

# COMPLIANCE AUDIT

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## Towanda Borough Non-Uniformed Union Pension Plan Bradford County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2014

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September 2015



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of the Auditor General  
Eugene A. DePasquale • Auditor General



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EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE  
AUDITOR GENERAL

The Honorable Mayor and Borough Council  
Towanda Borough  
Bradford County  
Towanda, PA 18848

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Towanda Borough Non-Uniformed Union Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2014. 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 our 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. To determine if municipal officials took appropriate corrective action to address the finding contained in our prior audit report, we inquired of plan officials and evaluated supporting documentation provided by officials evidencing that the suggested corrective action has been appropriately taken. 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, 2009 to December 31, 2014, 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, 2009 to December 31, 2014, 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.
- × 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 all payments made to the multi-employer union pension plan were in accordance with the provisions contained in the collective bargaining agreement for the period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2014.

The borough's non-uniformed union employees participate in the New York State Teamsters Conference Pension and Retirement Fund, a Taft-Hartley Act collectively bargained, jointly trusted, multi-employer pension plan, which is governed primarily by the Federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ERISA provides for substantial federal government oversight of the operating and reporting practices of employee benefit plans subject to its provisions. Accordingly, the scope of our audit was restricted to the activities of the Towanda Borough Non-Uniformed Union Pension Plan and did not extend to the activities of the multi-employer pension plan.

Borough officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Towanda Borough Non-Uniformed Union 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 objectives, 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 objectives.

The results of our procedures indicated that, in all significant respects, the Towanda Borough Non-Uniformed Union 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 Towanda 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.

August 25, 2015

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eugene A. DePasquale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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 Towanda Borough Non-Uniformed Union 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.

As further described in the Letter from the Auditor General included in this report, the borough's non-uniformed union employees participate in the New York State Teamsters Conference Pension and Retirement Fund. The Towanda Borough Non-Uniformed Union Pension Plan is locally controlled by the provisions of Resolution 2013-22. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the borough and its non-uniformed union employees. The plan was established January 1, 2004. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan. The municipality was required to contribute \$67.60 per week per member for the year 2013 and \$70.80 per week per member for the year 2014. As of December 31, 2014, the plan had 14 active members.

TOWANDA BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED UNION PENSION PLAN  
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation

Towanda Borough has complied with the prior audit recommendation concerning the following:

- Participation Agreement Not Adopted By Ordinance Or Resolution

The borough formally adopted the plan agreement through Resolution No. 2013-22.

TOWANDA BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED UNION PENSION PLAN  
SUMMARY OF DEPOSITED STATE AID AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid	Employer Contributions
2009	\$ 50,288	None
2010	40,644	\$ 4,632
2011	43,898	3,164
2012	10,678	39,038
2013	55,134	None
2014	48,470	8,496



TOWANDA BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED UNION 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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The Honorable Garrett Miller	Mayor
Mr. Paul Sweitzer	Council President
Mr. Kyle V. Lane	Borough Manager
Ms. Diane M. Kulick	Secretary/Treasurer

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