



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

APPELLANT: James Bentz
DOCKET NO.: 24-01853.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 16-09-201-001

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are James Bentz, 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: \$104,874
IMPR.: \$195,927
TOTAL: \$300,801

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 brick and wood siding exterior construction with 2,652 square feet of living area.¹ The dwelling was constructed in 1961 and is approximately 63 years old. The dwelling has a reported effective age of 1980 due to remodeling in 2017. Features of the home include a basement with finished area, central air conditioning, a fireplace and a garage with 528 square feet of building area. The property has an approximately 20,000 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 five comparable properties that have same assessment

¹ The Board finds the best description of the subject is found in the subject's property record card submitted by the board of review, which was not refuted by the appellant.

neighborhood code as the subject and are located within .47 of a mile from the subject property. The comparables have sites that range in size from approximately 19,998 to 37,801 square feet of land area. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of wood frame exterior construction ranging in size from 2,404 to 2,798 square feet of living area. The dwellings are from 59 to 63 years old. Each comparable has an unfinished basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace and a garage ranging in size from 462 to 506 square feet of building area. The comparables sold from April 2023 to June 2024 for prices ranging from \$849,000 to \$969,000 or from \$329.07 to \$353.58 per square foot of living area, including land. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's total assessment be reduced to \$274,897, which would reflect a market value of \$824,773 or \$311.00 per square foot of living area, including land, when using 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 \$300,801. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$902,493 or \$340.31 per square foot of living area, land included, when using 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 properties that have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and are located within approximately .50 of a mile from the subject property. The board of review's comparable #3 is the same property as the appellant's comparable #2, which was previously described.³ The board of review's comparables #1 and #2 have sites with 20,000 or 21,000 square feet of land area and are improved with two-story dwellings of wood siding or brick exterior construction. The dwellings contain 2,842 and 2,854 square feet of living area and are 50 and 60 years old, respectively. The comparables each have a basement, one of which has finished area. Each comparable has central air conditioning, a fireplace and a garage ranging in size from 480 to 506 square feet of building area. The comparables sold in July 2023 and March 2024 for prices of \$995,000 and \$1,030,000 or for \$348.63 and \$362.42 per square foot of living area, including land. 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.

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

³ The appellant described the common comparable with an unfinished basement, whereas the board of review described the basement with 443 square feet of finished area, which was not refuted by the appellant.

The parties submitted seven comparable sales for the Board's consideration, as one sale was common to both parties. The Board finds all the comparables are similar to the subject in location, site size, dwelling size, design, age and some features. The comparables sold from April 2023 to June 2024 for prices ranging from \$849,000 to \$1,030,000 or from \$329.07 to \$362.42 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$902,493 or \$340.31 per square foot of living area, including land, which falls within the range established by the comparables in the record. Based on this record and after considering adjustments to the comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted based on overvaluation.

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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