

# COMPLIANCE AUDIT

---

## Peters Township Non-Uniformed Management Pension Plan

Washington County, Pennsylvania  
For the Period  
January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016

---

November 2017



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of the Auditor General

Eugene A. DePasquale • Auditor General



**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of the Auditor General  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0018  
Facebook: Pennsylvania Auditor General  
Twitter: @PAAuditorGen  
www.PaAuditor.gov**

**EUGENE A. DePASQUALE  
AUDITOR GENERAL**

Township Council  
Peters Township  
Washington County  
McMurry, PA 15317

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Peters Township Non-Uniformed Management Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016. We also evaluated compliance with some requirements subsequent to that period when possible. The audit was conducted pursuant to authority derived from Section 402(j) of Act 205 and in accordance with the standards applicable to performance audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objective.

The objective of the audit was to determine if the pension plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies.

Our audit was limited to the areas related to the objective identified above. To determine whether the pension plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies, our methodology included the following:

- We determined 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 period under audit. State aid allocations that were deposited into the pension plan for the years ended December 31, 2011 to December 31, 2016, are presented on the Summary of Deposited State Aid and Employer Contributions.

- We determined 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. Employer contributions that were deposited into the pension plan for the years ended December 31, 2011 to December 31, 2016, are presented on the Summary of Deposited State Aid and Employer Contributions.
- We determined whether annual employee contributions were calculated, deducted, and deposited into the pension plan in accordance with the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations by testing total members' contributions on an annual basis using the rates obtained from the plan's governing document in effect for all years within the period under audit and examining documents evidencing the deposit of these employee contributions into the pension plan. We also tested individual employee contributions for all 9 active full-time firefighters employed during the audit period amounting to \$15,986 and \$16,036 for the years 2015 and 2016, respectively.
- We determined whether retirement benefits calculated for all 7 of the plan members who terminated employment and/or retired and elected a lump-sum form of pension benefit during the current audit period, and through the completion of our fieldwork procedures, 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 comparing the distributed amounts to supporting documentation evidencing amounts determined and actually paid to recipients.
- We determined 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.
- We determined whether the terms of the plan's unallocated insurance contract, including ownership and any restrictions, were in compliance with plan provisions, investment policies, and state regulations by comparing the terms of the contract with the plan's provisions, investment policies, and state regulations.

Peters Township contracted with an independent certified public accounting firm for annual audits of its basic financial statements which are available at the township's offices. Those financial statements were not audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion or other form of assurance on them.

Township officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Peters Township Non-Uniformed Management Pension Plan is administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies. In conducting our audit, we obtained an understanding of the township's internal controls as they relate to the township's compliance with those requirements and that we considered to be significant within the context of our audit objective, and assessed whether those significant controls were properly designed and implemented. Additionally and as previously described, we tested transactions, assessed official actions, performed analytical procedures, and interviewed selected officials to provide reasonable assurance of detecting instances of noncompliance with legal and regulatory requirements or noncompliance with provisions of contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies that are significant within the context of the audit objective.

The results of our procedures indicated that, in all significant respects, the Peters Township Non-Uniformed Management Pension Plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies.

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

November 8, 2017



EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE  
Auditor General

## CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Background.....	1
Summary of Deposited State Aid and Employer Contributions.....	2
Report Distribution List .....	3

## BACKGROUND

On December 18, 1984, the Pennsylvania Legislature adopted the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act (P.L. 1005, No. 205, as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.101 et seq.). 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. Section 402(j) of Act 205 specifically requires the Auditor General, as deemed necessary, to make an audit of every municipality which receives general municipal pension system state aid and of every municipal pension plan and fund in which general municipal pension system state aid is deposited.

Annual state aid allocations are provided from a 2 percent foreign (out-of-state) casualty insurance premium tax, a portion of the foreign (out-of-state) fire insurance tax designated for paid firefighters and any investment income earned on the collection of these taxes. Generally, municipal pension plans established prior to December 18, 1984, are eligible for state aid. For municipal pension plans established after that date, the sponsoring municipality must fund the plan for three plan years before it becomes eligible for state aid. In accordance with Act 205, a municipality's annual state aid allocation cannot exceed its actual pension costs.

In addition to Act 205, the Peters Township Non-Uniformed Management Pension Plan is also governed by implementing regulations adopted by the former Public Employee Retirement Commission published at Title 16, Part IV of the Pennsylvania Code and applicable provisions of various other state statutes.

The Peters Township Non-Uniformed Management Pension Plan is a single-employer defined contribution pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Resolution No. 7-1-77, as amended. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the township and its firefighters, who are eligible to participate in the Peters Township Non-Uniformed Management Pension Plan. The plan was established December 15, 1975. Active non-uniformed management members are not required to contribute to the plan. Active full-time firefighters are required to contribute 3 percent of their compensation. The municipality is required to match each firefighter's annual required contribution. In addition, the municipality is required to contribute 8 percent of each non-uniformed management employee's and firefighter's annual compensations. As of December 31, 2016, the plan had 56 active members and 5 terminated members eligible for vested benefits in the future.

PETERS TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED MANAGEMENT PENSION PLAN  
SUMMARY OF DEPOSITED STATE AID AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid	Employer Contributions
2011	\$ 149,265	\$ 12,136
2012	121,752	51,827
2013	120,045	40,397
2014	130,591	43,949
2015	101,503	112,054
2016	168,000	90,001

In 2012, the township met the plan's \$173,595 funding requirement through the deposit of \$121,752 in state aid, \$16 in terminated employee forfeitures, and \$51,827 in employer contributions.

In 2013, the township met the plan's \$192,360 funding requirement through the deposit of \$120,045 in state aid, \$31,918 in terminated employee forfeitures, and \$40,397 in employer contributions.

In 2014, the township met the plan's \$185,278 funding requirement through the deposit of \$130,591 in state aid, \$10,738 in terminated employee forfeitures, and \$43,949 in employer contributions.

In 2015, the township met the plan's \$213,817 funding requirement through the deposit of \$101,503 in state aid, a \$260 forfeiture, and \$112,054 in employer contributions.

In 2016, the township met the plan's \$259,860 funding requirement through the deposit of \$168,000 in state aid, \$1,859 in terminated employee forfeitures, and \$90,001 in employer contributions.

PETERS TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED MANAGEMENT PENSION PLAN  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

**The Honorable Tom W. Wolf**  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

**Mr. Frank Arcuri**  
Chairman, Township Council

**Mr. James F. Berquist**  
Vice-Chairman, Township Council

**Mr. David M. Ball**  
Council Member

**Mr. Frank Kosir, Jr.**  
Council Member

**Mr. Robert J. Lewis**  
Council Member

**Ms. Monica R. Merrell**  
Council Member

**Mr. Gary J. Stiegel, Jr.**  
Council Member

**Mr. Paul F. Lauer**  
Township Manager

**Mr. Ryan Jeroski**  
Assistant Township Manager

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at [www.PaAuditor.gov](http://www.PaAuditor.gov). Media questions about the report can be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 229 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: [news@PaAuditor.gov](mailto:news@PaAuditor.gov).