the Records thereof, I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, full and complete Final Administrative Decision of the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board issued this date in the above entitled appeal, now of record in this said office.

Date:

May 19, 2026



Clerk of the Property Tax Appeal Board

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Section 16-185 of the Property Tax Code provides in part:

"If the Property Tax Appeal Board renders a decision lowering the assessment of a particular parcel after the deadline for filing complaints with the Board of Review or after adjournment of the session of the Board of Review at which assessments for the subsequent year or years of the same general assessment period, as provided in Sections 9-125 through 9-225, are being considered, the taxpayer may, within 30 days after the date of written notice of the Property Tax Appeal Board's decision, appeal the assessment for such subsequent year or years directly to the Property Tax Appeal Board."

In order to comply with the above provision, YOU MUST FILE A PETITION AND EVIDENCE WITH THE PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE ENCLOSED DECISION IN ORDER TO APPEAL THE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPERTY FOR THE SUBSEQUENT YEAR OR YEARS. A separate petition and evidence must be filed for each of the remaining years of the general assessment period.

Based upon the issuance of a lowered assessment by the Property Tax Appeal Board, the refund of paid property taxes is the responsibility of your County Treasurer. Please contact that office with any questions you may have regarding the refund of paid property taxes.

PARTIES OF RECORD

AGENCY

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