



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

APPELLANT: Sinitha Thulurath
DOCKET NO.: 21-03356.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 11-02-401-102

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Sinitha Thulurath, the appellant, by attorney Robert Rosenfeld, of Robert H. Rosenfeld & Associates, LLC in Northbrook; 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: \$60,212
IMPR.: \$254,065
TOTAL: \$314,277

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.¹

Findings of Fact

The subject property consists of a two-story dwelling of brick and wood siding exterior construction with 4,235 square feet of living area.² The dwelling was constructed in 2014 and is approximately seven years old. Features of the home include an unfinished basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace, and a garage containing 893 square feet of building area. The property has a 20,875 square foot site and is located in Green Oaks, Libertyville 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

¹ By letter dated November 3, 2022, the appellant waived the request for a hearing in this matter.

² The parties differ as to the subject's dwelling size. The Board finds the subject's property record card submitted by the board of review, which was not refuted by the appellant, to be the best evidence of dwelling size in the record.

comparables located within .14 of a mile of the subject and within the subject's assessment neighborhood. The comparables consist of two-story dwellings of wood siding or brick exterior construction ranging in size from 4,349 to 5,024 square feet of living area. The homes are 15 or 16 years old. Each dwelling has central air conditioning, one to three fireplaces, an unfinished basement, and a garage ranging in size from 640 to 872 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$225,531 to \$272,007 or from \$51.86 to \$54.14 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduced improvement assessment of \$227,108 or \$53.63 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 \$314,277. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$254,065 or \$59.99 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 3.14 miles of the subject, three of which are in the subject's assessment neighborhood. The comparables consist of two-story dwellings of wood siding or brick exterior construction ranging in size from 4,036 to 4,813 square feet of living area. The homes were built from 2010 to 2017. Each dwelling has central air conditioning, one to four fireplaces, an unfinished basement, and a garage ranging in size from 575 to 834 square feet of building area. Comparable #3 has an unfinished attic and comparable #4 has a finished attic and an inground swimming pool. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$216,818 to \$303,760 or from \$53.72 to \$69.96 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 equity comparables to support their respective positions before the Property Tax Appeal Board. The Board has given reduced weight to the appellant's comparable #4, which differs from the subject in dwelling size. The Board also gives reduced weight to board of review comparables #3 through #5, which differ from the subject in attic and/or inground swimming pool features, and/or location more than one mile from the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant's comparables #1 through #3 along with board of review comparables #1 and #2, which are similar to the subject in age, location, dwelling size, and features. These comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$225,531 to \$254,453 or from \$51.86 to \$56.84 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$254,065 or \$59.99 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record overall. While the subject's

assessment falls above the range on a per-square-foot basis, the Board finds it logical due to the best comparables' dwelling sizes being larger than the subject dwelling and considering the principle of economies of scale which generally provides that as the size of a property increases, the per unit value decreases, and in contrast, as the size of a property decreases, the per unit value increases. Based on this record and after considering 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: February 20, 2024



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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