FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION
ILLINOIS PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD

APPELLANT: Peter Custer
DOCKET NO.: 24-50950.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 14-33-409-006-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Peter Custer, the appellant, by attorney Michael R. O'Malley, of Schmidt Salzman & Moran, Ltd. 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 ***No Change*** 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:	$23,250
IMPR.:	$106,379
TOTAL:	$129,629

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 3-story townhome of masonry exterior construction with 1,907 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 157 years old. Features include a full basement with finished area, two full bathrooms, two half bathrooms, central air conditioning, and a 2-car garage.[1] The property has a 1,500 square foot site and is located in Chicago, North Chicago Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-10 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 five equity comparables located within the subject's assessment neighborhood. The comparables are

[1] The board of review disclosed that the subject has a finished basement with finished area and two half bathrooms, which were not disclosed nor refuted by the appellant.

improved with class 2-10 townhomes of masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 1,774 to 2,008 square feet of living area. The comparables are from 130 to 143 years old. Each comparable has a full basement, two or seven full bathrooms with two of these having one half bathroom, and a 2-car or a 4-car garage. Two comparables each have central air conditioning. Three comparables each have one or two fireplaces. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from $75,870 to $104,558 or from $38.52 to $52.07 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the improvement assessment be reduced.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of $129,629. The subject property has an improvement assessment of $106,379 or $55.78 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables located within the subject's assessment neighborhood. The comparables are improved with class 2-10 townhomes of masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 2,095 to 4,281 square feet of living area. The homes are from 111 to 147 years old. Each comparable have a full basement with finished area, from two to four bathrooms, one half bathroom, central air conditioning, from two to five fireplaces, and a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from $119,776 to $272,450 or ranging from $57.17 to $63.64 per square foot of living area. The board of review asserts the assessed values per square foot for the submitted comparables support the subject's assessed value as equitable.

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 did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The parties submitted nine suggested equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables #1, #3, and #4, as well as board of review comparables #1, #2, and #3, due to substantial differences when compared to the subject in bathroom count, dwelling size, and/or lack central air conditioning, which the subject features. The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparable #2 and board of review comparable #4 which are overall more similar to the subject in location, design/class, age, dwelling size, bathroom count, and most features. The two best comparables have improvement assessments of $75,870 to $119,776 or from $41.46 to $57.17 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of $106,379 or $55.78 per square foot of living area is bracketed by the two best comparables in this record. After considering adjustments to the two best comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds the appellant did not demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not 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:

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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: November 17, 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 9-215 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

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