



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

APPELLANT: Michael Hawley  
DOCKET NO.: 20-34287.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 10-32-206-040-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Michael Hawley, the appellant, by attorney Ellen G. Berkshire, of Verros Berkshire in Oakbrook Terrace; 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:** \$9,234  
**IMPR.:** \$44,744  
**TOTAL:** \$53,978

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 2020 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 two-story dwelling of masonry exterior construction with 2,551 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 80 years old. Features of the dwelling include an unfinished basement, central air conditioning, two fireplaces, and a 2.5-car garage. The property has a 6,840 square foot site located in Chicago, Jefferson Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-06 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 four comparables located within the same neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with class 2-06 dwellings of masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 2,262 to 2,988 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 63 to 78 years old. Each comparable has a

basement with two having finished area, one or two fireplaces, and a 1-car or a 2-car garage. Three comparables each have a central air conditioning. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$28,946 to \$36,175 or from \$11.30 to \$14.14 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$32,398 or \$12.70 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 of \$53,978. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$44,744 or \$17.54 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 neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with class 2-06, two-story dwellings of frame, masonry, or frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 2,268 to 3,004 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 72 to 79 years old. Each comparable has a basement with two having finished area and central air conditioning. Three comparables each have one or two fireplaces, and one comparable has a 1.5-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$43,228 to \$53,902 or from \$17.94 to \$21.77 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 taxpayer 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 a total of eight comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables #1, #2, and #4 as well as the board of review comparables #2 and #3 which are less similar to the subject in age, dwelling size, and/or basement finish than the other comparables in the record.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the parties' remaining comparables which are similar to the subject in location, dwelling size, age, and foundation type. However, these comparables have varying degrees of similarity to the subject in other features, including but not limited to a smaller garage size or a lack of a garage, unlike the subject's 2.5-car garage. These four comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$28,946 to \$47,705 or from \$12.80 to \$19.71 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$44,744 or \$17.54 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record. After considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences when compared to 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.



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Chairman



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Member



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Member



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Member

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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: September 19, 2023



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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

State of Illinois  
Property Tax Appeal Board  
William G. Stratton Building, Room 402  
401 South Spring Street  
Springfield, IL 62706-4001

APPELLANT

Michael Hawley, by attorney:  
Ellen G. Berkshire  
Verros Berkshire  
1S660 Midwest Road  
Suite 300  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

COUNTY

Cook County Board of Review  
County Building, Room 601  
118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL 60602