



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

APPELLANT: Salem Najjar
DOCKET NO.: 24-01090.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 16-07-406-004

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Salem Najjar, the appellant, by attorney Andrew J. Rukavina, of The Tax Appeal Company in Mundelein; 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: \$310,460
IMPR.: \$197,663
TOTAL: \$508,123

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 6,248 square feet of living area. The dwelling was built in 1988 and is approximately 36 years old. Features of the home include an unfinished basement, central air conditioning, two fireplaces, a garage with 990 square feet of building area and an inground swimming pool.¹ The property has an approximately 122,400 square foot site and is located in Lake Forest, West Deerfield Township, Lake County.

The appellant contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on three comparable sales located in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and within .36 of a mile from the subject property. The comparables have sites that range in size from 57,930 to 67,080 square feet of land area. The

¹ The Board finds the best description of the subject is found in the evidence provided by the board of review that was not refuted by the appellant.

comparables are improved with 1.75-story or 2-story dwellings of brick exterior construction ranging in size from 5,301 to 6,888 square feet of living area that that were built in 1988 or 1990. Each comparable has a basement with finished area, central air conditioning, two or three fireplaces and a garage ranging in size from 985 to 1,521 square feet of building area. The comparables sold in April 2022 and July 2023 for prices ranging from \$1,240,000 to \$1,640,000 or from \$202.53 to \$242.17 per square foot of living area, including land. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$508,123. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$1,524,521 or \$244.00 per square foot of living area, land included, when applying the statutory level of assessment of 33.33%.²

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on three comparable sales. Comparable #3 is the same property as appellant's comparable #3. The comparables are located in the same assessment neighborhood as the subject and within .33 of a mile from the subject property. The comparables have sites ranging in size from 57,935 to 61,855 square feet of land area. The comparables are improved with 2-story dwellings of brick exterior construction ranging in size from 5,577 to 6,772 square feet of living area that range in age from 29 to 37 years old. Each comparable has a basement with finished area, central air conditioning, two or four fireplaces and a garage with 840 or 1,118 square feet of building area. Comparable #1 has an inground swimming pool. The comparables sold from April 2022 to June 2023 for prices ranging from \$1,390,000 to \$2,250,000 or from \$242.17 to \$384.88 per square foot of living area, including land. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

In written rebuttal, counsel for the appellant pointed out differences between the board of review comparables and the subject in finished basements, bathroom count and fireplace count.

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 a total of five comparable sales for the Board's consideration, with one comparable being common to both parties. The Board has given less weight to the appellant's comparable sales #2 and #3 as well as board of review comparable #3, which includes the common comparable, due to their remote sale dates occurring in 2022, which is less proximate in

² Procedural rule Sec. 1910.50(c)(1) provides that in all counties other than Cook, the three-year county wide assessment level as certified by the Department of Revenue will be considered. 86 Ill.Admin.Code Sec. 1910.50(c)(1). As of the development of this Final Administrative decision, the Department of Revenue has not published figures for tax year 2024.

time to the January 1, 2024, assessment date given other sales available in the record. The Board has given reduced weight to appellant's comparable #1 due to its smaller dwelling size when compared to the subject.

The Board finds that the best evidence of market value to be board of review comparable sales #1 and #2. The Board finds these comparables sold more proximate to the January 1, 2024, assessment date and are overall more similar to the subject in location, dwelling size, design and age some features. However, the Board finds that each comparable has a substantially smaller site size and comparable #2 lacks an inground swimming pool a feature the subject, suggesting upward adjustments would be required to make these comparables more equivalent to the subject. Likewise, each comparable has a basement finished, unlike the subject suggesting downward adjustments for this difference would be necessary. Nevertheless, these comparables sold in May and June of 2023 for prices of \$1,390,000 and \$2,250,000 or \$249.24 and \$384.88 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$1,524,521 or \$244.00 per square foot of living area, including land which is bracketed by the two best comparable sales in this record. Based on this record and after considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences when compared to the subject, the Board finds a reduction in the subject's 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: _____

December 23, 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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