



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

APPELLANT: William Lerch  
DOCKET NO.: 20-00204.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 03-28-201-006

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are William Lerch, 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:** \$27,968  
**IMPR.:** \$150,534  
**TOTAL:** \$178,502

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 2020 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 brick and wood siding exterior construction with 4,029 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 2000 and is approximately 20 years old. Features of the home include an unfinished full walk-out basement, central air conditioning, three fireplaces and an attached garage with 509 square feet of building area.<sup>1</sup> The subject also has a 192 square foot wooden deck.<sup>2</sup> The property has an approximate 43,560 square foot site and is located in Wadsworth, Newport Township, Lake County.

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<sup>1</sup> The parties differ as to the size of the subject's garage. The board finds the best evidence of the garage size to be the property record card provided by the board of review.

<sup>2</sup> The property record card provided by the board of review indicated the subject has a wooden deck which was not disclosed by the appellant.

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 in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and within .18 of a mile from the subject. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of brick or wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 3,901 to 4,855 square feet of living area. The homes range in age from 18 to 21 years old. Each comparable has an unfinished full basement, central air conditioning, two or four fireplaces, and an attached garage ranging in size from 748 to 1,211 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$112,987 to \$163,636 or from \$28.96 to \$34.02 per square foot of living area. The appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$130,841 or \$32.48 per square foot of living area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$178,502. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$150,534 or \$37.36 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables located in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property and within .29 mile from the subject property. The comparables area improved with two-story dwellings of brick or wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 3,706 to 4,299 square feet of living area. The homes were built from 1998 to 2006. Each comparable has a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning, from one to three fireplaces, and an attached garage ranging in size from 767 to 1,093 square feet of building area. Comparables #2 and #3 each have a wood deck. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$140,063 to \$160,605 or from \$34.62 to \$38.78 per square foot of living area.

### **Conclusion of Law**

The taxpayer 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 eight comparables submitted by the parties to support their respective positions. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparable #3 due to its larger dwelling size when compared to the subject. Appellant's comparable #1 was also given reduced weight as its considerably lower improvement assessment appears to be an outlier relative to the other comparables in the record.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the parties' remaining comparables which are similar to the subject in location, design, age, dwelling size, and most features. These comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$140,063 to \$160,605 or from \$33.20 to \$38.78 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$150,534 or \$37.36 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best

comparables in this record. Based on this record and after considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences when compared to the subject, 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:

August 23, 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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