



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

APPELLANT: James Skarb  
DOCKET NO.: 21-03080.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 14-10-206-008

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are James Skarb, 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:** \$32,251  
**IMPR.:** \$117,953  
**TOTAL:** \$150,204

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 two-story dwelling of frame exterior construction with 2,939 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1984. Features of the home include an unfinished basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace, a 529 square foot garage, and an 800 square foot inground swimming pool. The property has a 42,461 square foot site and is located in Hawthorn Woods, Ela 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 comparable properties that are located within .56 of a mile from the subject and have the same neighborhood assessment code as the subject. The comparables are improved with 2-story dwellings of brick, frame or brick and frame exterior construction ranging in size from 2,878 to 3,134 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built from 1993 to 1998. Each comparable has an unfinished

basement, two of which are walkout style, central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces, and a garage ranging in size from 638 to 1,071 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$101,859 to \$119,440 or from \$35.39 to \$38.11 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$106,898 or \$36.37 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 \$150,204. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$117,953 or \$40.13 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on fifteen comparable properties that are located within .61 of a mile from the subject and have the same neighborhood assessment code as the subject. The comparables are improved with 1.5-story or 2-story dwellings of brick, frame, or brick and frame exterior construction ranging in size from 2,592 to 3,280 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built from 1987 to 2002 with comparable #1 having an effective age of 1997. Each comparable has an unfinished basement with six having either a lookout or a walkout style, central air conditioning, one to three fireplaces, and a garage ranging in size from 583 to 1,116 square feet of building area. Comparable #14 has a 375 square foot inground swimming pool. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$112,653 to \$143,088 or from \$42.88 to \$45.54 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 a total of nineteen comparable properties for the Board's consideration of which only board of review comparable #14 has an inground swimming pool, like the subject. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparable #2 and the board of review comparables #1, 2, #3 #4, #6, #9, #11 #13 and #15 which are less similar to the subject in dwelling size or age/effective age than the other comparables in this record.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the parties' remaining comparables. These comparables are relatively similar to the subject in location, dwelling size, age, foundation and most features with the exception that eight of these nine remaining comparables lack an inground swimming pool, which is a feature of the subject property. These nine comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$101,859 to \$136,978 or from \$35.39 to \$45.09 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$117,953 or \$40.13 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in the record.

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 was inequitably assessed and 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



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:

December 19, 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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