



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

APPELLANT: George Sperzel
DOCKET NO.: 21-04628.001-R-2
PARCEL NO.: 16-07-301-018

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are George Sperzel, the appellant, by attorney Ronald Kingsley, of Lake County Real Estate Tax Appeal, LLC in Lake Forest; 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: \$255,013
IMPR.: \$390,416
TOTAL: \$645,429

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 1.75-story dwelling of brick exterior construction with 7,124 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 2004. Features of the home include an unfinished basement, central air conditioning, two fireplaces and an attached 1,050 square foot garage. The property has an approximately 89,300 square foot site and is located in Lake Forest, West Deerfield Township, Lake County.

The appellant contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on three comparable sales that are located within .62 of a mile from the subject. The comparables have sites ranging in size from 60,113 to 62,726 square feet of land area that are improved with 1.75-story or 2-story dwellings ranging in size from 6,031 to 7,599 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built from 1993 to 1999. The comparables have basements, one of which has finished area, central air conditioning, one or four fireplaces,

and a garage ranging in size from 1,080 to 1,646 square feet of building area. The comparables sold from March 2020 to May 2021 for prices ranging from \$1,000,000 to \$1,190,000 or from \$156.60 to \$189.89 per square foot of living area, including land.

The appellant explained that there were no sales in the subject's neighborhood and referred to the subject as a larger McMansion home.

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 \$645,429. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$1,941,140 or \$272.48 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 two comparable sales that are located within .62 of a mile from the subject. The board of review's comparable #2 is the same property as the appellant's comparable #1. However, the board of review reports the comparable sold subsequently in 2021. The comparables have sites with 62,730 or 81,890 square feet of land area. The comparables are improved with 2-story dwellings of brick exterior construction with 7,092 or 7,599 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built in 1989 or 1999, with the home built in 1989 having a 1995 effective age. The comparables have basements, one of which has finished area, central air conditioning, one or four fireplaces, and an attached 1,080 or 1,196 square foot garage. The comparables sold in July and October 2021 for prices of \$2,200,000 and \$1,800,000 or \$310.21 and \$236.87 per square foot of living area, including land, respectively.

The board of review agreed with the appellant, that there were no sales in the subject's neighborhood, but argued McMansions are new large homes, built in existing subdivisions generally from a tear-down, that are out of character with the original neighborhood.

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 parties submitted a total of four comparable properties for the Board's consideration, one of which was submitted by both parties, but the parties report differing sale dates and prices. The Board finds the parties' comparables have varying degrees of similarity to the subject. However, each of the comparables has a smaller site and an older dwelling when compared to the subject. In addition, the appellant's comparables #2 and #3 have significantly smaller dwellings when

compared to the subject, albeit the parties' common comparable has finished basement area when compared to the subject. Nevertheless, the comparables sold from March 2020 to October 2021 for prices ranging from \$1,000,000 to \$2,200,000 or from \$156.60 to \$310.21 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$1,941,140 or \$272.48 per square foot of living area, including land, which falls within the range established by the comparable sales in the record. After considering adjustments to the comparable sales for differences when compared to the subject, the Board finds the subject's estimated market value as reflected by its assessment is supported. Based on this evidence the Board finds 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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