FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION
ILLINOIS PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD

APPELLANT: Eva Watson
DOCKET NO.: 25-01502.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 16-15-118-008

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Eva Watson, 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:	$40,539
IMPR.:	$117,913
TOTAL:	$158,452

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 1.75-story dwelling of brick exterior construction with 1,655 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1949 and is approximately 76 years old. Features of the home include a basement with finished area[1], central air conditioning, a fireplace and a 399 square foot garage. The property has an approximately 7,884 square foot site and is located in Highland Park, Moraine Township, Lake County.

The appellant contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on seven comparable sales located within 1.57 miles of the subject property. The comparables have sites that range in size from 3,437 to 13,116 square feet of land area and are improved with 1½-story or 2-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 1,404 to 1,878 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 87 to 106 years old. Each comparable has a basement and a garage ranging in size from 210 to 440 square feet of building area. Five comparables each have central air conditioning and four comparables each have a fireplace. The properties sold from May 2024 to September 2025 for prices ranging from $309,900 to $550,000 or from $189.89 to $319.40 per square foot of living area, land included. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's total assessment be reduced to $117,493 which reflects a market value of $352,514 or $213.00 per square foot of living area, land included, when applying the statutory level of assessment of 33.33%.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of $158,452. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of $475,404 or $287.25 per square foot of living area, land included, when using the statutory level of assessment of 33.33%.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on two comparable sales located within .24 of a mile of the subject property. The comparables have sites of 8,250 or 15,527 square feet of land area and are improved with 1-story or 2-story dwellings of brick or wood siding exterior construction with 1,430 or 1,975 square feet of living area. The homes are 68 or 86 years old. Each comparable has a garage with 484 or 525 square feet of building area. One comparable has central air conditioning and one comparable has a basement with finished area. The properties sold in February and June 2024 for $475,000 and $552,000 or $279.49 and $332.17 per square foot of living area, land included. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested the subject's 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 did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The parties submitted nine comparable sales for the Board's consideration. The board finds that none of the comparables are particularly similar to the subject as they all differ from the subject in key characteristics such as design, location, age, foundation, and/or central air conditioning. Nonetheless, the Board finds the appellant's comparables #1 and #4 and the board of review's comparable #2 are most similar to the subject in location, design, and most features. These comparables sold from February 2024 to September 2025 for prices ranging from $425,000 to $499,000 or from $226.43 to $332.17 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of $475,404 or $287.25 per square foot of living area, including land, which falls within the range established by the comparable sales in this record. After considering appropriate adjustments to the best comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds the subject's assessment is justified and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not 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:

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

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