



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

APPELLANT: Ben Schwartz  
DOCKET NO.: 24-01702.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 14-05-105-036

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Ben Schwartz, 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:** \$31,307  
**IMPR.:** \$245,566  
**TOTAL:** \$276,873

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 two-story dwelling of frame exterior construction with 3,898 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 2015 and is 9 years old. Features of the home include a basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace, and a 946 square foot garage. The property has a 40,415 square foot site and is located in Hawthorn Woods, Ela 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 the subject's assessment neighborhood and within .6 of a mile of the subject. The comparables consist of two-story dwellings of brick or frame exterior construction ranging in size from 3,462 to 4,502 square feet of living area. The homes range in age from 25 to 31 years old. Each dwelling has central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces, a basement, and a garage ranging in size from 759 to 875

square feet of building area. The parcels range in size from 39,977 to 46,610 square feet of land area. The comparables sold from January to October 2023 for prices ranging from \$677,000 to \$830,000 or from \$163.71 to \$209.42 per square foot of living area, including land. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduced assessment of \$235,156, for an estimated market value of \$705,539 or \$181.00 per square foot of living area, including land, when applying the statutory level of assessment of 33.33%.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$276,873. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$830,702 or \$213.11 per square foot of living area, land included, when using the statutory level of assessment of 33.33%.<sup>1</sup>

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four comparable sales located within the subject's assessment neighborhood and within .6 of a mile of the subject. Comparable #1 is the same property as the appellant's comparable #5. The comparables consist of two-story dwellings of brick or brick and frame exterior construction ranging in size from 3,844 to 4,100 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built from 1994 to 1998. Each dwelling has central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces, a basement, and a garage ranging in size from 805 to 946 square feet of building area. The parcels range in size from 39,977 to 51,970 square feet of land area. The comparables sold from March 2023 to December 2024 for prices ranging from \$825,000 to \$985,000 or from \$202.64 to \$240.24 per square foot of living area, including land. The board of review submitted a memorandum in which it argued that the appellant's comparables #1 and #2 sold in original condition and that the board of review's comparables had been updated and are therefore more comparable to the subject. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested 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 eight comparable sales to support their respective positions before the Property Tax Appeal Board, with one comparable being common to the parties.

The Board finds the parties' comparables are not truly similar to the subject due to differences in age, nevertheless, the parties' comparables are similar to the subject in location, dwelling size, and features. The comparables sold for prices ranging from \$677,000 to \$985,000 or from

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<sup>1</sup> 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 §1910.50(c)(1). Prior to the drafting of this decision, the Department of Revenue has yet to publish figures for tax year 2024.

\$163.71 to \$240.24 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$830,702 or \$213.11 per square foot of living area, including land, which is within the range established by the best comparable sales in this record and appears well supported given the subject's newer dwelling. Based on this evidence and after considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds 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

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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COUNTY

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