



2018 LI TOWN AND CITY PAYROLLS

Brookhaven

Brookhaven Town's \$75.1 million payroll was the third largest on Long Island in 2018, a Newsday analysis of payroll data shows.

For at least the seventh year in a row, Brookhaven was the leader among Long Island's 13 towns and two cities in paid overtime with \$6,812,085, nearly a 16 percent increase over the previous year. Last year's overtime remained below the \$8,344,567 paid in 2012, the highest for the town in the six years Newsday as tracked payroll data.

Town officials said most of the overtime goes toward capital improvement projects they prefer employees to handle instead of hiring contractors.

"It's shown to be more efficient. If you contract it out, the labor rates are more expensive," Brookhaven Town chief of operations Matt Miner said. "It gets done much quicker and it's less of a disruption to the community."

Highlights of the town's 2018 payroll data include:

- Michael Kubasiuk, who recently retired from the information technology department after 33 years, was the town's highest paid employee last year at \$172,838 total pay. About \$63,000 was a payout from leftover sick time and unused vacation.
- Town Supervisor Edward P. Romaine was the 47th highest paid employee with \$116,634 in total annual pay. He received another \$8,000 after opting into a health insurance buyback program.
- The town had 2,025 municipal employees compared with 2,014 the previous year. Town officials said employees often come and go but the overall number has remained relatively flat over the past several years.
- Average pay for town workers last year totaled \$37,115, close to the Islandwide average of \$37,483.
- Brookhaven, the largest town, had one employee for every 240 residents, the highest ratio among the 13 towns and two cities and well above the Islandwide average of 144 residents for each municipal employee.

Town officials attribute their high payroll last year to an increased cost of living adjustment, health care cost growth and landfill operating expenses.

"It's unfair to compare Brookhaven to other towns," Miner said.

— DEON J. HAMPTON



Brookhaven Town Hall in Brookhaven.

Riverhead

Riverhead Town saw its overall overtime costs rise again from \$1,173,769 in 2017 to \$1,414,684 in 2018, a 20.5 percent increase, a Newsday analysis of payroll data provided by the town shows.

Police generated the most in overtime costs in 2018, paying \$1,035,782 to its staff — a nearly 0.3 percent increase from the \$1,033,108 in overtime issued in 2017. That year, overall overtime payments decreased but police overtime grew.

William Rothaar, Riverhead's financial administrator, said the increase in 11 employees of the town's 564 workers in 2018 is a count of all those who received a W-2 for 2018. "That could be either more seasonal during the year or two employees on the payroll for one position due to an employee retiring or resigning," Rothaar said.

Highlights of the town's 2018 payroll data include:

- As with the year before, the town's highway department paid the second-highest amount in overtime at \$102,587. The payments represented a 63.7 percent increase from the \$62,666 highway workers were paid in overtime the year before.
- The police, highway and engineering departments paid the highest in total salaries for 2018.
- Police paid its staff a total of \$14,804,169 in 2018, while highway staff made a cumulative \$2,355,483. Engineering made the third highest of all town departments, with staff getting paid a total of \$1,931,431.
- Riverhead added the third-highest amount of overall staff among Long Island's 13 towns and two cities in 2018, adding 11 positions overall to bring its total paid town staff from 553 in 2017 to 564 in 2018.
- The town had the third-lowest percent change among average salaries on Long Island in 2018. Riverhead's average salary of \$51,913 in 2017 went down by \$128, or 0.25 percent, to \$51,785 in 2018.

— JOHN-PAUL SALAMANCA



A Riverhead Police vehicle on E. Main Street.

Southampton

Southampton Town recorded its highest recent payroll in 2018, with a nearly 6 percent increase over the previous year's payroll and a 38 percent jump in overtime pay, a Newsday analysis of payroll data provided by the town over the past six years shows.

That increase is thanks to the U.S. Open golf national championship tournament, held last June at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club in Southampton, Town Comptroller Leonard Marchese said.

"Because we had the U.S. Open last year, so everybody worked on overtime," he said in a phone interview. "Police, code enforcement, highway ... pretty much almost everybody was involved with it in some aspect of it, to manage those four weeks of activity."

Marchese said the United States Golf Association paid the town \$743,000 toward its personnel and overtime costs during the U.S. Open.

But last year's overtime pay was an anomaly and this year's payroll expenses look to be normal, he said.

Highlights of the town's payroll data include:

- The town had a \$46,022,109 payroll in 2018, compared to a \$43,494,852 payroll in 2017, a nearly 6 percent increase despite having a smaller workforce.
- Overtime pay increased from \$1,773,531 in 2017 to \$2,453,541 last year, a 38 percent increase. That makes overtime pay 5.33 percent of the total 2018 payroll. In 2017, overtime pay was 4.08 percent of the total payroll.
- The town had 938 employees in 2018, compared to 968 employees in 2017 — a 3.1 percent decrease in personnel. Marchese said the town had difficulty in hiring enough part-timers for the summer tourism season, in particular lifeguards. "We did have a difficult time recruiting lifeguards because of our pay structure. So we actually had to adjust our pay this year, to increase it so that we can recruit enough lifeguards," he said. The town pays lifeguards \$14.96 an hour, a raise from \$14.11 an hour in 2018. Senior lifeguards are paid \$16.31 an hour, an increase from \$15.68 an hour in 2018.
- The town's average pay was \$49,064.08 in 2018, a 9 percent increase over 2017 when average pay was \$44,932.70. Islandwide, average pay in 2018 was \$37,483.12.

"We're seeing that our overtime has returned to historical levels," Marchese said. "We know that there's built-in overtime with police schedules and code enforcement schedules and what not, and that those are standard overtime amounts. We would expect everything to be back to those normal levels."

— SOPHIA CHANG