



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

APPELLANT: Cathy Papagiorgio  
DOCKET NO.: 21-03212.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 16-16-404-027

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Cathy Papagiorgio, the appellant, by attorney Robert Rosenfeld, of Robert H. Rosenfeld and 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:** \$58,689  
**IMPR.:** \$97,332  
**TOTAL:** \$156,021

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 split-level dwelling<sup>1</sup> of brick exterior construction with 1,945 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1965 and is approximately 56 years old. Features of the home include a lower level with finished area, central air conditioning, a fireplace, and a 484 square foot garage. The property has a 21,679 square foot site and is located in Highland Park, West Deerfield Township, Lake County.

The appellant contends assessment inequity with regard to the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on four equity comparables located within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with split-level or 1-story homes of brick or wood siding exterior

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<sup>1</sup> Although the both parties described the subject as a 1-story dwelling, they also disclosed that the subject has a lower level, indicating it is a split-level dwelling. Accordingly, the Board finds the subject is a split-level home.

construction ranging in size from 2,127 to 2,860 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 53 to 62 years old. Two homes each have a lower level with finished area and two homes each have an unfinished full basement. Each home has central air conditioning and a garage ranging in size from 462 to 632 square feet of building area. One home has a fireplace. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$87,180 to \$125,452 or from \$36.10 to \$44.42 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$156,021. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$97,332 or \$50.04 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 within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with split-level homes of brick, wood siding, or brick and wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 1,830 to 2,236 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built in 1961 or 1967. Each home has a lower level, four of which have finished area, central air conditioning, and a garage ranging in size from 440 to 567 square feet of building area. Three homes each have a fireplace. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$93,833 to \$113,539 or from \$50.07 to \$54.09 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence the board of review requested the subject's improvement assessment be sustained.

### **Conclusion of Law**

The appellant 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 record contains a total of nine equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables #1, #2, and #3, which are less similar to the subject in dwelling size than other comparables in this record. Moreover, the appellant's comparables #1 and #2 are dissimilar to the subject in design. The Board gives less weight to the board of review's comparable #2, which is less similar to the subject in dwelling size than other comparables in this record and lacks lower level finished area that is a feature of the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparable #3 and the board of review's comparables #1, #3, #4, and #5, which are similar to the subject in dwelling size, age, location, and most features. These comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$93,269 to \$103,577 or from \$43.85 to \$54.09 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$97,332 or \$50.04 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 appropriate adjustments to the best comparables for differences from 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:

September 20, 2022



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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