



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

APPELLANT: Merrilee Hepler
DOCKET NO.: 19-06037.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 16-36-420-007

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Merrilee Hepler, the appellant, by attorney Robert Rosenfeld, of Robert H. Rosenfeld and Associates, LLC in Chicago, 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: \$86,677
IMPR.: \$70,133
TOTAL: \$156,810

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

Statement of Jurisdiction

The appellant 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 2019 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 2-story dwelling of brick exterior construction with 1,956 square feet of living area. The dwelling was built in 1937 and is 82 years old. Features of the home include an unfinished basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace and a 180 square foot detached garage. The property has a 10,558 square foot site and is located in Highland Park, Moraine Township, Lake County.

The appellant contends assessment inequity with respect to the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on four equity comparables located within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with 2-story or 2.5-story dwellings of wood siding or brick exterior construction that range in size from 2,136 to 3,234 square feet of living area and are 78 or 94 years old. The comparables have basements, two of which have finished area. Each comparable has central air conditioning, a fireplace and an attached or a detached garage ranging in size from

180 to 609 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$70,362 to \$103,875 or from \$30.22 to \$32.94 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, 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 total assessment for the subject of \$156,810. The subject has an improvement assessment of \$70,133 or \$35.86 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on five equity comparables located within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with 2-story dwellings of brick, stone and wood siding, or brick and wood siding exterior construction that range in size from 1,884 to 2,229 square feet of living area and were built from 1925 to 1954. Comparables #2 and #5 have effective years built of 1948 and 1951, respectively. All comparables have basements, three of which have recreation rooms. Three comparables have central air conditioning. Each comparable has one or two fireplaces and an attached or a detached garage ranging in size from 240 to 399 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$84,815 to \$111,086 or from \$39.56 to \$53.51 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

Conclusion of Law

The appellant contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. When unequal treatment in the assessment process is the basis of the appeal, the inequity of the assessments must be proved by clear and convincing evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of unequal treatment in the assessment process should consist of documentation of the assessments for the assessment year in question of not less than three comparable properties showing the similarity, proximity and lack of distinguishing characteristics of the assessment comparables to the subject property. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(b). The Board finds the appellant did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The parties submitted nine equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gave less weight to the appellant's comparables #1, #2 and #3 due to their larger dwelling sizes when compared to the subject. The Board gave less weight to board of review comparables #1, #2 and #3 due to their basements with recreations rooms unlike the subject's unfinished basement.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant's comparable #1 and board of review comparables #4 and #5. These comparables are relatively similar to the subject in location, design, dwelling size, and some features. These comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$70,362 to \$92,179 or from \$32.94 to \$43.73 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$70,133 or \$35.86 per square foot of living area, falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record on a square foot basis but slightly below on an overall basis. Based on this evidence and after considering adjustments to the comparables for differences when compared to the subject, the Board finds the appellant did not prove by 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. Pursuant to Section 1910.50(d) of the rules of the Property Tax Appeal Board (86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.50(d)) the proceeding before the Property Tax Appeal Board is terminated when the decision is rendered. The Property Tax Appeal Board does not require any motion or request for reconsideration.



Chairman



Member



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:

February 15, 2022



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 or years of the same general assessment period, as provided in Sections 9-125 through 9-225, 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 such subsequent year or years 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 OR YEARS. A separate petition and evidence must be filed for each of the remaining years of the general assessment period.

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.

PARTIES OF RECORD

AGENCY

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COUNTY

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