



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

APPELLANT: Kenneth Falkinham
DOCKET NO.: 24-00724.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 03-35-103-009

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Kenneth Falkinham, 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 A Reduction 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: \$44,087
IMPR.: \$195,010
TOTAL: \$239,097

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 2024 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 2-story dwelling of brick exterior construction with 4,947 square feet of living area. The dwelling was built in 2001 and is approximately 23 years old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning, two fireplaces on one stack, and a garage with 799 square feet of building area. The property has an approximately 49,223 square foot site and is located in Wadsworth, Newport Township, Lake County.

The appellant contends assessment inequity with respect to the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on four equity comparables located in the subject's assessment neighborhood and within 0.20 of a mile from the subject. The comparables are improved with 2-story dwellings ranging in size from 4,112 to 5,782 square feet of living area. The homes range in age from 20 to 33 years old. Each comparable has a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces, and a

garage ranging in size from 683 to 1,529 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$158,772 to \$239,413 or from \$38.19 to \$41.41 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduced improvement assessment of \$195,010 or \$39.42 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 \$293,503. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$249,416 or \$50.42 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 different neighborhood codes than the subject and from 0.50 to 0.98 of a mile from the subject. The comparables are improved with 1-story or 2-story dwellings of brick or wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 1,740 to 3,343 square feet of living area. The homes range in age from 31 to 52 years old. Each home has a full or partial unfinished basement, central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces, and a garage ranging in size from 682 to 1,338 square feet of building area. Comparable #2 has an inground swimming pool. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$88,708 to \$170,236 or from \$47.85 to \$50.98 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 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 met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The parties submitted a total of eight suggested equity comparables. The Board gives less weight to the board of review comparables which are located less proximate to the subject in different neighborhoods than the subject as well as being less similar to the subject in dwelling size and/or age than the appellant's comparables. Further, board of review comparable #2 has an inground pool, a feature the subject lacks.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables which are overall more similar to the subject in location, age, dwelling size, and other features. The best comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$158,772 to \$239,413 or from \$38.19 to \$41.41 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$249,416 or \$50.42 per square foot of living area falls above the range established by the best comparables in this record and is excessive. Based on this record and after considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds the appellant demonstrated with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed and a reduction in the subject's assessment, commensurate with the appellant's request, is 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: October 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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