



About www.openthebooks.com:

A project of For The Good of Illinois founded by businessman and former gubernatorial candidate Adam Andrzejewski. Our goal is to make 100% of all government spending financially transparent. Only when “Every Dime is online in real time” will citizens be able to hold public officials accountable for spending decisions.

The portal answers the question, “How much does my government cost me?” Nearly all public salaries and pensions from every unit of Illinois government posted at portal, as are the federal salaries from Illinois based employees. Fully searchable database of all vendor spending from 2006-2011 of all Illinois school districts posted online. On Tuesday, May 15, 2012 the entire checkbook of the City of Chicago since 2002 will be searchable at the portal.

Since our launch on Sept 13, 2011, nearly 100,000 people have searched 1.4 million records. All public salaries are also on our Open The Books iApp which is a free download at iTunes.

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TOP THIRTEEN VILLAGE MANAGERS IN ILLINOIS- 2011

1.	Grayslake	Michael Ellis	\$259,252
2.	Glenview	Lawrence Hileman	\$245,653
3.	Gurnee	James Hayner	\$239,620
4.	Northbrook	Richard Nahrstadt	\$236,689
5.	Skokie	Albert Rigoni	\$230,521
6.	Highland Park	David Limardi	\$222,041
7.	Schaumburg	Kenneth Fritz	\$218,923
8.	Lake Forest	Robert Kiely	\$214,665
9.	Libertyville	Kevin Bowens	\$207,375
10.	Algonquin	William Ganek	\$206,773
11.	Joliet	Thomas Thanas	\$203,820
12.	Glencoe	Paul Harlow	\$201,618
13.	Palatine	Reid Ottesen	\$200,379

Last year, Palatine was at \$255,283 and he took a 22% pay cut to \$200,379. Therefore, he went from one of the top to thirteenth place. Skokie was one of the top and went from \$269,170 to \$230,531- but, ten years ago he was making \$124,579. **The Mayor of Chicago makes \$216,200.**

REVIEW OF MICHAEL ELLIS COMPENSATION- VILLAGE MANAGER OF GRAYSLAKE

In 1998, as a newly hired village manager Michael Ellis was making a starting base salary of \$93,000 (see contract). Today, Ellis makes \$259,252 on base salary with other benefits increasing total compensation between \$350,000 and \$400,000 annually.

More than salary, it's also about the cost of perquisites and other benefits. Ellis has a contract in force since 1998 that currently provides for:

- A full year of salary and health insurance if he is terminated.
- Full annual automobile reimbursement.
- Taxpayer funding of a second retirement plan- a "deferred compensation retirement plan" *in addition to funding his lucrative public pension plan.*
- Taxpayer funded premiums into a whole life insurance policy (a de facto third retirement plan) equal to a death benefit amount of Ellis' full annual salary. Ellis chooses the plans beneficiary and keeps all cash value and benefits at retirement.
- Generous sick and vacation provisions to accumulate and pay-out unused days.
- Taxpayer funded full tuition reimbursement to continue his college "continuing education".
- Travel and all expenses annually to a "national conference"
- A "NO- REDUCTION" clause in contract preventing Grayslake from reducing Ellis salary or benefits individually; all reductions have to be across-the-board for all village employees.

The perks and benefits are worth at least an extra \$115,000 per year. Without additional foia's, we conservatively estimate the following taxpayer costs:

- pension payment (\$42,000),
- deferred comp plan (\$10,000),
- whole life policy (\$10,000),
- auto (\$5,000),
- severance and "no-reduction" clause (1/10th chance of occurrence, \$28,000 value),
- sick & vacation days (\$5,000),
- annual health insurance cost (\$15,000).

Therefore, salary of \$259,252 plus \$115,000 equals \$374,252. Without a full, in-depth compensation analysis, we estimate that Ellis has a contract worth between \$350,000 and \$400,000 annually.

Background:

57 city & village managers and administrators out-earn all 50 governors. New York is the highest paid governor at a salary of \$179,000; the second highest paid governor is Illinois at \$177,500.

<http://www.therichest.org/nation/highest-paid-america-governors/>