



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

APPELLANT: Murali Meraga
DOCKET NO.: 19-07567.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 15-17-414-017

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Murali Meraga, 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: \$44,631
IMPR.: \$194,075
TOTAL: \$238,706

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 two-story dwelling of wood siding and dryvit exterior construction with 4,137 square feet of living area. The dwelling was built in 1999 and is approximately 20 years old. Features of the home include a full basement that is partially finished, central air conditioning, and an attached garage with 748 square feet of building area. The property has a site with approximately 15,310 square feet of land area and is located in Buffalo Grove, Vernon 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 improved with two-story dwellings of wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 3,911 to 4,246 square feet of living area. The dwellings are 28 or 29 years old. Each comparable has a full basement with two having finished area, central air conditioning, one or

two fireplaces and an attached garage with either 775 or 800 square feet of building area. The comparables have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property and are located from .08 to .28 of one mile from the subject property. The improvement assessments on these properties range from \$170,653 to \$185,410 or from \$42.33 to \$43.67 per square foot of living area. The appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$179,132.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$238,706. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$194,075 or \$46.91 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 improved with two-story dwellings of brick or wood siding and brick exterior construction ranging in size from 3,898 to 4,678 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built in 1991 or 1993. Each property has a full basement with a recreation room ranging in size from 1,192 to 1,897 square feet, central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces, and an attached garage ranging in size from 704 to 800 square feet of building area. Comparable #5 has an inground swimming pool and a hot tub. The comparables have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property and are located from approximately .23 to .31 of one mile from the subject property. The improvement assessments on these properties range from \$190,601 to \$205,851 or from \$44.00 to \$50.03 per square foot of living area.

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 record contains information on nine comparables submitted by the parties that are similar to the subject in location and style. Each dwelling is older than the subject dwelling suggesting an upward adjustment to the comparables for age may be appropriate. The Board gives less weight to appellant's comparables #1 and #2 as these properties lack finished basement area, unlike the subject property. The Board gives less weight to board of review comparable #4 due to differences from the subject dwelling in size. The Board gives less weight to board of review comparable #5 as this property has an inground swimming pool and a hot tub, features the subject does not have. The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables #3 and #4 as well as board of review comparables #1 through #3. These five comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$176,675 to \$199,662 or from \$42.43 to \$48.84 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$194,075 or \$46.91 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record and well supported given the dwelling's superior age relative to the comparables. Based on this record the Board finds the appellant 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. 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:

May 17, 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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