



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

APPELLANT: Greg Schlax
DOCKET NO.: 19-08831.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 12-28-309-024

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Greg Schlax, 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: \$89,780
IMPR.: \$185,618
TOTAL: \$275,398

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 is improved with a two-story dwelling of stucco exterior construction with 2,401 square feet of living area. The dwelling was built in 1996 and is approximately 23 years old. Features of the property include a full basement with a 500 square foot recreation room, central air conditioning, two fireplaces and a detached garage with 528 square feet of building area. The property has a 10,550 square foot site and is located in Lake Forest, Shields 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 2,611 to 2,934 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 30 to 33 years old. Each comparable has a full basement with one having finished area, central air

conditioning, one fireplace and an attached garage ranging in size from 466 to 560 square feet of building area. The comparables have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property and are located within approximately .73 of one mile from the subject property. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$172,792 to \$196,634 or from \$61.27 to \$72.03 per square foot of living area. The appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$161,767.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$275,398. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$185,618 or \$77.31 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on three equity comparables improved with two-story dwellings of wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 2,511 to 2,591 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built from 1991 to 1997. Each comparable has a full basement with one having finished area, central air conditioning, one fireplace, and a detached garage ranging in size from 484 to 600 square feet of building area. Comparable #1 also has a fully finished attic. The comparables have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property and are located approximately .35 to 1.17 miles from the subject property. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$200,222 to \$216,733 or from \$79.71 to \$85.48 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 parties submitted information on seven comparables to support their respective positions. Overall, the comparables provided by the board of review are more similar to the subject dwelling in age, size and features than are the appellant's comparables, therefore, the board of review comparables are given the most weight. Board of review comparables #1 and #3 have unfinished basements unlike the subject's partially finished basement, which would suggest these comparables would require an upward adjustment to make them more equivalent to the subject property for this feature. Board of review comparable #1 may require a downward adjustment due to the property's fully finished attic, a feature the subject does not have. The board of review comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$200,222 to \$216,733 or from \$79.71 to \$85.48 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$185,618 or \$77.31 per square foot of living area falls below the range established by comparables in this record and is well supported considering the suggested adjustments. 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: June 21, 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

State of Illinois
Property Tax Appeal Board
William G. Stratton Building, Room 402
401 South Spring Street
Springfield, IL 62706-4001

APPELLANT

Greg Schlax, by attorney:
Robert Rosenfeld
Robert H. Rosenfeld and Associates, LLC
33 North Dearborn Street
Suite 1850
Chicago, IL 60602

COUNTY

Lake County Board of Review
Lake County Courthouse
18 North County Street, 7th Floor
Waukegan, IL 60085