



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

APPELLANT: Mara Mcstay
DOCKET NO.: 24-01661.001-R-2
PARCEL NO.: 12-30-304-005

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Mara Mcstay, the appellant, by attorney Ronald Kingsley, of Lake County Real Estate Tax Appeal, LLC in Hawthorn Woods; 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: \$137,539
IMPR.: \$484,307
TOTAL: \$621,846

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 frame exterior construction with 4,004 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 2015 and is approximately 9 years old. Features of the home include a basement, central air conditioning and a 912 square foot garage. The property has a 21,780 square foot site and is located in Lake Forest, Shields 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 located within .34 of a mile from the subject and have the same neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables have sites ranging in size from 20,038 to 23,958 square feet of land area and are improved with 1-story dwellings of frame exterior construction ranging in size from 3,793 to 4,387 square feet of living area. The homes are 20 to 23 years old. The homes each have a basement, central air conditioning and a

garage ranging in size from 580 to 811 square feet of building area. The comparables sold from January to November 2022 for prices ranging from \$1,395,000 to \$1,675,000 or from \$332.70 to \$415.24 per square foot of living area, land included. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's total assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$621,846. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$1,865,725 or \$465.97 per square foot of living area, land included, when using the statutory level of assessment of 33.33%¹.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on two comparable sales with the same neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables have sites with 20,038 or 33,590 square feet of land area and are improved with 2-story dwellings of frame exterior construction containing 4,356 and 4,420 square feet of living area. The homes were built in 2001 or 2004. Each home has a basement, central air conditioning and a 759 or an 852 square foot garage. The comparables sold in July 2023 or June 2024 for prices of \$2,125,000 and \$2,200,000 or \$480.77 and \$505.05 per square foot of living area, land included. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested a confirmation of the subject's assessment.

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 six comparable sales for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables which sold in 2022, less proximate in time to the January 1, 2024, assessment date than the board of review comparable sales.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the board of review comparables which sold more proximate in time to the assessment date at issue and have varying degrees of similarity to the subject in location, site size, age, dwelling size and features. These comparables sold July 2023 or June 2024 for prices of \$2,125,000 and \$2,200,000 or \$480.77 and \$505.05 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$1,865,724 or \$465.96 per square foot of living area, including land, which is below the best comparable sales in this record. After considering adjustments to the best comparables in this record for differences from the subject, the Board finds that the appellant did not demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that the subject property is overvalued. Therefore, based on the evidence, the Board finds a reduction in the subject's assessment is not justified.

¹ 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). Prior to the drafting of this decision, the Department of Revenue has yet to publish figures for tax year 2024.

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

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: _____

February 17, 2026



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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