



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

APPELLANT: Thomas Morrissey  
DOCKET NO.: 06-23670.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 25-18-200-032-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Thomas Morrissey, the appellant(s), by attorney Gregory J. Lafakis, of Verros, Lafakis & Berkshire, P.C. of Chicago; 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:** \$ 5,114  
**IMPR.:** \$ 20,673  
**TOTAL:** \$ 25,787

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**ANALYSIS**

The subject property consists of a 4,125 square foot parcel improved with a 113-year-old, one and one-half story, single-family dwelling of frame construction containing 1,418 square feet of living area and located in Lake Township, Cook County. Features of the residence include one full bathroom and a full-unfinished basement.

The appellant, through counsel, submitted evidence before the Property Tax Appeal Board claiming unequal treatment in the assessment process of the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this claim, the appellant submitted assessment data and descriptive information on four properties suggested as comparable to the subject. Based on the appellant's documents, the four suggested comparables consist of one-story or one and one-half story, single-family dwellings of frame, masonry or frame and masonry construction with the same neighborhood code as

the subject. The improvements range in size from 1,192 to 1,598 square feet of living area and range in age from 56 to 69 years. The comparables contain one or one and one-half bathrooms and a one-car or two-car detached garage. Three comparables contain a finished or unfinished basement, two comparables have central air-conditioning and three comparables contain a fireplace. The improvement assessments range from \$7.80 to \$9.18 per square foot of living area. Based on the evidence submitted, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the subject's total assessment of \$25,787. The subject's improvement assessment is \$20,673 or \$14.58 per square foot of living area. In support of the assessment the board submitted property characteristic printouts and descriptive data on four properties suggested as comparable to the subject. The suggested comparables are improved with one-story or one and one-half story, single-family dwellings of stucco, masonry or frame and masonry construction located within one block of the subject. Two of the comparables are located on the same street as the subject. The improvements range in size from 1,012 to 1,368 square feet of living area and range in age from 76 to 94 years. The comparables contain one or two full bathrooms and a full-unfinished basement. Three comparables have a fireplace and two comparables contain a one-car detached garage. The improvement assessments range from \$14.60 to \$20.47 per square foot of living area. Based on the evidence presented, 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 this appeal. The appellant's argument was unequal treatment in the assessment process. The Illinois Supreme Court has held that taxpayers who object to an assessment on the basis of lack of uniformity bear the burden of proving the disparity of assessment valuations 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 the appellant has not overcome this burden.

Both parties submitted a total of eight properties similar to the subject in design and location but with many variations in size of living area, exterior construction and/or age. These eight properties have improvement assessments ranging from \$7.80 to \$20.47 per square foot of living area. The subject's per square foot improvement assessment of \$14.58 falls within the range established by these properties. However, the Board finds of the eight properties offered for comparison, two vary greatly from the subject in size of living area, six vary significantly in age and six vary in exterior construction. In addition, the eight comparables are superior overall in amenities as compared to the

subject. After considering adjustments, and the differences in both parties' suggested comparables when compared to the subject, the Board finds the evidence submitted by both parties does not support a change in the subject's assessment.

As a result of this analysis, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds the appellant has failed to adequately demonstrate that the subject dwelling was inequitably assessed by clear and convincing evidence and a reduction is not 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. Cuit*

Chairman

*K. L. Fern*

Member

*Frank A. Huff*

Member

*Mario Morris*

Member

*Shawn R. Lerbis*

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: March 23, 2010

*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.