



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

APPELLANT: Jeffery Strange  
DOCKET NO.: 07-23378.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 05-32-201-031-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Jeffery Strange, the appellant(s), by attorney Herbert B. Rosenberg, of Schoenberg Finkel Newman & Rosenberg LLC 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:** \$13,603  
**IMPR.:** \$54,600  
**TOTAL:** \$68,203

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**ANALYSIS**

The subject property has 8,502 square feet of land, which is improved with a 111 year old, two-story, frame, single-family dwelling containing 1,950 square feet of living area. The subject includes two baths, a full unfinished basement, and a two-car garage. The appellant's appeal is based on unequal treatment in the assessment process.

In support of the equity argument, the appellant submitted assessment information on four properties, including descriptive information for two of those properties. The appellant asserts that these four properties are comparable to the subject. The two properties for which descriptive information was submitted are described as two-story, frame or frame and masonry, single-family dwellings that range in age from 66 to 176 years old. These suggested comparables both contain two baths, a one-car garage, and air conditioning. Additionally, one of the comparables has a partial basement with a formal recreation room, while one contains a partial unfinished basement. The appellant argues that all four of the suggested comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$12.53 to \$26.74 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment.

The Cook County Board of Review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's final assessment of \$68,203 was disclosed. In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review presented descriptive and assessment information on four properties suggested as comparable to the subject. These properties are described as two-story, frame, single-family dwellings that range in age from 82 to 100 years old, and in size from 1,730 to 2,006 square feet of living area. The suggested comparables have from one and one-half to three baths, and either a full unfinished basement or a full basement with a formal recreation room. Additionally, three of the comparables have a fireplace, and three have a two-car garage. These suggested comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$28.53 and \$31.71 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

In rebuttal, the appellant argued that the board of review's comparables are not comparable to the subject, and that the appellant's comparables should be given the most weight.

After reviewing the record and considering the evidence, the Property Tax Appeal Board (the "Board") finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this appeal. The appellant contends unequal treatment in the subject's improvement assessment as the basis of this 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. Walsh v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 181 Ill. 2d 228, 234 (1998) (citing Kankakee Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 131 Ill. 2d 1 (1989)); 86 Ill. Admin. Code § 1910.63(e). To succeed in an appeal based on lack of uniformity, the appellant must submit documentation "showing the similarity, proximity and lack of distinguishing characteristics of the assessment comparables to the subject property." Cook Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 403 Ill. App. 3d 139, 145 (1st Dist. 2010); 86 Ill. Admin. Code § 1910.65(b). "[T]he critical consideration is not the number of allegedly similar properties, but whether they are in fact 'comparable' to the subject property." Cook Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 403 Ill. App. 3d at 145 (citing Du Page Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 284 Ill. App. 3d 649, 654-55 (2d Dist. 1996)). After an analysis of the assessment date, the Board finds that the appellant has not met this burden.

The Board finds that all of the comparables submitted by the board of review were most similar to the subject in location, size, style, exterior construction, features, and age. Due to their similarities to the subject, these comparables received the most weight in the Board's analysis. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$28.53 to \$31.71 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$28.00 per square foot of living area is below the range established by the most similar comparables. Therefore, after

considering adjustments and differences in both parties' comparables when compared to the subject, the Board finds that the subject's improvement assessment is equitable, and a reduction in the subject's assessment 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.

*Donald R. Cuit*

Chairman

*K. L. Fern*

Member

*Frank A. Huff*

Member

*Mario Morris*

Member

*J. R.*

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: October 19, 2012

*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.