FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION
ILLINOIS PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD

APPELLANT: Forrest Blair
DOCKET NO.: 25-01235.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 04-09-202-011

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Forrest Blair, 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:	$9,045
IMPR.:	$80,040
TOTAL:	$89,085

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 2025 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 1-story dwelling of wood siding exterior construction with 1,164 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1989 and is approximately 36 years old. Features of the home include a basement with finished area[1], central air conditioning, a fireplace and a 576 square foot garage. The property has an approximately 11,195 square foot site and is located in Winthrop Harbor, Benton 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 located in the same assessment neighborhood code and within .51 of a mile of the subject. The comparables are improved with 1-story dwellings of wood frame exterior

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

construction ranging in size from 1,118 to 1,296 square feet of living area. The homes range in age from 37 to 52 years old. Each comparable has a garage ranging in size from 300 to 672 square feet of building area. Eight comparables each have central air conditioning and six comparables each have a fireplace. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from $33,136 to $82,303 or from $29.64 to $63.84 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to $72,040 or $61.89 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 $89,085. The subject has an improvement assessment of $80,040 or $68.76 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 located in the same assessment neighborhood code and within .99 of a mile of the subject property. The comparables are improved with 1-story dwellings of wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 1,132 to 1,176 square feet of living area. The homes range in age from 32 to 39 years old. Each comparable has a basement with finished area and a garage with 576 or 1,060 square feet of building area. Three comparables have central air conditioning and two comparables each have a fireplace. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from $79,145 to $81,855 or from $69.60 to $71.68 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 appellant 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 thirteen equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables and the board of review's comparable #1 which are less similar to the subject in basement area and/or lack of central air conditioning, a feature of the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the board of review's comparables #2, #3 and #4 which are more similar to the subject in location, age, design, dwelling size and basement with finished area. These comparables have improvement assessments that range from $79,889 to $81,855 or from $69.60 to $71.68 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of $80,040 or $68.76 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record on an overall improvement assessment basis and below the range on a per square foot basis. After considering appropriate 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 and 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

Member

DISSENTING:

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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: November 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 9-215 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

State of Illinois
Property Tax Appeal Board
William G. Stratton Building, Room 402
401 South Spring Street
Springfield, IL 62706-4001

APPELLANT

Forrest Blair, by attorney:
Ronald Kingsley
Lake County Real Estate Tax Appeal, LLC
40 Landover Parkway
Suite 3
Hawthorn Woods, IL 60047

COUNTY

Lake County Board of Review
Lake County Courthouse
18 North County Street, 7th Floor
Waukegan, IL 60085