



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

APPELLANT: Joe Sciaarone
DOCKET NO.: 21-00407.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 16-15-417-002

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Joe Sciaarone, the appellant, by attorney Robert Rosenfeld, of Robert H. Rosenfeld & 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: \$33,741
IMPR.: \$68,724
TOTAL: \$102,465

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 2021 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 1-story duplex of brick exterior construction with 1,548 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1979 and is approximately 42 years old. Features of the home include an unfinished basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace and a garage with 550 square feet of building area. The property has an approximately 7,550 square foot site that is located in Highwood, 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 suggested equity comparables that are in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and located within 0.74 of a mile from the subject property. The comparables are improved with 2-story duplexes of brick exterior construction that range in size from 1,102 to 1,452 square feet of living area that range in age from 51 to 58 years old. Each comparable has a basement, one with finished area, and a garage containing either 264 or 550 square feet of building area. Two comparables have central air conditioning. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$43,828 to \$55,599 or

from \$37.20 to \$39.77 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$59,404 or \$38.37 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 \$102,465. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$68,724 or \$44.40 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on three suggested equity comparables that are in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and located within 0.63 of a mile from the subject property. The comparables are improved with 1-story duplexes of brick exterior construction ranging in size from 1,188 to 1,504 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built in 1964 and 1965, with comparable #1 having an effective age of 1966. Each comparable has a finished lower level. Two comparables have central air conditioning and one comparable has a garage with 672 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$57,885 to \$80,756 or from \$47.08 to \$53.69 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 parties submitted seven suggested comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board has given less weight to the appellant's comparables due to their 2-story design when compared to the subject's 1-story design. The Board gave reduced weight to the board of review comparable #2 due to their lack of central air conditioning, a feature of the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the board of review comparables #1 and #3, which are relatively similar to the subject in location, design, dwelling size, age and features. These two similar comparables have improvement assessments of \$68,594 and \$80,756 or for \$47.08 and \$53.69 per square foot of living area. The subject property has an improvement assessments of \$68,724 or \$44.44 per square foot of living area, which falls within the two best comparables on an overall improvement assessment and below the comparables on a price per square foot basis. Based on this record 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 assessment was inequitably assessed and a reduction in the 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:

August 22, 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

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