

COMPLIANCE AUDIT

Upper Burrell Township Police Pension Plan Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2013

May 2015



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General

Eugene A. DePasquale • Auditor General



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EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE
AUDITOR GENERAL

Board of Township Supervisors
Upper Burrell Township
Westmoreland County
New Kensington, PA 15068

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Upper Burrell Township Police Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2013. We also evaluated compliance with some requirements for the year 2014 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, 2008 to December 31, 2013, 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 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, 2008 to December 31, 2013, are presented on the Summary of Deposited State Aid and Employer Contributions.
- × We determined that there were no employee contributions required by the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations for the years covered by our audit period; however, employees were permitted to optionally contribute up to, but no more than twenty percent (20%) of their compensation. We tested whether annual optional employee contributions were calculated, deducted, and deposited into the pension plan in accordance with the members' election and applicable laws and regulations by testing members' contributions on an annual basis using the rates obtained from the members' election 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 optional individual employee contributions for all 2 active employees employed during the audit period amounting to \$2,181, \$5,171 and \$5,558, for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013, respectively, made during the audit period.
- × We determined that there were no benefit calculations prepared for the years covered by our audit period.
- × We determined whether the January 1, 2011 and January 1, 2013 actuarial valuation reports were prepared and submitted to the Public Employee Retirement Commission (PERC) by March 31, 2012 and 2014, 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 2 allocated insurance contracts, including ownership and any restrictions, were in compliance with plan provisions, investment policies, and state regulations by comparing the terms of the contracts with the plan's provisions, investment policies, and state regulations.
- × We determined whether the terms of the contractual agreement with the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System were in accordance with the plan's governing document, if separately stated, and applicable laws and regulations by comparing the terms of the contractual agreement with the plan's governing document, if separately stated, and applicable laws and regulations.

- × We determined whether transfers were properly authorized, timely, and appropriately recorded by plan officials by examining supporting documentation for all 3 of the transfers made during the audit period.

The Upper Burrell Township Police Pension Plan participates in the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS), which is an agent multiple-employer public employee retirement system that acts as a common investment and administrative agent for participating municipal pension plans. PMRS issues a separate Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, copies of which are available from the PMRS accounting office. PMRS's 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 Upper Burrell Township 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 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 Upper Burrell Township Police 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 Upper Burrell 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.

April 21, 2015



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 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 Upper Burrell Township 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 15 - Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law, Act of February 1, 1974
(P.L. 34, No. 15), as amended, 53 P.S. § 881.101 et seq.

The Upper Burrell Township Police Pension Plan is a single-employer cash balance pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 3 of 2011, adopted pursuant to Act 15. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the township and its police officers. The plan was established February 6, 1995. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan; however, members may optionally contribute up to, but no more than 20% of their compensation. Effective January 1, 2013, the municipality is annually required to contribute \$8,000 for each full-time employee. Prior to January 1, 2013, the municipality annually contributed \$7,500 for each full-time employee. As of December 31, 2013, the plan had 2 active members, no terminated members eligible for vested benefits in the future, and no retirees receiving pension benefits.

UPPER BURRELL TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
SUMMARY OF DEPOSITED STATE AID AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid	Employer Contributions
2008	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
2009	7,500	7,500
2010	10,352	4,648
2011	15,040	None
2012	15,020	20
2013	15,982	58

UPPER BURRELL TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom W. Wolf
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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3735 Seventh Street
New Kensington, PA 15068

Mr. Ross G. Walker, III	Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors
Ms. Melissa A. Cortileso	Township Secretary

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at www.PaAuditor.gov. 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@PaAuditor.gov.