



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

APPELLANT: Stavros Stergiou
DOCKET NO.: 24-02086.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 14-08-309-005

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Stavros Stergiou, 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: \$32,279
IMPR.: \$158,420
TOTAL: \$190,699

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 3,154 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1988 and is approximately 36 years old. Features of the home include a walkout basement,¹ central air conditioning, two fireplaces, a garage with 735 square feet of building area and a shed. The property has a 47,149 square foot site and is located in Hawthorn Woods, Ela Township, Lake County.

The appellant contends assessment inequity with respect to the improvement assessment as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on eight equity comparables that have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and are located within .51 of a mile from the subject property. The comparables are improved with two-

¹ The board of review revealed the subject dwelling has a walkout basement and the property has a shed, which were not refuted by the appellant.

story dwellings of frame or brick and frame exterior construction ranging in size from 3,014 to 3,302 square feet of living area. The dwellings are from 33 to 50 years old. Each comparable has a basement, central air conditioning, from one to four fireplaces and a garage ranging in size from 495 to 828 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$140,360 to \$174,999 or from \$45.25 to \$54.57 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$151,487 or \$48.03 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 \$190,699. The subject has an improvement assessment of \$158,420 or \$50.23 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 that have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and are located within .44 of a mile from the subject property, one of which is also along the same street as the subject. The board of review's comparable #3 is the same property as the appellant's comparable #8. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of frame, brick or brick and frame exterior construction ranging in size from 2,820 to 3,374 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built from 1988 to 1997. The comparables each have a basement, three of which are walkouts.² Each comparable has central air conditioning, one or three fireplaces and a garage ranging in size from 680 to 960 square feet of building area. Comparable #1 has a shed and comparable #4 has a greenhouse. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$145,066 to \$178,587 or from \$49.94 to \$54.57 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested the subject's assessment be confirmed.

Conclusion of Law

The taxpayer 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 did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The parties submitted eleven equity comparables for the Board's consideration, as one comparable is common to both parties. The Board has given less weight to the appellant's comparables #2 and #6 due to their older dwelling ages, when compared to the subject. The Board has given reduced weight to board of review comparable #1 due to its smaller dwelling size, when compared to the subject.

² The board of review disclosed that the parties' common comparable has a walkout basement, which was not refuted by the appellant.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables #1, #3, #4, #5, #7 and #8, along with board of review comparables #2, #3 and #4, which includes the common comparable. The Board finds these comparables are similar to the subject in location, dwelling size, design, age and some features. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$144,810 to \$178,587 or from \$44.25 to \$54.57 per square foot of living area. The subject property's improvement assessment of \$158,420 or \$50.23 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in the record. Based on this record and after considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds the appellant did not demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed.

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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