

ELKLAND BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN

TIOGA COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2004, TO DECEMBER 31, 2006



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ABBREVIATION

ERISA - Employee Retirement Income Security Act

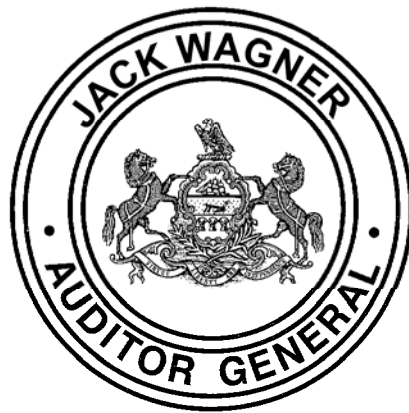
BACKGROUND

On December 18, 1984, the Pennsylvania Legislature adopted the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act (P.L. 1005, No. 205, 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.

Pension plan aid is provided from a 2 percent foreign casualty insurance premium tax, a portion of the foreign 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 Elkland Borough Nonuniformed 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 nonuniformed union employees participate in the New York State Teamsters Conference Pension and Retirement Fund Pension Plan. The Elkland Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan is locally controlled by the provisions of a resolution dated April 14, 1975. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the borough and its nonuniformed employees. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan. The municipality was required to contribute \$84 per week per member for the year 2004, \$88 per week per member for the year 2005, and \$92 per week per member for the year 2006.



The Honorable Mayor and Borough Council
Elkland Borough
Tioga County
Elkland, PA 16920

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Elkland Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2004, to December 31, 2006. The audit was conducted pursuant to authority derived from Section 402(j) of Act 205 of 1984 and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

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. The borough's nonuniformed union employees participate in the New York State Teamsters Conference Pension and Retirement Fund Pension Plan, a Taft-Hartley Act collectively bargained, jointly trustee, 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 Elkland Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan and did not extend to the activities of the multi-employer pension plan.

The Department of the Auditor General (Department) is mandated by state statute to calculate state aid provided to municipal pension funds and to audit municipal pension funds having received such aid. State aid is calculated by an administrative unit that is not involved in the audit process. The Department's Comptroller Office then pre-audits the calculation and submits requests to the Commonwealth's Treasury Department for the disbursement of state aid to the municipality. The Department has implemented procedures to ensure that Department audit personnel are not directly involved in the calculation and disbursement processes. The Department's mandatory responsibilities are being disclosed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

Borough officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure to provide reasonable assurance that the Elkland Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan is administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies. To assist us in planning and performing our audit, we obtained an understanding of the borough's internal control structure as it relates to the borough's compliance with those requirements. Additionally, we tested transactions, assessed official actions, performed analytical procedures and interviewed selected officials to the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objective.

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Elkland Borough Nonuniformed 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 – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An
Overpayment Of State Aid

The accompanying supplementary information is presented for purposes of additional analysis. We did not audit the information and, accordingly, express no form of assurance on it.

The contents of this report were discussed with officials of Elkland Borough and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

August 9, 2007

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General

ELKLAND BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Overpayment Of State Aid

Condition: The borough certified 1 ineligible nonuniformed employee (1 unit) and overstated payroll by \$6,059 in 2005 on Certification Form AG 385.

Criteria: Pursuant to Act 205, at Section 402(e)(2), in order to be eligible for certification, an employee must have been employed on a full-time basis for at least six consecutive months and must have been participating in a pension plan during the certification year.

Cause: Plan officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure only eligible employees were certified for state aid reimbursement.

Effect: The data submitted on this certification form is used, in part, to calculate the state aid due to the borough for distribution to its pension plans. Since the borough's state aid allocation was based on unit value, the effect of the incorrect certification of pension data on the borough's state aid allocation is identified below:

<u>Units Overstated</u>	<u>Unit Value</u>	<u>State Aid Overpayment</u>
1	\$2,926	\$ 2,926

In addition, since the borough used the overpayment of state aid to pay the minimum municipal obligation (MMO) due to the nonuniformed pension plan, if the reimbursement to the Commonwealth is made from the pension plan, the plan's MMO will not be fully paid.

Recommendation: We recommend that the total excess state aid, in the amount of \$2,926, be returned to the Commonwealth. A check in this amount, with interest compounded annually from date of receipt to date of repayment, at a rate earned by the pension plan, should be made payable to: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and mailed to: Department of the Auditor General, Municipal Pension & Fire Relief Programs Unit, 1205 Pittsburgh State Office Building, 300 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. A copy of the interest calculation must be submitted along with the check.

In addition, if the reimbursement to the Commonwealth is made from pension plan funds, we recommend that any resulting MMO deficiency be paid to the pension plan with interest, at a rate earned by the pension plan.

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

ELKLAND BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF STATE AID
AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid Deposited	Employer Contributions
2001	\$ 11,889	\$ 11,487
2002	17,131	7,314
2003	20,077	3,905
2004	15,864	9,330
2005	25,555	1,647
2006	18,208	6,975

ELKLAND BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Elkland Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan
Tioga County
105 Parkhurst Street
Elkland, PA 16920

The Honorable Gordon Rice	Mayor
Mr. Salvatore Regalbuto	Council President
Ms. Patricia A. Frederick	Secretary/Treasurer

This report is a matter of public record. Copies of this report may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, Room 318 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. If you have any questions regarding this report or any other matter, you may contact the Department of the Auditor General by accessing our website at www.auditorgen.state.pa.us.