



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

APPELLANT: Jon and Jennifer Groh  
DOCKET NO.: 15-02204.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 06-18-418-038

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Jon and Jennifer Groh, the appellants; and the Lake County Board of Review.

Based on the facts and exhibits presented in this matter, the Property Tax Appeal Board hereby finds **No Change** in the assessment of the property as established by the **Lake** County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

**LAND:** \$6,661  
**IMPR.:** \$22,011  
**TOTAL:** \$28,672

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**Statement of Jurisdiction**

The appellants timely filed the appeal from a decision of the Lake County Board of Review pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) challenging the assessment for the 2015 tax year. The Property Tax Appeal Board finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of the appeal.

**Findings of Fact**

The subject property consists of a 1-story dwelling of frame construction with 1,142 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1976 and features a partial unfinished basement. The subject is situated on a 9,152 square foot site located in Round Lake Beach, Avon Township, Lake County.

The appellants contend both assessment inequity and overvaluation as the bases of the appeal. In support of these arguments the appellants submitted information on three comparables. The comparables had varying degrees of similarity when compared to the subject. They were 1-story dwellings of frame exterior construction each containing 975 square feet of living area. They range in age from 43 to 45 years old. They feature full basements, two with finished area. One has central air conditioning. They are located a distance of .15 to .62 of a mile from the subject. They have improvement assessments ranging from \$12,326 to \$19,343 or from \$12.64 to \$19.84 per square foot of living area. These comparables also sold between March and June 2015 for

prices ranging from \$53,000 to \$75,000 or from \$54.36 to \$76.92 per square foot of living area land included. The appellants requested the total assessment be reduced to \$15,161 which reflects a fair market value of \$45,693 or \$40.01 per square foot of living area including land, when using the 2015 three-year average median level of assessment for Lake County of 33.18% as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$28,672. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$86,414 or \$75.67 per square foot of living area, land included, when using the 2015 three-year average median level of assessment for Lake County of 33.18% as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$22,011 or \$19.27 per square foot of living area. In support of the subject's assessment the board of review submitted information on four comparables. The comparables had varying degrees of similarity when compared to the subject. All were 1-story frame dwellings built in 1972 or 1976. They contain either 975 or 1,056 square feet of living area. They feature full basements. One comparable has a partially finished basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace and a 360 square foot garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$19,069 to \$31,087 or from \$19.56 to \$29.44 per square foot of living area. They sold from September 2013 through October 2015 for prices ranging from \$82,500 to \$110,000 or from \$84.62 to \$104.17 per square foot of living area land included. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

In rebuttal, the appellants compare and contrast the differences between the subject and the board of review comparables but used the wrong parcel for board of review comparable #1. The appellants also claim board of review comparable #4 sold in February 2015 for \$18,000 in addition to the April 2015 sale for \$88,900.

### **Conclusion of Law**

The taxpayers contend in part overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. When market value is the basis of the appeal the value of the property must be proved by a preponderance of the evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of market value may consist of an appraisal of the subject property, a recent sale, comparable sales or construction costs. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(c). The Board finds the appellants did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment based on overvaluation is not warranted.

Initially, the Board gives no weight to the appellants claim in rebuttal that board of review comparable #4 sold in February 2015 for \$18,000. The evidence submitted by the appellants had no source for the data other than "public records". The board of review submitted the property record card for comparable #4 which indicated the property sold in April 2014 for \$18,000, eight months prior to the subject's assessment date of January 1, 2015, and sold again in August 2015, seven months after the subject's assessment date, for \$86,000. The property record card included the name of the buyer and the Doc # of both sales.

Both parties submitted seven comparable sales for the Board's consideration. The Board gave less weight to the board of review's comparable #2 based on garage, fireplace, central air conditioning and finished basement as compared to the subject. The Board also gave less weight

to the appellants' comparables #1 and #2 based on finished basement and/or central air conditioning as compared to the subject. The Board finds the appellants' comparable #3 and the board of review comparables #1, #3 and #4 are most similar to the subject in location, exterior construction, style, size, features and age. These comparables sold between November 2014 and October 2015 for prices ranging from \$53,000 to \$86,500 or from \$54.36 to \$88.72 per square foot of living area including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$86,414 or \$75.67 per square foot of living area, including land, which is within the range established by the best comparable sales in this record. Based on this evidence the Board finds a reduction in the subject's assessment based on overvaluation is not justified.

The appellants also argued unequal treatment as an alternative basis for the appeal. 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.

The most similar equity comparables in the record, appellants' comparable #3 and the board of review comparables #1, #3 and #4, had improvement assessments ranging from \$19.56 to \$19.98 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$19.27 per square foot of living area falls below the range established by the most similar comparables in the record. Based on this record the Board finds the appellants did not demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not justified.

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.



Chairman



Member



Acting Member



Member



Member

DISSENTING: \_\_\_\_\_

CERTIFICATION

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: July 21, 2017



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.