



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

APPELLANT: John Tinkham  
DOCKET NO.: 05-20147.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 15-01-310-002-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are John Tinkham, the appellant, by attorney Joseph G. Kusper of Storino, Ramello & Durkin, Rosemont, Illinois; and the Cook County Board of Review.

Based on the facts and exhibits presented, 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:** \$ 19,872  
**IMPR.:** \$ 108,236  
**TOTAL:** \$ 128,108

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**ANALYSIS**

The subject property consists of a two-story single family dwelling of masonry construction that contains 4,636 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 78 years old. Features of the home include a full finished basement, three fireplaces, and a two-car attached garage. The subject is located in River Forest, River Forest Township, Cook County.

The appellant contends assessment inequity with respect to the improvement assessment as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted descriptions and assessment information on three comparables. The appellant described the comparables as being improved with two-story single family dwellings of masonry or frame and masonry exterior

construction that ranged in size from 5,572 to 7,061 square feet of living area. The comparable dwellings range in age from 74 to 80 years old. The appellant described the comparables as being located several blocks from the subject property. Copies of the printouts from the Cook County Assessor's website for the subject and the comparables disclosed each of the comparables had a different classification code and neighborhood code than the subject property. Each of the comparables has a full basement with one being finished. Each comparable has two fireplaces and a 2, 3 or 3.5-car garage. These properties have improvement assessments ranging from \$74,999 to \$98,963 or from \$11.59 to \$14.09 per square foot of living area, rounded. The appellant asserted that the average improvement assessment for these comparables was \$13.21 per square foot of living area. Based on this data the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$13.21 per square foot of living area resulting in a revised improvement assessment of \$61,255.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein its final assessment of the subject totaling \$128,108 was disclosed. The subject has an improvement assessment of \$108,236 or \$23.35 per square foot of living area. To demonstrate the subject dwelling was equitably assessed, the board of review provided descriptions and assessment information on four comparables. The comparables were improved with two-story single family dwellings of masonry construction that ranged in size from 4,248 to 4,682 square feet of living area. The comparables had the same classification code and neighborhood code as the subject property and the board of review indicated they were located within 2 blocks of the subject. The dwellings ranged in age from 63 to 77 years old. Each comparable has a full basement with one being finished with a recreation room, one comparable has central air conditioning, the comparables have 2 or 3 fireplaces and each comparable has a 2 or 3-car garage. These properties have improvement assessments ranging from \$103,759 to \$109,495 or from \$23.39 to \$24.73 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

After reviewing the record and considering the evidence, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of the appeal. The Board further finds the evidence in the record does not support a reduction in the subject's assessment.

The appellant contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. Taxpayers who object to an assessment on the basis of lack of uniformity bear the burden of proving the disparity of assessments by clear and convincing evidence. Kankakee County Board of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 131 Ill.2d 1 (1989). The evidence must demonstrate a consistent pattern of assessment inequities within the assessment jurisdiction. After an analysis of the assessment data the Board finds a reduction is not warranted.

The parties to the appeal submitted assessment information on seven comparable properties to support their respective positions. The Board finds those comparables most similar to the subject were the comparables submitted by the board of review. These comparables were two-story dwellings of masonry exterior construction similar to the subject in location, style, age, size and features. These dwellings ranged in size from 4,248 to 4,682 square feet of living area. These comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$103,759 to \$109,495 or from \$23.39 to \$24.73 per square foot of living area. The subject has an improvement assessment of \$108,236 or \$23.35 per square foot of living area, which is below the range established by the best comparables in the record on a per square foot basis. Little weight was given the appellant's comparables due to their differing sizes, exterior construction and/or location.

For these reasons the Board finds the assessment of the subject property as established by the board of review is correct and no reduction is warranted.

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.

*Ronald R. Crit*

Chairman

*K. L. Fan*

Member

*Richard A. Huff*

Member

*Harold H. Lewis*

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: December 23, 2009

*Allen Castrovillari*

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 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 the subsequent year 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.

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.