



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

APPELLANT: John Fowler
DOCKET NO.: 21-02737.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 12-28-307-026

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are John Fowler, 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: \$80,762
IMPR.: \$148,025
TOTAL: \$228,787

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 1.5-story dwelling of wood and asphalt shingle exterior construction with 2,367 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1924, is approximately 97 years old, and has an effective age of 1935.¹ Features of the home include a basement with finished area, central air conditioning, two fireplaces, and a 576 square foot garage. The property has an approximately 8,751 square foot site and is located in Lake Forest, Shields 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 located from 0.86 of a mile to 1.29 miles from the subject. The parcels range in size from 4,708 to 11,138 square feet of land area

¹ Additional details regarding the subject not reported by the appellant are found in the subject's property record card presented by the board of review.

and are improved with 1.5-story or 2-story homes of brick or wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 2,094 to 2,579 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 88 to 108 years old. Each home has a basement, two of which have finished area, a fireplace, and a garage ranging in size from 380 to 580 square feet of building area. Three homes each have central air conditioning. The comparables sold from February to September 2020 for prices ranging from \$505,000 to \$620,000 or from \$211.32 to \$272.65 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 \$228,787. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$688,081 or \$290.70 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 located from 0.26 of a mile to 1.16 miles from the subject. The parcels range in size from 5,370 to 10,240 square feet of land area and are improved with 1.75-story, 2-story, or 2.5-story homes of wood siding, stucco, or brick and stucco exterior construction. The homes range in size from 2,160 to 2,590 square feet of living area and were built from 1910 to 1934 with comparable #3 having an effective age of 1932. Each home has a basement, three of which have finished area, a fireplace, and a garage ranging in size from 240 to 550 square feet of building area. Four homes each have central air conditioning. Comparables #4 and #5 have finished attic area. The comparables sold from July 2020 to May 2021 for prices ranging from \$725,000 to \$829,300 or from \$287.64 to \$335.65 per square feet 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 did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The record contains a total of nine comparable sales for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables and the board of review's comparables #1, #4, and #5, due to substantial differences from the subject in dwelling size, basement finish, and/or central air conditioning amenity and/or which are located more than one mile from the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the board of review's comparables #2 and #3, which are more similar to the subject in dwelling size, age, location, and features, although these comparables have smaller lots than the subject, suggesting upward adjustments to these comparables would be needed to make them more equivalent to the subject. These two most similar comparables sold for prices of \$725,000 and \$745,000 or for \$335.65 and \$287.64 per square foot of living area, including land, respectively. The subject's assessment reflects a

market value of \$688,081 or \$290.70 per square foot of living area, including land, which is below the best comparable sales in terms of total market value and is bracketed by the best comparables on a price per square foot basis. Based on this evidence and after considering appropriate adjustments to the best comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds 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: _____

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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