

LIMITED PROCEDURES ENGAGEMENT

Palmer Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan Northampton County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016

May 2017



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General

Eugene A. DePasquale • Auditor General



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AUDITOR GENERAL

Board of Township Supervisors
Palmer Township
Northampton County
Palmer, PA 18045

We conducted a Limited Procedures Engagement (LPE) of the Palmer Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016 to determine its compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies. We also evaluated compliance with some requirements subsequent to that period when possible. The LPE was conducted pursuant to authority derived from Section 402(j) of the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act (P.L. 1005, No. 205, as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.101 et seq.) but was not conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The act established mandatory actuarial reporting and funding requirements and a uniform basis for the distribution of state aid to Pennsylvania's public pension plans. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis to support our LPE results.

Our LPE was limited to determining the following:

- Whether state aid was properly determined and deposited in accordance with Act 205 requirements by verifying the annual deposit date of state aid and determining whether deposits were made within 30 days of receipt for all years within the engagement period.
- Whether annual employer contributions were calculated and deposited in accordance with the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations by examining the municipality's calculation of the plan's annual financial requirements and minimum municipal obligation (MMO) and comparing these calculated amounts to amounts actually budgeted and deposited into the pension plan as evidenced by supporting documentation.
- Whether retirement benefits calculated for plan members who retired during the engagement period represent payments to all (and only) those entitled to receive them and were properly determined and disbursed in accordance with the plan's governing document, applicable laws and regulations by recalculating the amount of the monthly pension benefit due to retired individuals and comparing these amounts to supporting documentation evidencing amounts determined and actually paid to recipients.

- Whether the January 1, 2013 and January 1, 2015 actuarial valuation reports were prepared and submitted to the former Public Employee Retirement Commission (PERC) by March 31, 2014 and 2016, respectively, in accordance with Act 205 and whether selected information provided on these reports is accurate, complete, and in accordance with plan provisions to ensure compliance for participation in the state aid program by comparing selected information to supporting source documentation.

Based on the results of our procedures performed during our LPE, nothing came to our attention indicating that the Palmer Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan was not being administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies.

Our determination to perform a LPE for this engagement period does not preclude the Department from conducting an audit in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* of the pension plan in subsequent periods. The township should continue to maintain documentation related to this pension plan.

The accompanying supplementary information is presented for purposes of additional analysis. We did not audit the information or conclude on it and, accordingly, express no form of assurance on it.

The contents of this report were discussed with officials of Palmer Township and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in this report. We would like to thank township officials for the cooperation extended to us during the conduct of this LPE.

May 1, 2017



EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE
Auditor General

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PALMER TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

The supplementary information contained on Pages 1 and 2 reflects the implementation of GASB Statement No. 67, *Financial Reporting for Pension Plans*. The objective of this statement is to improve financial reporting by state and local governmental pension plans.

SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE NET PENSION
LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

Total Pension Liability	
Service cost	\$ 141,904
Interest	381,651
Changes in benefit experience	225,622
Changes in benefit assumptions	(156,236)
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(156,969)
Net Change in Total Pension Liability	435,972
Total Pension Liability – Beginning	5,319,347
Total Pension Liability - Ending (a)	\$ 5,755,319
Plan Fiduciary Net Position	
Contributions – employer	\$ 145,793
Net investment income	(371,295)
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(156,969)
Administrative expense	(9,650)
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	(392,121)
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning	5,801,785
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Ending (b)	\$ 5,409,664
Net Pension Liability - Ending (a-b)	\$ 345,655
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	93.99%
Estimated Covered Employee Payroll	\$ 2,027,367
Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Employee Payroll	17.04%

PALMER TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
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 (UNAUDITED)

Sensitivity of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the net pension liability of township as of December 31, 2015, calculated using the discount rate of 7.0%, as well as what the township's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage-point lower or 1 percentage-point higher than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (6.0%)	Current Discount Rate (7.0%)	1% Increase (8.0%)
Net Pension Liability	\$ 1,074,270	\$ 345,655	\$ (278,689)

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT RETURNS

Annual Money-Weighted Rate of Return, Net of Investment Expense:

2015	-6.48%
2014	6.40%

PALMER TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 (UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS

Historical trend information about the plan is presented herewith as supplementary information. It is intended to help users assess the plan's funding status on a going-concern basis, assess progress made in accumulating assets to pay benefits when due, and make comparisons with other state and local government retirement systems.

The actuarial information is required by Act 205 biennially. The historical information, beginning as of January 1, 2011, is as follows:

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets (a)	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) - Entry Age (b)	Unfunded (Assets in Excess of) Actuarial Accrued Liability (b) - (a)	Funded Ratio (a)/(b)
01-01-11	\$ 4,115,611	\$ 4,785,357	\$ 669,746	86.0%
01-01-13	4,926,996	4,649,264	(277,732)	106.0%
01-01-15	5,800,688	5,388,733	(411,955)	107.6%

Note: The market values of the plan's assets at 01-01-11 and 01-01-13 have been adjusted to reflect the smoothing of gains and/or losses which will be limited to a maximum of 120 percent of the fair market value of assets. This method will lower contributions in years of less than expected returns and increase contributions in years of greater than expected returns. The net effect over long periods of time is to have less variance in contribution levels from year to year.

PALMER TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
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The comparability of trend information is affected by changes in actuarial assumptions, benefit provisions, actuarial funding methods, accounting policies, and other changes. Those changes usually affect trends in contribution requirements and in ratios that use the actuarial accrued liability as a factor.

Analysis of the dollar amount of the actuarial value of assets, actuarial accrued liability, and unfunded (assets in excess of) actuarial accrued liability in isolation can be misleading. Expressing the actuarial value of assets as a percentage of the actuarial accrued liability (Column 4) provides one indication of the plan's funding status on a going-concern basis. Analysis of this percentage, over time, indicates whether the system is becoming financially stronger or weaker. Generally, the greater this percentage, the stronger the plan.

PALMER TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER
AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2011	\$ 323,542	100.0%
2012	323,770	100.0%
2013	295,129	100.0%
2014	145,773	100.0%
2015	145,793	100.0%
2016	161,694	110.9%

PALMER TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
NOTES TO SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES
(UNAUDITED)

The information presented in the supplementary schedules was determined as part of the actuarial valuation at the date indicated. Additional information as of the latest actuarial valuation date follows:

Actuarial valuation date	January 1, 2015
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Amortization method	N/A
Remaining amortization period	N/A
Asset valuation method	Fair value
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	7.0%
Projected salary increases	4.0%

PALMER TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom W. Wolf
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Mr. David E. Colver
Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors

Mr. K. Michael Mitchell
Vice Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors

Ms. Ann Marie Panella
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