



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

APPELLANT: Kathleen Reynolds
DOCKET NO.: 21-01187.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 16-15-404-011

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Kathleen Reynolds, the appellant, by attorney Eric Feldman, of Eric Feldman & Assoc. P.C. 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 ***a reduction*** 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: \$32,847
IMPR.: \$58,574
TOTAL: \$91,421

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 one-story dwelling of brick exterior construction with 1,222 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1940. Features of the home include a basement, 1 full bath, a fireplace and a 240 square foot garage. The property has a 7,350 square foot site and is located in Highwood, Moraine Township, Lake County.

The appellant contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on four comparable sales that have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and are located within .37 of mile from the subject property. The comparables have sites that range in size from 5,230 to 11,560 square feet of land area. The comparables are improved with one-story dwellings of brick, stucco or wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 912 to 1,154 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built from 1918 to 1938 with comparable #2 having a reported effective age of 1975. Each

comparable has a basement, 1 full bath and a garage ranging in size from 216 to 440 square feet of building area. Two comparables have central air conditioning and three comparables each have a fireplace. The comparables sold in either January or March 2020 for prices ranging from \$140,000 to \$279,000 or from \$153.51 to \$241.77 per square foot of living area, including land. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$98,324. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$295,711 or \$241.99 per square foot of living area, land included, when using the 2021 three-year average median level of assessment for Lake County of 33.25% as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on five comparable sales that have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and are located within .33 of a mile from the subject property. The comparables have sites that range in size from 5,110 to 7,020 square feet of land area. The comparables are improved with one-story dwellings of brick, stone or wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 920 to 1,253 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built from 1940 to 1951 with comparables #3 and #4 having reported effective ages of 1974 and 1947, respectively. The comparables each have a basement, three of which have finished area. Each comparable has central air conditioning, 1.5 or 2 full baths and a garage ranging in size from 242 to 440 square feet of building area. Three comparables each have a fireplace. The comparables sold from April 2020 to August 2021 for prices ranging from \$280,000 to \$425,000 or from \$233.14 to \$350.37 per square foot of living area, including land. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

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 record contains nine suggested comparable sales for the Board's consideration. The Board has given less weight to the appellant's comparables #1, #3 and #4, as well as board of review comparable #1 due to their smaller dwelling sizes and/or older ages when compared to the subject. The Board has also given less weight to board of review comparables #2, #3 and #4 due to their finished basement areas, not a feature of the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the appellant's comparable #2 and board of review comparable #5, which have unfinished basements like the subject and are similar to the subject in location, dwelling size, design and age. However, both of these comparables have central air conditioning, unlike the subject and board of review comparable #5 has two full baths when compared to the subject's one full bath, suggesting downward adjustments would be required to make these comparables more equivalent to the subject. Nevertheless, these two

comparables sold in March and April 2020 for prices of \$279,000 and \$280,000 or for \$241.77 and \$233.14 per square foot of living area, including land, respectively. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$295,711 or \$241.99 per square foot of living area, including land, which is greater than the two best comparable sales in the record. After considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences when compared to the subject, the Board finds the subject's estimated market value reflected by its assessment is excessive. Therefore, based on this record the Board finds a reduction in the subject's assessment is 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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