

# COMPLIANCE AUDIT

---

## North Braddock Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan Allegheny County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2013

---

February 2015



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**

**EUGENE A. DePASQUALE  
AUDITOR GENERAL**

The Honorable Mayor and Borough Council  
North Braddock Borough  
Allegheny County  
North Braddock, PA 15104

We have conducted a compliance audit of the North Braddock Borough Non-Uniformed 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 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. 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.

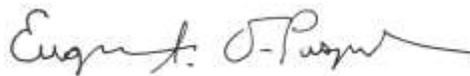
- Whether obligations for plan benefits are accurately determined in accordance with plan provisions and based on complete and accurate participant data; and whether actuarial valuation reports are prepared and submitted to the Public Employee Retirement Commission (PERC) in accordance with state law 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 contractual agreement with the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs are in accordance with the plan's governing document, if separately stated, and applicable laws and regulations.
- Whether benefit payments have only been made to living recipients.

Borough officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the North Braddock Borough Non-Uniformed 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 North Braddock Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies.

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 North Braddock 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.



EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE  
Auditor General

February 13, 2015

## CONTENTS

|                                 | <u>Page</u> |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Background .....                | 1           |
| Supplementary Information ..... | 3           |
| Report Distribution List .....  | 7           |

### ABBREVIATION

PSABMRT - Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Municipal Retirement Trust

## 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 North Braddock Borough Non-Uniformed 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.

The North Braddock Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 1045. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the borough and its non-uniformed employees. The plan was established January 1, 1974. Active members are required to contribute 3 percent of compensation to the plan. As of December 31, 2013, the plan had 7 active members, no terminated members eligible for vested benefits in the future and 4 retirees receiving benefits from the plan.

## BACKGROUND – (Continued)

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

### Eligibility Requirements:

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Normal Retirement | Age 65 and 5 years of service.                    |
| Early Retirement  | Age 55 and 5 years of service.                    |
| Vesting           | A member is 100% vested after 5 years of service. |

### Retirement Benefit:

Benefit equals 1% of average monthly compensation over the highest 60 consecutive months of employment plus 1% of average monthly compensation in excess of \$550, time years of service.

### Survivor Benefit:

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Before Retirement                   | Refund of member contributions plus interest.  |
| After Vesting but before Retirement | In lieu of a refund of contributions plus interest, the participant's spouse may elect to receive 75% of the participant's accrued benefit with actuarial reduction for commencement prior to normal retirement. The benefit ceases if the spouse dies or remarries.                                       |
| After Retirement                    | None, except the form of benefit payment in force for the participant at the time death occurs. The normal form of benefit payment is a life annuity. Optional forms of benefit payment are available at retirement for the election of the participant and are actuarially equivalent of the normal form. |

### Disability Benefit:

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Service Related     | For total and permanent disability which occurs after the completion of 10 years of service, and qualification for Social Security disability, a monthly benefit equal to the accrued benefit at disablement will be payable after 6 months of disability. |
| Non-service Related | Same as service related.   |

NORTH BRADDOCK BOROUGH 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, 2009, is as follows:

|                                | (1)                                    | (2)  | (3)  | (4)                        | (5)                       | (6)   |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Actuarial<br>Valuation<br>Date | Actuarial<br>Value of<br>Assets<br>(a) | Actuarial<br>Accrued<br>Liability<br>(AAL) -<br>Entry Age<br>(b) | Unfunded<br>(Assets in<br>Excess of)<br>Actuarial<br>Accrued<br>Liability<br>(b) - (a) | Funded<br>Ratio<br>(a)/(b) | Covered<br>Payroll<br>(c) | Unfunded<br>(Assets in<br>Excess of)<br>Actuarial<br>Accrued<br>Liability as a<br>% of Payroll<br>[(b-a)/(c)] |
| 01-01-09                       | \$ 907,214                             | \$ 971,617   | \$ 64,403  | 93.4%                      | \$ 274,293                | 23.5%   |
| 01-01-11                       | 1,019,866                              | 1,073,689  | 53,823   | 95.0%                      | 271,058                   | 19.9%   |
| 01-01-13                       | 1,057,680                              | 1,070,732  | 13,052   | 98.8%                      | 279,708                   | 4.7%  |

NORTH BRADDOCK BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED 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.

NORTH BRADDOCK BOROUGH 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 |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2008                   | \$ 45,202                    | 100.0%                 |
| 2009                   | 43,954                       | 100.0%                 |
| 2010                   | 44,485                       | 100.0%                 |
| 2011                   | 48,681                       | 100.0%                 |
| 2012                   | 48,515                       | 100.0%                 |
| 2013                   | 48,416                       | 100.0%                 |

NORTH BRADDOCK BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED 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 | 3 years          |
| Asset valuation method        | Fair value       |
| Actuarial assumptions:        |                  |
| Investment rate of return     | 7.0%             |
| Projected salary increases    | 5.0%             |

NORTH BRADDOCK BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom W. Wolf  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

North Braddock Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan  
Allegheny County  
600 Anderson Street  
North Braddock, PA 15104

|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| The Honorable Thomas Whyel | Mayor             |
| Mr. Timothy Bridge         | Council President |
| Mr. Douglas P. Marguriet   | Borough Manager   |

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at [www.auditorgen.state.pa.us](http://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](mailto:news@auditorgen.state.pa.us).