



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

APPELLANT: Rich and Paige LaCava  
DOCKET NO.: 24-24272.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 05-17-300-054-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Rich and Paige LaCava, the appellant(s), by attorney Michael R. O'Malley, of KSN Law firm in Chicago; and the Cook 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 **Cook** County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

**LAND:** \$69,574  
**IMPR.:** \$57,426  
**TOTAL:** \$127,000

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**Statement of Jurisdiction**

The appellant timely filed the appeal from a decision of the Cook 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 an approximately 120-year-old two-story dwelling of stucco exterior with 4,212 square feet of living area. Features of the home include a full basement, 3.5 bathrooms, a fireplace and a two-car garage. The property has a 21,083 square foot site and is located in Winnetka, New Trier Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-06 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant's appeal is based on overvaluation. In support of this argument the appellant submitted a settlement statement disclosing the subject property was purchased on February 1, 2024, for a price of \$1,270,000. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect the purchase price.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$142,000. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$1,420,000 or \$301.52 per square foot of living area, land included, when using the standard 10 percent assessment value for residential properties in Cook County. In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four comparable sales. All of the sale comparables have the same neighborhood code as the subject property, while one comparable is located on the same block, one is 0.25 miles away, and one comparable is located within the same "subarea". Comparable #1 was sold on May 19, 2022, for \$1,686,635 and has a sale price per square foot of \$436.73. Comparable #2 was sold on August 20, 2024, for a sale price of \$2,100,000 and has a sale price per square foot of \$541.80. Comparable #3 was sold on October 10, 2024, for a sale price of \$1,800,000 and has a sale price per square foot of \$408.35. Comparable #4 was sold on March 22, 2023, for a sale price of \$2,350,000 and has a sale price per square foot of \$576.55. Based on these comparable sales, the board of review is requesting that the current assessment be confirmed.

### **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 met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the purchase of the subject property on February 1, 2024, for a price of \$1,270,000. The appellant provided evidence demonstrating the sale had the elements of an arm's length transaction. The appellant completed Section IV - Recent Sale Data of the appeal disclosing the parties to the transaction were not related, the property was sold using realtors from Compass named Paige Dooley and Eileen Collins, the property had been advertised on the open market with the Multiple Listing Service, and it had been on the market for nearly five months. The property was not sold due to a foreclosure action. In further support of the transaction the appellant submitted a copy of the settlement statement, which confirmed the information provided in Section IV of the petition. The Board finds the purchase price is below the market value reflected by the assessment. The Board finds the board of review did not present sufficient evidence to challenge the arm's length nature of the transaction or to refute the contention that the purchase price was reflective of market value. Based on this record the Board finds the subject property had a market value of \$1,270,000 as of January 1, 2024. Since market value has been determined, a reduction in the subject's assessment commensurate with the appellant's request is appropriate.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

October 21, 2025



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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