



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

APPELLANT: Debbie Buffardi
DOCKET NO.: 21-03105.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 14-10-311-003

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Debbie Buffardi, 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: \$32,550
IMPR.: \$150,436
TOTAL: \$182,986

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 brick and wood siding exterior construction with 3,823 square feet of living area.¹ The dwelling was built in 1988 and is approximately 33 years old. Features of the home include an unfinished basement, one fireplace, and an 814 square foot garage. The property has an approximately 42,854 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 equity comparables located in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property and from 1.33 to 1.51 miles from the subject. The comparables are improved with 2-story dwellings of

¹ The parties differ as to the size of the subject. The Board finds best evidence of the subject's size to be the property record card submitted by the board of review which was unrefuted in rebuttal by the appellant.

brick, frame, or brick and frame exterior construction ranging in size from 3,674 to 4,273 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built from 1981 to 2001. The comparables each have an unfinished basement, central air conditioning, one or three fireplaces, and a garage that ranges in size from 782 to 1,575 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$111,786 to \$151,494 or from \$30.22 to \$35.45 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment to \$127,360 or \$33.31 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 \$182,986. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$150,436 or \$39.35 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on five equity comparables located in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property and from 0.26 of a mile to 2.17 miles from the subject. The comparables are improved with 1-story² or 2-story dwellings of brick, wood siding or brick and wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 3,614 to 3,949 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built from 1986 to 1991. The comparables each have an unfinished basement, central air conditioning, one to three fireplaces, and a garage ranging in size from 828 to 1,696 square feet of building area. Comparables #1 and #3 have inground swimming pools. Comparables #1 and #2 have pole buildings. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$161,791 to \$325,452 or from \$40.97 to \$90.05 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 nine comparable properties for the Board's consideration, with only board of review comparable #1 being located within a mile from the subject. Nevertheless, the Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparable #4 which differs from the subject in age. The Board also gives less weight to board of review comparables #1, #2, and #3 which have an inground swimming pools and/or pole buildings, unlike the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the parties' remaining comparables which are similar to the subject in design, age, dwelling size, and most features. These comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$111,786 to \$162,619 or from \$30.22

² The board of review reported its comparable #2 to be a 1-story structure; however, the grid analysis disclosed its above ground living area exceeded its ground floor living area suggesting this home may be a part 2-story structure.

to \$41.23 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$150,436 or \$39.35 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this 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 is inequitably assessed and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not 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:

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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