



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

APPELLANT: Joseph Steffen
DOCKET NO.: 21-00548.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 07-18-109-020

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Joseph Steffen, the appellant, by attorney Robert Rosenfeld, of Robert H. Rosenfeld & Associates, LLC in Chicago; 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: \$21,079
IMPR.: \$113,055
TOTAL: \$134,134

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 2021 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 wood siding exterior construction with 3,838 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1999 and is approximately 22 years old. Features of the home include an unfinished basement, central air conditioning, two fireplaces, an inground swimming pool and a 641 square foot garage. The property has an approximately 10,930 square foot site and is located in Gurnee, Warren 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 four comparable properties that are located within .17 of a mile from the subject. The comparables are improved with 2-story dwellings of wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 3,455 to 3,902 square feet of living area. The dwellings are 18 to 20 years old. The comparables have basements, one of which has finished area. Each comparable has central air conditioning; three

comparables each have a fireplace; and each comparable has a garage ranging in size from 550 to 661 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$79,052 to \$111,638 or from \$22.88 to \$28.61 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 \$134,134. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$113,055 or \$29.46 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on five comparable properties located within .17 of a mile from the subject. The comparables are improved with 2-story dwellings of wood siding or wood siding and brick exterior construction with either 3,804 or 3,824 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built from 1999 to 2004. The comparables have basements, two of which have finished area. Each comparable also has central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces and a garage ranging in size from 640 to 661 square feet of building area. Comparable #1 has an inground swimming pool and comparable #4 has a gazebo. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$110,822 to \$123,017 or from \$29.13 to \$32.27 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 a total of nine comparable properties for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to appellant's comparable #1 which is less similar to the subject in dwelling size than the other comparables in the record. The Board gives less weight to appellant's comparable #3 and board of review comparables #4 and #5 which have finished basement area in comparison to the subject's unfinished basement.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant's comparables #2 and #4 along with board of review comparables #1, #2 and #3 which are similar to the subject in location, design, age, dwelling size and some features. However, four comparables lack an inground swimming pool which is a feature of the subject suggesting upward adjustments are needed to make them more equivalent to the subject. The best comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$97,184 to \$113,964 or from \$25.41 to \$29.96 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$113,055 or \$29.46 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in the record. After considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences when compared to the subject, the Board finds the subject's improvement assessment is supported. Based on this record, the

Board finds the appellant did not demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement is inequitably assessed 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: _____

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:

September 19, 2023



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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