



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

APPELLANT: Paul Morton  
DOCKET NO.: 20-02201.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 16-26-108-044

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Paul Morton, 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:** \$94,868  
**IMPR.:** \$101,531  
**TOTAL:** \$196,399

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-story dwelling of brick and wood siding exterior construction with 3,158 square feet of living area. The dwelling was built in 1976 and is approximately 43 years old. Features of the home include a basement with finished area, central air conditioning, one fireplace, and a 506 square foot attached garage. The property has an approximately 16,430 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 with the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property and located within 0.28 of a mile from the subject. The comparables are described as 2-story dwellings of brick exterior construction that range in size from 2,559 to 3,510 square feet of

living area. The dwellings are from 56 to 71 years old. Each comparable has a basement with one having finished area, central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces, and an attached garage ranging in size from 399 to 528 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$61,351 to \$98,071 or from \$22.20 to \$27.94 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment to \$83,292 or \$26.37 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 \$196,399. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$101,531 or \$32.15 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 property. The comparables are improved with 2-story dwellings of brick or brick and wood siding exterior construction that range in size from 3,000 to 3,296 square feet of living area. The dwellings were constructed from 1967 to 1975. Each comparable has a basement with two having finished area, central air conditioning, one fireplace, and an attached garage ranging in size from 468 to 825 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$100,263 to \$128,778 or from \$32.53 to \$41.85 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested that the assessment be confirmed.

### **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 comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables which differ from the subject in age and/or dwelling size.

The Board finds the best evidence assessment equity to be the board of review comparables which overall are more similar to the subject in location, design, age, dwelling size, and most features, except three comparables lack basement finish which is a feature of the subject. These comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$100,263 to \$128,778 or from \$32.53 to \$41.85 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$101,531 or \$32.15 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record on an overall basis but below on a per square foot basis. Based on this evidence 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.



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Chairman



\_\_\_\_\_  
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: January 17, 2023



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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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