



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

APPELLANT: Elizabeth Sofronas  
DOCKET NO.: 20-04778.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 14-22-105-006

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Elizabeth Sofronas, the appellant, by attorney Ronald Kingsley, of Lake County Real Estate Tax Appeal, LLC in Lake Forest; 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:** \$35,277  
**IMPR.:** \$156,820  
**TOTAL:** \$192,097

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 exterior construction with 3,220 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1996. Features of the home include an unfinished basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace, and a garage containing 600 square feet of building area. The property has an approximately 45,640 square foot site and is located in Kildeer, Ela Township, Lake County.

The appellant contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on four comparable sales located within .36 of a mile of the subject and within the same assessment neighborhood as the subject. The comparables consist of 1.5-story<sup>1</sup> or 2-story dwellings of brick, frame, or brick and frame exterior construction ranging

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<sup>1</sup> Although the appellant's grid describes comparable #2 as a 2-story dwelling, the property sketch and photographic evidence submitted by the appellant indicates this is a 1.5-story dwelling.

in size from 3,174 to 3,712 square feet of living area. The homes were built from 1989 to 1999. Each dwelling has central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces, a basement with three having finished area,<sup>2</sup> and a garage ranging in size from 726 to 984 square feet of building area. Comparable #3 has a finished attic. The parcels range in size from 42,751 to 140,300 square feet of land area. The comparables sold from April 2019 to June 2020 for prices ranging from \$480,000 to \$780,000 or from \$151.23 to \$211.02 per square foot of living area, including land. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduced assessment of \$183,522, for an estimated market value of \$550,621 or \$171.00 per square foot of living area, including land, when applying the statutory level of assessment of 33.33%.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$192,097. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$577,041 or \$179.21 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 which are the same properties as appellant comparables #2,<sup>3</sup> #3, and #4. The comparables consist of 1.5-story or 2-story dwellings of wood siding or brick exterior construction ranging in size from 3,412 to 3,712 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built from 1989 to 1999. Each dwelling has central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces, an unfinished basement, and a garage ranging in size from 726 to 984 square feet of building area. The parcels range in size from 45,740 to 140,300 square feet of land area. The comparables sold from April 2019 to June 2020 for prices ranging from \$580,000 to \$780,000 or from \$156.84 to \$211.02 per square foot of living area, including land. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

### **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 parties submitted a total of four comparable sales to support their respective positions before the Property Tax Appeal Board, with three comparables being common to the parties. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables #2 and #3/board of review comparables #2 and #3 due to differences in dwelling size in relation to the subject.

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<sup>2</sup> The appellant submitted property sketches for each of the comparables as well as a Multiple Listing Service listing sheets for comparables #1, #2, and #3 which note these comparables have finished basement area.

<sup>3</sup> The parties differ as to the dwelling size of this common comparable. The Board finds that the property sketch submitted by the appellant is the best evidence of dwelling size in the record.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be appellant's comparable sales #1 and #4/board of review comparable sale #1 which are similar to the subject in dwelling size, age, and most features, noting that appellant comparable #1 has finished basement area and the common comparable has a significantly larger parcel suggesting downward adjustments would be necessary to make them more equivalent to the subject. These most similar comparables sold for prices of \$480,000 and \$720,000 or for \$151.23 and \$211.02 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$577,041 or \$179.21 per square foot of living area, including land, which is bracketed by the best comparable sales in this record. Based on this evidence and after considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences when compared to the subject, 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.

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Chairman



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Member



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Member



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Member



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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: March 21, 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

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

APPELLANT

Elizabeth Sofronas, by attorney:  
Ronald Kingsley  
Lake County Real Estate Tax Appeal, LLC  
13975 W. Polo Trail Drive  
#201  
Lake Forest, IL 60045

COUNTY

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