

August 8, 2020
3125 Tecumseh River Rd
Lansing, MI 48906

David Price, Chairman
Lansing Board of Water & Light
1201 S. Washington Ave
P.O. Box 13007
Lansing, Michigan 48910-1650

Dear Mr. Price,

Thank you for reconsidering my FOIA request for employee payroll information for 2019. I received the file August 6. I do need some additional information, however. I plan to publish the information on my website and I want it to be complete, accurate and clear.

The file has the following column headings:

Year
Name
RA
Job
Salary
OT-Premis-AdtlPay
IVP
TotSal

Year, name and job need no explanation. I don't know what RA means, but appears to mean department or area. Salary would seem to be self-explanatory, but could mean annual pay rate or actual regular pay for the year. I assume OT means overtime, but I need an explanation of Premis and AdtlPay. Also IVP.

I've determined that TotSal is the sum of Salary, OT-Premis-AdtlPay and IVP. If Salary is annual pay rate, TotSal would seem to be a meaningless figure, since it would not reflect actual pay for the year. An example of a case where Salary would not reflect actual pay would be a new hire who started mid-year or an employee who terminated during the year.

These are the items of information I asked for in my FOIA request:

- Name
- Position
- Department
- Hire date
- Termination date
- Salary/hourly rate
- Total earnings for 2019
- Regular earnings
- Overtime earnings

- Any other available components of total earnings other than regular and overtime

Most of the above items are in the file that was provided although an explanation of the not-so-obvious column headings would help. But I suspect that the file excludes employees who were hired or terminated in 2019. I would like them to be included along with hire and termination dates for all employees.

In addition, I would like total 2019 earnings for each employee. As stated above, I am not confident that TotSal is that figure. If I was given all the components of 2019 earnings, I could add them up myself.

Publishing this information on my website means it will be available to all BWL customers. I hope that the Board of Commissioners and BWL management would not want that information to be incomplete or inaccurate.

One final request: I've put this request in a letter because my emails to the BWL do not seem to get through. There is little point in offering an email address for FOIA requests if you block my emails.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Harry

cc. Richard Peffley