



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

APPELLANT: Lori E Stephani
DOCKET NO.: 23-04170.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 07-24-135-018

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Lori E Stephani, the appellant, by attorney Jessica Hill-Magiera, Attorney at Law in Lake Zurich; 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: \$10,163
IMPR.: \$120,388
TOTAL: \$130,551

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

Statement of Jurisdiction

The appellant timely filed the appeal from the 2022 assessment year decision of the Property Tax Appeal Board pursuant to section 16-185 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-185) allowing for a direct appeal in order to challenge the assessment for the 2023 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 1.5-story dwelling of brick exterior construction with 2,537 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1993 and is approximately 30 years old. Features of the home include an unfinished basement, central air conditioning, two fireplaces and a 600 square foot garage. The property has a 10,890 square foot site and is located in Gurnee, Warren Township, Lake County.

The appellant contends assessment inequity, with respect to the improvement assessment, as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on three properties located in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with ranch or conventional dwellings of wood siding or brick exterior construction that range in size from 1,976 to 2,528 square feet of living area. The homes were built in 1988

or 1993. Each comparable has a basement, central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces and a garage ranging in size from 462 to 552 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$103,110 to \$119,178 or from \$45.70 to \$52.18 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$119,602 or \$47.14 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 \$130,551. The subject has an improvement assessment of \$120,388 or \$47.45 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables located in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. Board of review comparable #4 is the same property as the appellant's comparable #2. The comparables are improved with 1.5-story dwellings of brick or wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 2,528 to 2,903 square feet of living area. The homes range in age from 30 to 36 years old. 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 400 to 504 square feet of building area. Comparable #1 has an inground swimming pool. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$119,178 to \$157,281 or from \$47.14 to \$57.19 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence the board of review requested the subject's assessment be confirmed.

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 six assessment comparables for the Board's consideration, as one property was common to both parties. The Board gives less weight appellant comparables #1 and #3 along with board of review comparables #1 and #3 which differ from the subject in design, dwelling size, inground pool feature and/or finished basement. The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant comparable #2 along with board of review comparables #2 and #4, including the parties' common property, which are more similar to the subject in location, age, design, dwelling size and other features. These two comparables have improvement assessments of \$119,178 and \$150,978 or \$47.14 and \$57.19 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$120,388 or \$47.45 per square foot of living area is bracketed by the two best comparables in this record. 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: _____

January 21, 2025



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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