



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

APPELLANT: Steve Serdar  
DOCKET NO.: 21-04081.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 04-32-207-019

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Steve Serdar, the appellant, by attorney Ronald Kingsley, of Lake County Real Estate Tax Appeal, LLC in Lake Forest, 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:** \$8,074  
**IMPR.:** \$71,397  
**TOTAL:** \$79,471

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 is improved with a two-story dwelling of wood siding exterior construction containing 2,138 square feet of living area. The dwelling was built in 1991. Features of the home include an unfinished basement, central air conditioning, one fireplace and an attached garage with 380 square feet of building area. The property has a 12,632 square foot site located in Waukegan, Benton Township, Lake County.

The appellant contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on five comparable sales improved with two-story dwelling that range in size from 2,023 to 2,406 square feet of living area. The homes were built from 1995 to 2005. Each comparable has a basement, central air conditioning, and a garage ranging in size from 400 to 609 square feet of building area. Two comparables have one fireplace. These properties have sites ranging in size from 7,841 to 12,197 square feet of land area. The

comparables have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and are located from .07 to .39 of a mile from the subject property. The sales occurred from March 2020 to April 2021 for prices ranging from \$206,000 to \$235,000 or from \$88.18 to \$106.28 per square foot of living area, including land. The appellant requested the subject's total assessment be reduced to \$74,823.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$79,471. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$239,011 or \$111.79 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 improved with two-story dwellings of wood siding exterior construction that range in size from 1,848 to 2,192 square feet of living area.<sup>1</sup> The homes were built from 1992 to 1996. Each comparable has an unfinished basement, central air conditioning, one fireplace and an attached garage ranging in size from 400 to 504 square feet of building area. The comparables have sites ranging in size from 6,970 to 8,710 square feet of land area. The comparables have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and are located from .05 to .16 of a mile from the subject property. The sales occurred from September 2020 to November 2021 for prices ranging from \$215,000 to \$276,000 or from \$109.84 to \$136.55 per square foot of living area, land included.

### **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 parties submitted information on ten comparable sales to support their respective positions. The Board gives less weight to appellant's comparables due to differences from the subject dwelling in size and/or age. The Board gives less weight to board of review comparable sales #3 and #4 due to differences from the subject dwelling in size. The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be board of review comparable sales #1, #2 and #5. These comparables are similar to the subject dwelling in size containing from 1,996 to 2,216 square feet of living area. Additionally, comparables #1 and #5 are located along the same street and within the same block as the subject property. These three comparables sold for prices ranging from \$230,000 to \$276,000 or from \$109.84 to \$134.77 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$239,011 or \$111.79 per square foot of living area, including land, which is within the range established by the best comparable sales in this

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<sup>1</sup> The board of review grid analysis described comparable #5 as having a story height of 1, however, the analysis also described the home as having a ground floor living area of 632 square feet and an above ground living area of 2,094 square feet indicating the dwelling is a two-story house.

record. Based on this evidence the Board finds the assessment of the subject property as established by the board of review is correct 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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COUNTY

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