



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

APPELLANT: Paul Svigos
DOCKET NO.: 20-03331.001-R-2
PARCEL NO.: 16-03-201-009

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Paul Svigos, the appellant, by attorney Brian P. Liston, of the Law Offices of Liston & Tsantilis, P.C. 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: \$1,024,737
IMPR.: \$255,885
TOTAL: \$1,280,622

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 3-story dwelling of brick exterior construction with 11,848 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1904, is approximately 116 years old, and has a reported effective age of 1913 due to remodeling in 2007.¹ The home is reported to be in average condition. Features of the home include a basement, central air conditioning, nine fireplaces, a 916 square foot garage, and an inground swimming pool. The subject has a 103,594 square foot, or approximately 2.4 acre, site and is a waterfront property with views and access to Lake Michigan. The property is located in Lake Forest, Moraine Township, Lake County.

¹ Additional details regarding the subject property not reported by the appellant are found in the subject's property record card presented by the board of review.

The appellant contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted an appraisal estimating the subject property had a market value of \$3,420,000 as of January 1, 2020. The appraisal was prepared by Peter Poulos, MAI, a certified general real estate appraiser, for ad valorem tax purposes.

The appraiser inspected interior and exterior of the subject property on December 5, 2019. The appraiser stated in the appraisal report that the subject needs major repairs and remodeling due to deferred maintenance, including repairs and replacement of the subject's copper roof, remediation of bluff erosion, and foundation repairs. The appraiser estimated the total costs of these repairs would range from \$700,000 to \$1,000,000 and concluded a total repair cost of \$850,000. The appraisal contains photographs entitled "Ceiling Water Damage," "Wall Cracks," "Basement Water Damage," "Basement Foundation Cracks," and "Bluff Erosion."

Under the sales comparison approach, the appraiser examined three comparable sales. The comparables are located in Highland Park or Winnetka and are located from 3.07 to 9.47 miles from the subject. The appraiser noted that the availability of comparable sales was limited given the subject's extraordinary dwelling size and Lake Michigan views and access. The comparables are improved with 1-story or 2-story homes of brick or stucco exterior construction ranging in size from 7,473 to 8,431 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 15 to 100 years old. Each home has a basement, central air conditioning, and a 3-car or a 4-car garage. Comparables #1 and #2 each have an inground swimming pool and a coach house or a pool house. The parcels range in size from 1.30 to 2.55 acres of land area and are reported to have bluff and waterfront views. The comparables sold from October 2018 to April 2019 for prices ranging from \$4,200,000 to \$5,000,000 or from \$528.43 to \$628.93 per square foot of living area, including land. The appraiser made adjustments to these comparables for differences from the subject, including condition, room count, and/or dwelling size, to arrive at adjusted sale prices ranging from \$4,240,000 to \$4,611,700. Based on the foregoing, the appraiser concluded an indicated value of \$4,400,000 for the subject property "As Though Repaired & Renovated."

The appraiser next deducted \$850,000 for the total repair costs, \$85,000 as a contingency for "the unforeseen," and \$46,750 as "incentive for completion" to arrive at an opinion of market value for the subject of \$3,420,000 as of January 1, 2020.

The appellant also submitted an estimate for erosion repairs in the amount of \$397,750 and photographs of the subject property depicting steep bluff slopes, cracked walls, and bubbled paint.

Based on this evidence the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect the appraised value conclusion.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$1,280,622. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$3,846,867 or \$324.68 per square foot of living area, land included, when using the 2020 three year average median level of assessment for Lake County of 33.29% as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on three comparable sales located from 1.52 to 1.89 miles from the subject. The parcels range in size from 96,700 to 130,240 square feet of land area and are improved with 2-story or 2.5-story homes of brick or wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 7,295 to 10,012 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built from 1900 to 1933 with the two oldest homes having effective ages of 1916 and 1953. The homes are reported to be in average, good, or very good condition. Each home has a basement, central air conditioning, six to nine fireplaces, and one or two garages ranging in size from 520 to 851 square feet of building area. Comparable #1 has a greenhouse, comparable #2 has a fully finished attic, and comparable #3 has an inground swimming pool. The comparables sold from August to November 2020 for prices ranging from \$3,900,000 to \$4,000,000 or from \$399.52 to \$534.61 per square foot of living area, including land. Based on this evidence the board of review requested the subject's assessment be confirmed.

Conclusion of Law

The appellant contends the market value of the subject property is not accurately reflected in its assessed valuation. When market value is the basis of the appeal the value of the property must be proved by a preponderance of the evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of market value may consist of an appraisal of the subject property, a recent sale, comparable sales or construction costs. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(c). 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 an appraisal submitted by the appellant and three comparable sales presented by the board of review for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the value conclusion contained in the appraisal. The appraiser relied on two 2018 sales, which occurred less proximate in time to the January 1, 2020 assessment date than other comparables in this record. One comparable is a 1-story home compared to the subject 3-story home but the appraiser made no adjustment for this difference. Two comparables are significantly newer homes than the subject dwelling but the appraiser made no adjustments for age. Two comparables each have a 4-car garage compared to the subject's 3-car garage but the appraiser made no adjustments for garage size. After concluding an indicated value for the subject based on adjustments to the comparables, the appraiser made dubious deductions for repairs, "the unforeseen," and "incentive for completion." Given the foregoing, the Board finds the appraised value conclusion to be a less credible and/or reliable indication of the subject's value as of the assessment date and the Board will instead consider the raw sales data presented in the appraisal and by the board of review.

The record contains a total of six comparable sales for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appraisal comparables #1 and #3 due to sale dates more remote in time from the assessment date and to the appraisal comparable #2 which is a 1-story home compared to the subject 3-story dwelling.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the board of review's comparables, which are more similar to the subject in age, design, and location, however, two comparables are substantially smaller homes than the subject dwelling, two comparables lack an inground swimming pool that is a feature of the subject, and two comparables each have a greenhouse or

two garages unlike the subject, suggesting adjustments to these comparables would be needed to make them more equivalent to the subject. The board of review's comparables sold from August to November 2020 for prices ranging from \$3,900,000 to \$4,000,000 or from \$399.52 to \$534.61 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$3,846,867 or \$324.68 per square foot of living area, including land, which is below the range established by the best comparable sales in the record. Based on this evidence and after considering appropriate adjustments to the best comparables for differences from the subject, such as dwelling size, number of garages, inground swimming pool amenity, and greenhouse amenity, the Board finds 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

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



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

Paul Svigos, by attorney:
Brian P. Liston
Law Offices of Liston & Tsantilis, P.C.
33 North LaSalle Street
28th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602

COUNTY

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