



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

APPELLANT: Leah Sosewitz  
DOCKET NO.: 20-01920.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 16-26-207-009

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Leah Sosewitz, 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:** \$69,079  
**IMPR.:** \$92,796  
**TOTAL:** \$161,875

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 2.5-story dwelling of brick exterior construction with 2,812 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1905 and is approximately 115 years old. The dwelling has a reported effective age of 1955.<sup>1</sup> Features of the home include a basement finished with a recreation room, central air conditioning, a fireplace and a 400 square foot garage. The property has an approximately 9,850 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 with the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are

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<sup>1</sup> The subject's property record provided by the board of review revealed the subject dwelling was remodeled in 2011 and has an effective age of 1955, which was unrefuted by the appellant.

improved with 2-story dwellings of brick exterior construction ranging in size from 2,678 to 3,042 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 82 to 85 years old. Each comparable has basement with finished area, central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces and a garage ranging in size from 200 to 400 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$76,153 to \$96,881 or from \$28.03 to \$32.16 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$84,641 or \$30.10 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 \$161,875. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$92,796 or \$33.00 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on five comparables with the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with 2-story or 2.5-story dwellings of brick or stucco exterior construction ranging in size from 2,846 to 2,892 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built from 1924 to 1928 with comparables #1, #2, #3 and #5 having reported effective ages ranging from 1932 to 1957. The comparables each have a basement, three of which are finished with a recreation room and one having a walk-out design. Each comparable has central air conditioning, one to three fireplaces and a garage ranging in size from 209 to 403 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$96,316 to \$167,056 or from \$33.30 to \$58.70 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 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 a total of nine suggested equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board finds all of the comparables are relatively similar to the subject in location, dwelling size, design, age and some features, except two comparables lack a basement recreation room, a feature of the subject, suggesting an upward adjustment would be required to make the comparables more equivalent to the subject. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$76,153 to \$167,056 or from \$28.03 to \$58.70 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$92,796 or \$33.00 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the comparables in the record. Based on this record and after considering adjustments to the 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: September 20, 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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