



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

APPELLANT: Michael McDonnell  
DOCKET NO.: 07-20249.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 15-01-102-047-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Michael McDonnell, the appellant(s), by attorney Rusty A. Payton, of Law Offices of Rusty A. Payton, 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 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: \$20,580  
IMPR.: \$67,406  
TOTAL: \$87,986**

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**ANALYSIS**

The subject property is improved with a two-story dwelling of frame construction containing 3219 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 78 years old. Features of the home include a full, finished basement, central air conditioning, two fireplaces and a three and one-half-car garage.

The appellant's appeal is based on unequal treatment in the assessment process. The appellant submitted basic assessment information on seven properties but provided sufficiently detailed property characteristics information on only four comparable properties. They were described as two-story frame, masonry or frame and masonry dwellings that range in age from 67 to 76 years old. The comparable dwellings range in size from 2902 to 3858 square feet of living area. Three have full, finished basements, and one has a partial basement. Two have central air conditioning, and all have fireplaces. The appellant did not include the size of any garages the comparables may have. The comparables have improvement

assessments ranging from \$17.18 to \$21.30 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment is \$24.25 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's final assessment was disclosed. The board of review presented descriptions and assessment information on four comparable properties consisting of two-story masonry dwellings that range in age from 65 to 77 years old. The dwellings range in size from 2887 to 3380 square feet of living area. Features include full, finished basements and two or three fireplaces. Three have central air conditioning, and three have two-car or two and one-half-car garages. Two are of deluxe condition. These properties have improvement assessments ranging from \$24.44 to \$29.73 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 this appeal. The Board further finds a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The appellant contends unequal treatment in the subject's improvement assessment 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 assessment valuations by clear and convincing evidence. Kankakee County Board of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 131 Ill.2d 1 (1989). After an analysis of the assessment data, the Board finds the appellant has met this burden.

The Board finds all of the board of review's comparables and the appellant's comparables #1, #2 and #4 should be given reduced weight in the Board's analysis because they are of different exterior construction than the subject. The Board also notes that two of the board of review's comparables are of deluxe condition. The appellant's comparable #3 is of frame construction similar to the subject and also is quite similar in other property characteristics. It had an improvement assessment of \$20.94 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$24.25 per square foot of living area is much higher than that of the most similar comparable. After considering adjustments and the differences

in both parties' comparables when compared to the subject, the Board finds the subject's improvement assessment is not equitable and a reduction in the subject's assessment 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.