



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

APPELLANT: David Steck  
DOCKET NO.: 21-05037.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 16-07-108-004

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are David Steck, 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:** \$124,513  
**IMPR.:** \$39,451  
**TOTAL:** \$163,964

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 one-story dwelling of brick exterior construction with 2,237 square feet of living area.<sup>1</sup> The dwelling was constructed in 1955. Features of the home include a basement with finished area, central air conditioning, two fireplaces and a 750 square foot garage. The property has a 28,000 square foot site and is located in Lake Forest, West Deerfield Township, Lake County.

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<sup>1</sup> Additional details regarding the subject not reported by the appellant and/or provided by the board of review have been confirmed and/or drawn from the subject's property record card presented by the board of review. Of note, the property record card depicts the parcel as containing 28,000 square feet of land area with an assessment based upon the "front foot" method, although neither party provided the front foot measurements of the subject and/or any of the comparable parcels. Thus, the Board will analyze this appeal as the parties have utilizing the square foot unit of measure.

The appellant contends assessment inequity with respect to the land as the basis of the appeal. The appellant did not contest the subject's improvement assessment. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on nine equity comparables that have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and are located within .20 of a mile from the subject property. The improved parcels range in size from 26,798 to 29,381 square feet of land area. The comparables have land assessments ranging from \$106,636 to \$121,399 or from \$3.73 to \$4.45 per square foot of land area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's land assessment to \$117,600 or \$4.20 per square foot of land area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$163,964. The subject property has a land assessment of \$124,513 or \$4.45 per square foot of land area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on 14 equity comparables, as comparable #7 is a duplicate of comparable #5. The board of review's comparables #1, #3 and #4 are the same properties as the appellant's comparables #2, #8 and #1, respectively. The comparables are located within .39 of a mile from the subject property, seven of which have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The improved parcels range in size from 22,950 to 30,000 square feet of land area. The comparables have land assessments ranging from \$106,334 to \$133,406 or from \$4.13 to \$5.20 per square foot of land 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 record contains 20 equity comparables for the Board's consideration, as three comparables were common to the parties. The Board has given less weight to the appellant's comparable #5 which appears to be an outlier due to its considerably lower land assessment of \$3.73 per square foot of land area when compared to the other comparables in the record. The Board has given reduced weight to board of review comparables #6 and #8 through #15 which are close in proximity to the subject but have differing assessment neighborhood codes or less similar land sizes when compared to the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be parties' remaining comparables, which includes the three common comparables. The Board finds these comparables have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and are relatively similar to the subject in land size. These most similar comparables have land assessments that range from \$110,994 to \$133,406 or for \$4.10 to \$4.45 per square foot of land area. The subject's land assessment of

\$124,513 or \$4.45 per square foot of land area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record.

The constitutional provision for uniformity of taxation and valuation does not require mathematical equality. The requirement is satisfied if the intent is evident to adjust the taxation burden with a reasonable degree of uniformity and if such is the effect of the statute enacted by the General Assembly establishing the method of assessing real property in its general operation. A practical uniformity, rather than an absolute one, is the test. Apex Motor Fuel Co. v. Barrett, 20 Ill. 2d 395 (1960). Although the comparables presented by the parties disclosed that properties located in the same area are not assessed at identical levels, all that the constitution requires is a practical uniformity which appears to exist on the basis of the evidence. Based on this record and after analyzing the totality of the land equity comparables presented by the parties, the Board finds the appellant did not demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's land was inequitably assessed. Therefore, the Board finds that a reduction in the subject's land 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:

July 18, 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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