



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

APPELLANT: Ross Friedman  
DOCKET NO.: 20-02740.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 15-12-406-004

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Ross Friedman, 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:** \$78,787  
**IMPR.:** \$176,763  
**TOTAL:** \$255,550

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 wood siding exterior construction with 3,681 square feet of living area.<sup>1</sup> The dwelling is approximately 34 years old. Features of the home include a full basement with 1,209 square feet of finished area, central air conditioning, a fireplace, and a garage containing 761 square feet of building area. The property has a 20,473 square foot site and is located in Lake Forest, Vernon Township, Lake County.

The appellant contends assessment inequity concerning the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on four equity

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<sup>1</sup> The appellant's grid describes the subject property as having 3,735 square feet of living area, however the property record card submitted by the board of review describes the subject as having 3,681 square feet of living area. The Board finds the property record card, in the absence of any other substantive information, is the best evidence of dwelling size in the record.

comparables located in the same neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables consist of two-story dwellings of brick or wood siding exterior construction that are from 53 to 70 years old. The homes range in size from 3,464 to 3,684 square feet of living area. Each dwelling has central air conditioning, a basement, one or two fireplaces, and a garage ranging in size from 440 to 528 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$140,894 to \$149,534 or from \$39.80 to \$41.43 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduced improvement assessment of \$152,388 or \$41.40 per square foot of living area, based on 3,681 square feet of living area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$255,550. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$176,763 or \$48.02 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 that are located in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables consist of 1, 1.5, or 2-story dwellings of brick or wood siding exterior construction that were built in 1964 or 1987. The homes range in size from 3,278 to 3,450 square feet of living area. The comparables each have a full basement, with 791 to 1,697 square feet of finished area. Each comparable has central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces, and a garage containing from 483 to 644 square feet of building 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 parties submitted a total of seven equity comparables to support their respective positions before the Property Tax Appeal Board. The Board finds that neither party submitted comparables that were particularly similar to the subject, with the exception of board of review comparable #3. Nevertheless, the Board has given reduced weight to appellant's comparable #4 due to its dissimilar age when compared to the subject. The Board also gives reduced weight to board of review comparable #2 due its significant differences from the subject in design.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant's comparables #1 through #3 along with board of review comparables #1 and #3. The Board finds these comparables to be the most similar to the subject in dwelling size, design, and features. These comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$140,894 to \$175,746 or \$39.80 to \$52.27 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$176,763 or \$48.02 per square foot of living area falls above the range established by the best comparables in this record on an overall basis, and within the range on a per-square-foot basis. The Board finds this logical due to the subject's larger dwelling size, basement finish, and garage as compared to the best

comparables in this record. Based on this record and after considering adjustments to the best comparable for differences, 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

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

APPELLANT

Ross Friedman, 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