FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION
ILLINOIS PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD

APPELLANT: Mark Pickett
DOCKET NO.: 25-01433.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 16-17-205-006

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Mark Pickett, 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:	$204,980
IMPR.:	$155,777
TOTAL:	$360,757

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 2-story dwelling of brick exterior construction with 3,063 square feet of living area.[1] The dwelling was constructed in 1973 and is approximately 52 years old. Features of the home include a basement with finished area, central air conditioning, one fireplace, and a 729 square foot garage. The property is located in Lake Forest, West Deerfield Township, Lake County.

The appellant contends assessment inequity with respect to the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on nine suggested equity comparables located within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables are improved with 2-story dwellings of wood frame exterior construction ranging in

[1] The Board finds the best description of the subject property was found in the subject's property record card that was submitted by the board of review.

size from 2,692 to 3,520 square feet of living area. The dwellings were 47 to 55 years old. Each comparable has a basement, central air conditioning, one fireplace and a garage containing from 420 to 1,116 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from $111,628 to $191,100 or from $41.47 to $54.29 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of $360,757. The subject property has an improvement assessment of $155,777 or $50.86 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on three suggested equity comparables located within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. Comparables #1 and #3 were submitted by the appellant as comparables #5 and #6, respectively. The comparables are improved with 2-story dwellings of brick or wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 3,412 to 3,646 square feet of living area. The dwellings were 46 to 53 years old. Each comparable has a basement, two with finished area. Other features of the comparables include central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces, and a garage ranging in size from 600 to 1,116 square feet of building area. Comparables #1 and #2 each have an inground swimming pool. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from $173,201 to $191,100 or from $50.76 to $54.29 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

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 ten suggested comparables for the Board's consideration which includes the two shared comparables. The Board has given less weight to appellant's comparable #5/board of review comparables #1 and #2 as both have an inground swimming pool which is a feature the subject lacks. The Board also gives less weight to appellant's comparable #9 which is an outlier due to its lower improvement assessment in relation to the other comparables in the record.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant's comparables #1 through #4 and #6 through #8 which includes one shared comparables which are more similar to the subject in location, age, dwelling size and some features. However, six comparables lack finished basement area suggesting upward adjustments are necessary to make these comparables more equivalent to the subject. These comparables have improvement assessments ranging from $130,810 to $173,201 or from $48.09 to $50.76 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of $155,777 or $50.86 per square foot of living area, falls within the

range of the best comparables in the record on an overall basis but slightly higher on a per square foot basis. However, after considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences from the subject including features such as basement finished area, 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 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

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