



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

APPELLANT: Frank Johnsen, Jr.  
DOCKET NO.: 07-24988.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 09-27-417-056-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Frank Johnsen, Jr., the appellant, by attorney Brian Grossman, of Worsek & Vihon 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:** \$ 21,240  
**IMPR.:** \$ 51,990  
**TOTAL:** \$ 73,230

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**ANALYSIS**

The subject property consists of a 22,126 square foot parcel improved with a 46-year-old, one-story, single-family dwelling of frame and masonry construction containing 2,866 square feet of living area and located in Maine Township, Cook County. Features of the residence include three full bathrooms, a partial-unfinished basement, a fireplace and a two-car attached 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 six properties suggested as comparable to the subject. In addition, the appellant 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 six suggested comparables consist of one-story, single-family dwellings of masonry or frame construction located within six blocks of the subject. The improvements range in size from 2,144 to 5,159 square feet of living area and range in age from 41 to

98 years old. The comparables contain from two to five full bathrooms and a one-car or two-car garage. Five comparables contain a finished or unfinished basement as well as central air-conditioning and five comparables have one or three fireplaces. The improvement assessments range from \$16.71 to \$20.60 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 \$81,568. The subject's improvement assessment is \$60,328 or \$21.05 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, single-family dwellings of frame and masonry construction located within the same Sidwell Block as the subject. The improvements range in size from 1,995 to 2,175 square feet of living area and range in age from 47 to 53 years old. The comparables contain two and one-half or three full bathrooms, central air-conditioning, one or two fireplaces and a multi-car garage. Two comparables have a partial or full-finished basement. The improvement assessments range from \$21.05 to \$30.00 per square foot of living area. Based on the evidence presented, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

In rebuttal, the appellant's attorney submitted a one-page letter arguing that the board's comparables are, on average, 800 square feet smaller than the subject.

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 overcome this burden.

The Board finds the appellant's comparables one, two and six to be the most similar properties to the subject in the record. These three properties are similar to the subject in improvement size, design, amenities and location and have improvement assessments ranging from \$16.71 to \$18.14 per square foot of living area. The subject's per square foot improvement assessment of \$21.05 falls above the range established by these properties. The Board 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.