



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

APPELLANT: Coleman O'Donovan  
DOCKET NO.: 24-02192.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 16-04-410-001

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Coleman O'Donovan, 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 **a reduction** 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:** \$98,293  
**IMPR.:** \$110,048  
**TOTAL:** \$208,341

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 one-story dwelling of brick exterior construction with 2,334 square feet of living area.<sup>1</sup> The dwelling was built in 1958 and is approximately 66 years old. The dwelling has an effective year built of 1976 due to remodeling in 2013. Features of the home include a crawl space foundation, central air conditioning, a fireplace and a garage with 441 square feet of building area. The property has an approximately 20,600 square foot site and is located in Lake Forest, West Deerfield 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 nine equity comparables that have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and are

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<sup>1</sup> The Board finds the best description of the subject in found in the subject's property record card provided by the board of review, which was not refuted by the appellant.

located within .42 of a mile from the subject property. The comparables are improved with one-story dwellings of wood frame exterior construction ranging in size from 2,234 to 2,448 square feet of living area. The dwellings are from 65 to 69 years old. Seven comparables each have a basement. Each comparable has central air conditioning, a fireplace and a garage ranging in size from 420 to 600 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$80,729 to \$124,697 or from \$33.53 to \$50.94 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$110,048 or \$47.15 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 \$217,119. The subject has an improvement assessment of \$118,826 or \$50.91 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on two equity comparables that have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and are within .39 of a mile from the subject property, one of which is also along the same street as the subject. The comparables are improved with one-story dwellings of brick exterior construction containing 1,924 and 2,062 square feet of living area, respectively. The dwellings are 65 and 69 years old. Each comparable has central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces and a garage with either 456 or 506 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments of \$97,000 and \$97,952 or \$47.04 and \$50.91 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 met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The parties submitted 11 equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board has given less weight to the two comparables submitted by the board of review due to their substantially smaller dwelling sizes, when compared to the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the nine comparables submitted by the appellant, which are similar to the subject in location, dwelling size, design and age. However, the Board finds seven of the nine comparables have basements, unlike the subject, suggesting downward adjustments would be required to make the comparables more equivalent to the subject. Nevertheless, the comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$80,729 to \$124,697 or from \$33.53 to \$50.94 per square foot of living area. The subject property's improvement assessment of \$118,826 or \$50.91 falls at the upper end of the range established by the best comparables in the record both in terms of overall improvement

assessment and on a per square foot of living area basis. After considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds the subject's improvement assessment is excessive. Therefore, based on this record the Board finds a reduction in the subject's assessment commensurate with the appellant's request is 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:

April 21, 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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