

# MILLERSVILLE BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN

LANCASTER COUNTY

**COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT** 

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2011 TO DECEMBER 31, 2013

# **COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

# **EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE - AUDITOR GENERAL**

# DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL





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EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE AUDITOR GENERAL

The Honorable Mayor and Borough Council Millersville Borough Lancaster County Millersville, PA 17551

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Millersville Borough Police Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2013. 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 finding and conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our finding and 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. Our methodology addressed determinations about the following:

- Whether state aid was properly determined and deposited in accordance with Act 205 requirements.
- Whether employer contributions are determined and deposited in accordance with the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations.
- Whether employee contributions are required and, if so, are determined, deducted and deposited into the pension plan and are in accordance with the plan provisions and applicable laws and regulations.
- Whether benefit payments, if any, represent payments to all (and only) those entitled to receive them and are properly determined in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

- Whether obligations for plan benefits are accurately determined in accordance with plan provisions and based on complete and accurate participant data; and whether actuarial valuation reports are prepared and submitted to the Public Employee Retirement Commission (PERC) in accordance with state law and 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.
- Whether the terms of the unallocated insurance contract, including ownership and any restrictions, are in compliance with plan provisions, investment policies and state regulations.
- Whether benefit payments have only been made to living recipients, based on the Social Security numbers found in the pension records for retirees and beneficiaries.

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

Borough officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Millersville Borough Police 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 borough's internal controls as they relate to the borough'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, 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 tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Millersville Borough Police Pension Plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies, except as noted in the following finding further discussed later in this report:

Finding – Restated Plan Document Not Adopted By Ordinance

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 Millersville Borough and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report. We would like to thank borough officials for the cooperation extended to us during the conduct of the audit.

May 6, 2014

Eugent: O-Pager

EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE Auditor General

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#### 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 <u>et seq.</u>). 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 Millersville Borough Police Pension Plan is also governed by implementing regulations adopted by the Public Employee Retirement Commission published at Title 16, Part IV of the Pennsylvania Code and applicable provisions of various other state statutes including, but not limited to, the following:

Act 600 - Police Pension Fund Act, Act of May 29, 1956 (P.L. 1804, No. 600), as amended, 53 P.S. § 761 et seq.

The Millersville Borough Police Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 1998-4, adopted pursuant to Act 600. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the borough and its police officers. The plan was established June 1, 1970. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan. As of December 31, 2013, the plan had 11 active members, no terminated members eligible for vested benefits in the future and 6 retirees receiving pension benefits from the plan.

### **BACKGROUND** – (Continued)

As of December 31, 2013, selected plan benefit provisions are as follows:

#### **Eligibility Requirements:**

Normal Retirement	Age 50 and 25 years of service. Mandatory retirement at age 60.
Early Retirement	None
Vesting	100% after 12 years of service.

### Retirement Benefit:

50% of average monthly pay based on last 36 months multiplied by the accrued benefit adjustment.

# Survivor Benefit:

Before Retirement Eligibility	Refund of member contributions plus interest.
After Retirement Eligibility	A monthly benefit equal to 50% of the pension the member was receiving or was entitled to receive on the day of the member's death.

#### Service Related Disability Benefit:

50% of the member's salary at the time the disability was incurred, offset by Social Security disability benefits received for the same injury.

#### MILLERSVILLE BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

#### Finding - Restated Plan Document Not Adopted By Ordinance

<u>Condition</u>: The terms, provisions and conditions of the police pension plan were restated in a separately executed plan agreement effective January 1, 2012. However, the restated plan agreement has not been formally adopted by an ordinance that would properly amend the plan's existing governing ordinance.

Criteria: Act 600 at Section 1(a)(1) states, in part:

Each borough, town and township of this Commonwealth maintaining a police force of three or more full-time members and each regional police department shall, and all other boroughs, towns or townships may, establish, by ordinance or resolution, a police pension fund....

Furthermore, in <u>Wynne v. Lower Merion Township</u>, 181 Pa. Superior Ct., 524, the Pennsylvania Superior Court held that an ordinance may be amended only by another ordinance and not by a resolution.

<u>Cause</u>: Plan officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure the restated plan agreement was properly adopted.

<u>Effect</u>: The failure to properly adopt the plan agreement could result in improper or inconsistent benefit payments to plan members and their beneficiaries.

<u>Recommendation</u>: We recommend that municipal officials take appropriate action to formally adopt the restated plan document through a properly executed ordinance.

Management's Response: Management agreed with the finding without exception.

Auditor's Conclusion: Compliance will be evaluated during our next audit of the plan.

#### MILLERSVILLE BOROUGH POLICE 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, 2009, is as follows:

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
						Unfunded
			Unfunded			(Assets in
		Actuarial	(Assets in			Excess of)
		Accrued	Excess of)			Actuarial
	Actuarial	Liability	Actuarial			Accrued
Actuarial	Value of	(AAL) -	Accrued	Funded	Covered	Liability as a %
Valuation	Assets	Entry Age	Liability	Ratio	Payroll	of Payroll
Date	(a)	(b)	(b) - (a)	(a)/(b)	(c)	[(b-a)/(c)]
01-01-09	\$ 2,845,906	\$ 2,771,825	\$ (74,081)	102.7%	\$ 799,162	(9.3%)
01-01-11	3,366,953	3,154,750	(212,203)	106.7%	815,753	(26.0%)
01-01-13	3,527,477	3,860,252	332,775	91.4%	817,091	40.7%

Note: The market values of the plan's assets at 01-01-09, 01-01-11 and 01-01-13, have been adjusted to reflect the smoothing of gains and/or losses over a 5-year averaging period. 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.

#### MILLERSVILLE BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)

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.

Trends in unfunded (assets in excess of) actuarial accrued liability and annual covered payroll are both affected by inflation. Expressing the unfunded (assets in excess of) actuarial accrued liability as a percentage of annual covered payroll (Column 6) approximately adjusts for the effects of inflation and aids analysis of the plan's progress made in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due. Generally, where there is an unfunded actuarial accrued liability, the smaller this percentage, the stronger the plan. When assets are in excess of the actuarial accrued liability, the higher the bracketed percentage, the stronger the plan.

# MILLERSVILLE BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)

# SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2008	\$ 23,053	100.0%
2009	55,916	100.0%
2010	92,217	100.0%
2011	111,908	100.0%
2012	108,159	100.0%
2013	111,773	100.0%

#### MILLERSVILLE BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION NOTES TO SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES (UNAUDITED)

The information presented in the required 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, 2013
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Amortization method	Level dollar
Remaining amortization period	13 years
Asset valuation method	Market value, 5-year smoothing
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	7.75%
Projected salary increases	3.5%
Cost-of-living adjustments	In no case shall the adjustment be more that 3%. The COLA will be limited to a maximum of 30%, and the COLA will not result in a monthly retirement benefit that exceeds 75% of the participant's basic monthly earnings as

determined on his retirement date.

#### MILLERSVILLE BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett Governor Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Millersville Borough Police Pension Plan Lancaster County 100 Municipal Drive Millersville, PA 17551

The Honorable Richard Moriarty	Mayor
Mr. Michael Kirkham	Council President
Mr. Edward Arnold	Borough Manager

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at www.auditorgen.state.pa.us. Media questions about the report can be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 231 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: news@auditorgen.state.pa.us.