



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

APPELLANT: Michael Melber
DOCKET NO.: 21-00948.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 15-25-301-002

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Michael Melber, the appellant, 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: \$95,400
IMPR.: \$148,036
TOTAL: \$243,436

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 2-story dwelling of wood siding exterior construction with 4,155 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1973. Features of the home include a basement, central air conditioning, three fireplaces, a 748 square foot garage and an 800 square foot flat barn. The property has a 57,060 square foot site and is located in Riverwoods, Vernon 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 with the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and are located within .96 of a mile from the subject property. The comparables have sites that range in size from 50,220 to 131,550 square feet of land area. The comparables are improved with 1.5-story or 2-story dwellings of brick or brick and wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 3,686 to 4,993 square feet of living area. The

dwellings were built from 1962 to 1998 with comparables #2 and #3 having reported effective ages of 1972 and 1971, respectively. Each comparable has a basement, central air conditioning, one to three fireplaces and a garage ranging in size from 484 to 1,024 square feet of building area. Comparable #2 has a flat barn and comparable #4 has an inground swimming pool. The comparables sold from November 2020 to July 2021 for prices ranging from \$525,375 to \$815,000 or from \$118.30 to \$157.35 per square foot of living area, including land. Based on this evidence, the appellant 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 \$243,436. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$732,138 or \$176.21 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 three comparable sales that have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and are located within .73 of a mile from the subject property. The comparables have sites that range in size from 65,470 to 100,790 square feet of land area. The comparables are improved with 1-story¹ or 2-story dwellings of brick or wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 3,449 to 4,166 square feet of living area. The dwellings were each built in 1966 with comparables #1 and #3 having reported effective ages of 1974 and 1973, respectively. Comparable #3 has a crawl space foundation and two comparables each have a lower level, one of which has finished area. Each comparable has central air conditioning, two or three fireplaces and a garage with either 644 or 747 square feet of building area. Comparable #2 has a stable. The comparables sold from August 2020 to September 2021 for prices ranging from \$747,000 to \$800,000 or from \$179.31 to \$231.95 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 record contains seven suggested comparable sales for the Board's consideration. The Board has given less weight to the appellant's comparable #3 which appears to be an outlier due to its considerably lower sale price of \$118.30 per square foot of living area, including land, when compared to the other sales in the record. The Board has also given less weight to the appellant's comparables #1 and #4, as well as board of review comparables #2 and #3 due to differences from the subject in dwelling size or foundation type. Additionally, the Board finds

¹ The board of review's comparables #2 and #3 have ground floor areas of 896 and 1,485 square feet and above ground areas of 3,449 and 4,124 square feet, respectively, suggesting the dwellings have 2nd floor living area.

that the appellant's comparables #1, #3 and #4, along with board of review comparables #2 and #3 have considerably larger site sizes, when compared to the subject.

The Board finds the appellant's comparable #2 and board of review comparable #1, are overall most similar to the subject in location, site size, age and some features. However, the Board finds the appellant's comparable #2 has a somewhat smaller dwelling size and garage size, when compared to the subject, whereas board of review comparable #1 lacks a flat barn, a feature of the subject, suggesting adjustments would be required to make these comparables more equivalent to the subject. Nevertheless, these two comparables sold in October and November 2020 for prices of \$548,000 and \$747,000 or for \$139.94 and \$179.31 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$732,138 or \$176.21 per square foot of living area, including land, which is bracketed by the most similar comparable sales in the record. Based on this record and after considering adjustments to the most similar 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:

October 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

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