



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

APPELLANT: Matthew & Lisa Schwarz  
DOCKET NO.: 21-00882.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 07-10-103-014

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Matthew & Lisa Schwarz, the appellants, by attorney Eric Feldman of Eric Feldman & Assoc. 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:** \$21,475  
**IMPR.:** \$134,345  
**TOTAL:** \$155,820

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**Statement of Jurisdiction**

The appellants 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 two-story dwelling of wood siding exterior construction with 3,461 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1999. Features of the home include a basement with 1,605 square feet of finished area, central air conditioning, a fireplace and a 703 square foot garage. The property has a 16,590 square foot site and is located in Gurnee, Warren Township, Lake County.

The appellants contend overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellants submitted information on five comparable sales that have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and are located within .20 of mile from the subject property. The comparables have sites that range in size from 12,080 to 14,810 square feet of land area. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 2,466 to 3,605 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built from

1998 to 2000. The comparables each have a basement, three of which have from 133 to 1,337 square feet of finished area. Each comparable has central air conditioning and a garage ranging in size from 483 to 703 square feet of building area. Four comparables each have a fireplace. The comparables sold from January 2020 to May 2021 for prices ranging from \$246,100 to \$429,000 or from \$99.80 to \$120.05 per square foot of living area, including land. Based on this evidence, the appellants requested a reduction in the subject's assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$155,820. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$468,632 or \$135.40 per square foot of living area, land included, when using the 2021 three-year average median level of assessment for Lake County of 33.25% as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on five comparable sales that have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and are located within .25 of a mile from the subject property. The board of review's comparable #1 is the same property as the appellants' comparable #1. The comparables have sites that range in size from 12,000 to 15,960 square feet of land area. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 3,056 to 3,621 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built from 1997 to 2000. The comparables each have a basement, four of which have from 680 to 1,337 square feet of finished area. Each comparable has central air conditioning, a fireplace and a garage ranging in size from 483 to 672 square feet of building area. Comparable #2 has an inground swimming pool. The comparables sold from March 2020 to June 2021 for prices ranging from \$387,000 to \$491,100 or from \$120.05 to \$153.80 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 appellants contend 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 appellants did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The record contains nine suggested comparable sales for the Board's consideration, as one sale was common to the parties. The Board has given less weight to the appellants' comparable #5 due to its considerably smaller dwelling size. The Board has given reduced weight to board of review comparable #2 as it has an inground swimming pool, unlike the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the parties' remaining comparables, which includes the parties' common comparable. These comparables are similar to the subject in location, dwelling size, design, age and some features. However, all seven comparables have smaller site sizes and less, if any, finished basement area, and six comparables have smaller garage sizes when compared to the subject, suggesting upward adjustments would be required to make the comparables more equivalent to the subject. Nevertheless, the comparables sold from

January 2020 to June 2021 for prices ranging from \$368,000 to \$470,000 or from \$110.23 to \$153.80 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$468,632 or \$135.40 per square foot of living area, including land, which falls within the range established by the best comparable sales in the record, despite that the subject is superior to most of these best comparable sales with both a larger finished basement area and a larger garage. Based on this record and after considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences when compared to the subject, the Board finds no reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

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

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

APPELLANT

Matthew & Lisa Schwarz, by attorney:  
Eric Feldman  
Eric Feldman & Assoc. P.C.  
53 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Suite 1622  
Chicago, IL 60604

COUNTY

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