



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

APPELLANT: Dale & Natalie Laackman  
DOCKET NO.: 07-22367.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 05-27-314-012-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Dale & Natalie Laackman, the appellant(s), by attorney Christopher G. Walsh, Jr. in 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:** \$ 27,380  
**IMPR.:** \$ 109,472  
**TOTAL:** \$ 136,852

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**ANALYSIS**

The subject property consists of a 9,250 square foot parcel improved with an 86-year-old, two-story, single-family dwelling of frame construction containing 3,643 square feet of living area and located in New Trier Township, Cook County. Features of the residence include three and one-half bathrooms, a fireplace, a full-unfinished basement and a three-car detached garage.

The appellants, 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 the inequity claim, the appellants submitted assessment data and descriptive information on four properties suggested as comparable to the subject. The appellants also submitted 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 appellants' documents, the four suggested comparables consist of two-story, single-family dwellings of frame, stucco or masonry construction. The property

characteristic printouts disclosed the comparables have the same neighborhood code as the subject. The improvements range in size from 3,325 to 3,659 square feet of living area and range in age from 85 to 134 years old. The comparables contain two and one-half, three or three and one-half bathrooms, a finished or unfinished basement, one or two fireplaces and a two-car detached garage. Two comparables have central air-conditioning. The improvement assessments range from \$27.00 to \$27.89 per square foot of living area. Based on the evidence submitted, the appellants 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 \$136,852. The subject's improvement assessment is \$109,472 or \$30.05 per square foot of living area. In support of the assessment the board submitted property characteristic printouts and descriptive data on three 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. The improvements range in size from 3,023 to 3,623 square feet of living area and range in age from 86 to 99 years old. The comparables contain three or four full bathrooms, a full-finished or unfinished basement and one or two fireplaces. One comparable has central air-conditioning and two comparables have a two-car garage. The improvement assessments range from \$31.34 to \$34.34 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 appellants' 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 appellants have not overcome this burden.

The Board finds the appellants' comparables three and four and the board of review's comparable one to be the most similar properties to the subject in the record. These three properties are similar to the subject in improvement size, amenities, age, design and location and have improvement assessments ranging from \$27.72 to \$31.34 per square foot of living area. The subject's per square foot improvement assessment of \$30.05 falls within the range established by these properties. The Board finds the four remaining comparables less similar to the subject in age and/or size and accorded less weight. After considering adjustments and the differences in both parties' suggested comparables when

compared to the subject, the Board finds the subject's per square foot improvement assessment is supported by the most similar properties contained in the record.

As a result of this analysis, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds the appellants have failed to adequately demonstrate that the subject dwelling was inequitably assessed by clear and convincing evidence 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. 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: February 18, 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.