



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

APPELLANT: Dean Karousos  
DOCKET NO.: 21-03338.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 15-13-304-008

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Dean Karousos, the appellant, by attorney Ryan Schaeffges, of the Law Office of Ryan Schaeffges, P.C. in Wheeling; 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:** \$65,478  
**IMPR.:** \$111,222  
**TOTAL:** \$176,700

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 brick exterior construction with 2,652 square feet of living area that was built in 1969. Features of the home include a basement with finished area, central air conditioning, one fireplace and a 506 square foot garage. The property has an approximately 19,600 square foot site and is located in Lincolnshire, 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 located within 0.85 of a mile from the subject property. The comparables have sites that range in size from 14,810 to 20,909 square feet of land area and are improved with two-story dwellings of brick or brick and frame exterior construction that range in size from 2,638 to 2,708 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built from 1969 to 1975. Each comparable has a basement, with two having finished area.

Each dwelling has central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces and a garage ranging in size from 462 to 600 square feet of building area. The properties are reported to have sold from September 2019 to February 2021 for prices ranging from \$370,000 to \$514,000 or from \$140.26 to \$189.81 per square foot of living area, land included.<sup>1</sup> Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's total assessment be reduced to \$148,320 which reflects a market value of \$445,005 or \$167.80 per square foot of living area, land included, when applying the statutory level of assessment of 33.33%.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$176,700. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$531,429 or \$200.39 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 located within 0.19 of a mile from the subject property. Board of review comparable #3 is the same property as the appellant's comparable #3, although the parties report different sale prices. The comparables have sites that range in size from 17,860 to 21,340 square feet of land area and are improved with two-story dwellings of brick or brick and wood siding exterior construction that range in size from 2,346 to 2,638 square feet of living area. The homes were built from 1965 to 1972. Each comparable has a basement, with four having finished area. Each dwelling has central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces and a garage ranging in size from 460 to 552 square feet of building area. The properties sold from September 2020 to June 2021 for prices ranging from \$530,000 to \$575,000 or from \$203.53 to \$226.34 per square foot of living area, land included.

The board of review's grid analysis reported the subject property sold in October 2018 for a price of \$530,000 or \$199.85 per square foot of living area, land included, which was not refuted by the appellant. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested the subject's assessment be confirmed.

### **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 nine comparable sales for the Board's consideration, where appellant's comparable #3 and board of review comparable #3 are the same property and the parties each list different sale prices. The Board gives less weight to appellant comparables #3 and #4 along with

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<sup>1</sup> The appellant's comparable #3, also submitted by the board of review, is reported to have sold in February 2021 for a price of \$370,000 although the board of review's grid analysis reports this property sold for a price of \$550,000 in February 2021.

board of review comparable #3, including the common property, which either sold less proximate to the January 1, 2021 assessment date than other properties in the record or have an unfinished basement in contrast to the subject's finished basement. Additionally, the parties' common comparable has two reported sale prices with no further documentation to assist this Board in determining which sale price is correct.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be appellant comparables #1 and #2 as well as board of review comparables #1, #2, #4 and #5 which are more similar to the subject in location, age, design, dwelling size and other features. These comparables sold from January 2020 to June 2021 for prices ranging from \$460,000 to \$575,000 or from \$171.39 to \$226.34 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$531,429 or \$200.39 per square foot of living area, including land, which falls within the range established by the best comparable sales in this record. After considering appropriate adjustments to the best comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds the subject's assessment is justified and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

Furthermore, the Board finds the October 2018 purchase price of the subject property for \$530,000 undermines the appellant's overvaluation argument.

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:

November 21, 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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