

COMPLIANCE AUDIT

Cass Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2013

October 2014



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
Cass Township
Schuylkill County
Pottsville, PA 17901

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Cass Township 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 objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objectives.

The objectives of the audit were:

1. To determine if municipal officials took appropriate corrective action to address the finding contained in our prior audit report; and
2. 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 objectives 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. 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.
- 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.

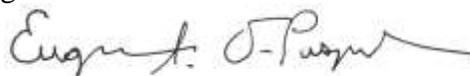
- Whether benefit payments, if any, represent payments to all (and only) those entitled to receive them and are properly determined in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Whether obligations for plan benefits are accurately determined in accordance with plan provisions and based on complete 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 Municipal Retirement System are in accordance with the plan's governing document, if separately stated, and applicable laws and regulations.

The Cass Township Non-Uniformed 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 Cass Township 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 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 objectives, 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 objectives.

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Cass Township Non-Uniformed 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 Cass 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.



EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE
Auditor General

September 30, 2014

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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 Cass Township 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 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 Cass Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer cash balance pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 806-1, adopted pursuant to Act 15. The plan was established July 1, 2006. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan. The municipality is required to contribute 5 percent of each member's base compensation. As of December 31, 2013, the plan had 3 active members, no terminated members eligible for vested benefits in the future and no retirees receiving pension benefits.

CASS TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation

Cass Township has complied with the prior audit recommendation concerning the following:

· Allocation Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement

During the current audit period, municipal officials allocated the excess state aid to the township's police pension plan.

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

Year Ended December 31	State Aid Deposited	Employer Contributions
2008	None	\$ 4,222
2009	None	4,386
2010	None	None
2011	None	None
2012	None	None
2013	None	1,314

In 2011, the township met the plan's \$4,864 funding requirement through the deposit of \$4,864 in terminated employee forfeitures.

In 2012, the township met the plan's \$5,236 funding requirement through the deposit of \$5,236 in terminated employee forfeitures.

In 2013, the township met the plan's \$5,112 funding requirement through the deposit of \$3,798 in terminated employee forfeitures and \$1,314 in employer contributions.

CASS TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Cass Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan
Schuylkill County
1209 Valley Road
Pottsville, PA 17901

Mr. John Walaitis Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors

Mr. Evelyn Bergan Township Secretary

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.