



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

APPELLANT: Margaret Drake  
DOCKET NO.: 07-21878.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 05-27-402-001-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Margaret Drake, the appellant, by attorney Sonja R. Johnson, of Much Shelist in 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:** \$ 41,069  
**IMPR.:** \$ 128,931  
**TOTAL:** \$ 170,000

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**ANALYSIS**

The subject property consists of a 13,875 square foot parcel improved with an 84-year-old, two-story, single-family dwelling of frame construction containing 4,235 square feet of living area and located in New Trier Township, Cook County. Features of the residence include three and one-half bathrooms, a full-unfinished basement, central air-conditioning, two fireplaces and a two-car detached garage.

The appellant, through counsel, submitted evidence before the Property Tax Appeal Board arguing 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. The appellant also submitted photographs and Cook County Assessor's Internet Database sheets for the subject and the suggested comparables and a copy of the board of review's decision. Based on the appellant's documents, the four suggested comparables consist of two-story, single-family dwellings of masonry or stucco construction located within four blocks of the subject. The improvements range in size from

3,531 to 4,800 square feet of living area and range in age from 87 to 97 years old. The comparables contain from two to four and one-half bathrooms, a partial or full-unfinished basement and a two-car detached garage. One comparable has central air-conditioning and two comparables have a fireplace. The improvement assessments range from \$22.90 to \$26.00 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 \$179,765. The subject's improvement assessment is \$138,696 or \$32.75 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 two-story, single-family dwellings of frame construction with the same neighborhood code as the subject. Three of the comparables are located within one-quarter mile of the subject. The improvements range in size from 3,607 to 4,145 square feet of living area and range in age from 84 to 90 years old. The comparables contain from two and one-half to four and one-half bathrooms, a finished or unfinished basement, from one to three fireplaces and a two-car garage. Three comparables have central air-conditioning. The improvement assessments range from \$30.82 to \$32.45 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 a reduction is warranted.

The Board finds the appellant's comparable three and the board of review's comparables two and four to be the most similar properties to the subject in the record. These three properties are similar to the subject in improvement size, age, design, exterior construction and location and have improvement assessments ranging from \$26.00 to \$31.00 per square foot of living area. The subject's per square foot improvement assessment of \$32.75 falls above the range established by these properties. The Board further finds the remaining comparables less similar to the subject in improvement size and accorded less weight. After considering adjustments and the differences in both parties' comparables when compared to the subject, the Board finds the

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subject's improvement assessment is inequitable 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. 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: August 19, 2011

*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.