

GLASSPORT BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2008, TO DECEMBER 31, 2009



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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.

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 Glassport Borough 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 600 - Police Pension Fund Act, Act of May 29, 1956 (P.L. 1804, No. 600), as amended, 53 P.S. § 761 et seq.

The Glassport Borough Police Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 794, as amended, adopted pursuant to Act 600. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the borough and its police officers.



The Honorable Mayor and Borough Council
Glassport Borough
Allegheny County
Glassport, PA 15045

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Glassport Borough Police Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2008, to December 31, 2009. The audit was conducted pursuant to authority derived from Section 402(j) of Act 205 and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* applicable to performance audits 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 finding and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our finding and 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 findings 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. Glassport Borough contracted with an independent certified public accounting firm for annual audits of its basic financial statements which are available at the borough's offices. Those financial statements were not audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion or other form of assurance on them.

Borough officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Glassport Borough 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 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, we tested transactions, assessed official actions, performed analytical procedures and interviewed selected officials to the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objectives.

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Glassport Borough Police 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 – Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Pension Benefits Not In Compliance With Act 600 Provisions

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 Glassport Borough and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

February 25, 2011

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General

GLASSPORT BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS

Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendations

Glassport Borough has complied with the prior audit recommendations concerning the following:

- Failure To Fully Pay The Minimum Municipal Obligation Of The Plan

Municipal officials deposited \$7,086 into the police pension plan to fully pay the outstanding minimum municipal obligation due for the year 2005; and

- Failure To Deposit The Full Amount Of State Aid Into The Pension Plan

Municipal officials deposited the \$2,886 balance of its 2007 state aid allocation into the police pension plan.

Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation

Glassport Borough has not complied with the prior audit recommendation concerning the following as further discussed in the Finding and Recommendation section of this report:

- Pension Benefits Not In Compliance With Act 600 Provisions

GLASSPORT BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Pension Benefits Not In Compliance With Act 600 Provisions

Condition: As disclosed in the prior audit report, the pension plan’s governing document, Ordinance No. 794, as amended, contains benefit provisions that conflict with the collective bargaining agreement between the police officers and the borough, and are not in compliance with Act 600.

Furthermore, on April 17, 2002, Act 600 was amended by Act 30, which made significant changes to the statutorily prescribed benefit structure of police pension plans subject to Act 600. Municipal officials have not amended the police pension plan’s benefit structure to adopt all of the changes mandated by Act 30. The specific inconsistencies are as follows:

<u>Benefit Provision</u>	<u>Governing Document</u>	<u>Collective Bargaining Agreement</u>	<u>Act 600 (as amended)</u>
Service-related disability benefit	25% of the member’s monthly average salary during the last 36 months of employment.	Not addressed	The benefit must be in conformity with a uniform scale and fixed by the plan’s governing document at no less than 50% of the member’s salary at the time the disability was incurred, reduced by the amount of Social Security disability benefits received for the same injury.
Election of type of survivor benefit	At retirement, married members may elect to waive widow’s benefit provided herein and select the 120-month guarantee payment.	Not addressed	No waivers of survivor’s benefits permitted.

GLASSPORT BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – (Continued)

Benefit Provision	Governing Document	Collective Bargaining Agreement	Act 600 (as amended)
Vesting benefit	A member shall be 100% vested after a period of 12 years of service.	A member shall be 100% vested after a period of 5 years of service.	A member shall be 100% vested with a minimum of 12 years of service.
Survivor's benefit	Unmarried members who retire are eligible for a monthly pension for life, guaranteed for a period of 120 months. Should such member die prior to receiving 120 monthly payments, his beneficiary would receive the difference between the total number of months received prior to death and 120 months. Widows of married members or a retired member who dies or if no widow survives or survives and subsequently dies or remarries, then the member's children under age 18 shall be entitled to receive at pension at 50% of the pension the member was receiving or entitled to receive.	The benefit shall equal fifty (50%) percent of the benefit the employee was receiving or was entitled to receive.	A lifetime survivor's benefit must be provided to the surviving spouse (or if no spouse survives or if he or she subsequently dies, the child or children under 18 years of age or if attending college, under or attaining the age of 23) of no less than 50% of the pension the member was receiving or would have been entitled to receive had he been retired at the time of death. ("Attending college" shall mean the eligible children are registered at an accredited institution of higher learning and are carrying a minimum course load of 7 credit hours per semester.)

GLASSPORT BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – (Continued)

Benefit Provision	Governing Document	Collective Bargaining Agreement	Act 600 (as amended)
Vesting benefit formula	Not addressed	Not addressed	Gross pension times the percentage the member's years of service bears to years of service the member would have served at superannuation retirement date.

Criteria: A governing document which contains clearly defined and updated benefit provisions is a prerequisite for the consistent, sound administration of retirement benefits. In addition, the police pension plan's benefit structure should be in compliance with Act 600, as amended.

Cause: Municipal officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure compliance with the prior audit recommendation.

Effect: Maintaining a benefit structure which is not in compliance with Act 600 could result in plan members or their beneficiaries receiving incorrect benefit amounts or being denied benefits to which they are statutorily entitled.

Recommendation: We again recommend that municipal officials, after consulting with their solicitor, take whatever action is necessary to bring the police pension plan's benefit structure into compliance with Act 600, as amended, at their earliest opportunity to do so.

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

GLASSPORT BOROUGH POLICE 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, except for distressed pension plans, for which annual reporting was required through January 1, 2003. The historical information, beginning as of January 1, 2005, is as follows:

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets (a)	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) - Entry Age (b)	Unfunded (Assets in Excess of) Actuarial Accrued Liability (b) - (a)	Funded Ratio (a)/(b)	Covered Payroll (c)	Unfunded (Assets in Excess of) Actuarial Accrued Liability as a % of Payroll [(b-a)/(c)]
01-01-05	\$ 1,325,721	\$ 1,287,919	\$ (37,802)	102.9%	\$ 246,121	(15.4%)
01-01-07	1,158,399	1,190,831	32,432	97.3%	202,791	16.0%
01-01-09	1,149,594	1,363,982	214,388	84.3%	283,530	75.6%

GLASSPORT BOROUGH POLICE 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. However, when assets are in excess of the actuarial accrued liability, the higher the bracketed percentage, the stronger the plan.

GLASSPORT BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER
AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2004	\$ 50,303	100.0%
2005	28,947	106.3%
2006	40,345	100.0%
2007	27,332	110.1%
2008	40,468	116.7%
2009	55,178	100.0%

GLASSPORT BOROUGH POLICE 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, 2009
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Amortization method	Level dollar, closed
Remaining amortization period	18 years
Asset valuation method	Contract value
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	5.5%
Projected salary increases *	5.0%
* Includes inflation at	3.0%

GLASSPORT BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Glassport Borough Police Pension Plan
Allegheny County
440 Monongahela Avenue
Glassport, PA 15045

The Honorable Michael Evanovich	Mayor
Mr. John DeSue	Council President
Ms. Nancy Piazza-Whaby	Secretary

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.