

**JERSEY SHORE BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN**

**LYCOMING COUNTY**

**COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT**

**FOR THE PERIOD**

**JANUARY 1, 2009, TO NOVEMBER 11, 2011**





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### ABBREVIATION

PERC - Public Employee Retirement Commission



## 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 Jersey Shore 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 Jersey Shore Borough Police Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 5-2003, 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.

Jersey Shore Borough adopted Ordinance No. 10.12.2009 to join the Tiadaghton Valley Regional Police Pension Plan. All of the plan's assets were transferred to the regional pension plan on November 11, 2011.



The Honorable Mayor and Borough Council  
Jersey Shore Borough  
Lycoming County  
Jersey Shore, PA 17740

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Jersey Shore Borough Police Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2009, to November 11, 2011. 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 findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings 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 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.
- 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 benefit payments have only been made to living recipients, based on the Social Security numbers found in the pension records for retirees and beneficiaries.
- Whether transfers were properly authorized, accurate, timely and properly recorded.

Borough officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Jersey Shore 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 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 Jersey Shore 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 findings further discussed later in this report:

Finding No. 1 – Partial Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation –  
Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In  
An Overpayment Of State Aid

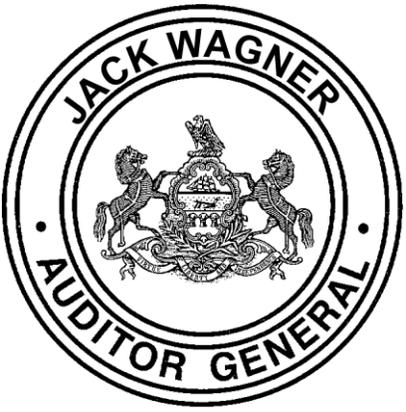
Finding No. 2 – Failure To Fully Pay The Minimum Municipal Obligation Of  
The Plan

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

August 15, 2012

JACK WAGNER  
Auditor General



JERSEY SHORE BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN  
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

Partial Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation

Jersey Shore Borough has partially complied with the prior audit recommendation concerning the following:

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

During the current audit period, the borough reimbursed \$12,765 to the Commonwealth for the overpayments of state aid received in 2007 and 2009; however, plan officials failed to comply with the instructions that accompany Certification Form AG 385 to assist them in accurately reporting the required pension data in the years 2010 and 2011 as further discussed in the Findings and Recommendations section of this report.

JERSEY SHORE BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN  
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding No. 1 – Partial Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Overpayment Of State Aid

Condition: As disclosed in the prior audit report, the borough certified 1 ineligible nonuniformed employee (1 unit) and overstated payroll by \$12,480 in 2007 on Certification Form AG 385. In addition, the borough certified 1 ineligible police officer (2 units) and overstated payroll by \$7,596, and 1 ineligible nonuniformed employee (1 unit) and overstated payroll by \$17,987 in 2009 on Certification Form AG 385. During the current audit period, the borough reimbursed \$12,765 to the Commonwealth for the overpayments of state aid received; however, plan officials failed to comply with the instructions that accompany Certification Form AG 385 to assist them in accurately reporting the required pension data in the years 2010 and 2011.

During the current audit period, the borough certified 1 ineligible police officer (2 units) and overstated payroll by \$25,247 on the Certification Form AG 385 filed in 2010. In addition, the borough certified 1 ineligible nonuniformed employee (1 unit) and overstated payroll by \$23,070 on the Certification Form AG 385 filed in 2011. The data contained on these certification forms is based on prior calendar year information.

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 the accuracy of the data certified and to ensure full compliance with the prior audit recommendation.

Effect: The data submitted on these certification forms is used, in part, to calculate the state aid due to the municipality for distribution to its pension plans. Because the borough’s state aid allocations were based on unit value, the incorrect certification of pension data affected the borough’s state aid allocations, as identified below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Type Of Plan</u>	<u>Units Overstated</u>	<u>Unit Value</u>	<u>State Aid Overpayment</u>
2010	Police	2	\$ 3,146	\$ 6,292
2011	Nonuniformed	1	\$ 5,596	\$ 5,596
Total Overpayment of State Aid				<u>\$ 11,888</u>

JERSEY SHORE BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN  
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding No. 1 – (Continued)

In addition, the borough used the overpayments of state aid to pay the minimum municipal obligations (MMOs) due to the police pension plan; therefore, if the reimbursement to the Commonwealth is made from the pension plan, the plan's MMOs will not be fully paid.

Recommendation: We recommend that the total overpayment of state aid, in the amount of \$11,888 be reimbursed 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, 11 Stanwix Street, Suite 1450, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. A copy of the interest calculation must be submitted along with the check.

Furthermore, we again recommend that plan officials establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure compliance with the instructions that accompany Certification Form AG 385 to assist them in accurately reporting the required pension data.

In addition, if the reimbursement to the Commonwealth is made from police pension plan funds, we recommend that any resulting MMO deficiencies 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.

Finding No. 2 – Failure To Fully Pay The Minimum Municipal Obligation Of The Plan

Condition: The municipality did not fully pay the minimum municipal obligation (MMO) that was due to the police pension plan for the year 2010, as required by Act 205. The municipality has an unpaid 2010 MMO balance of \$5,290.

Criteria: With regard to the MMO, Section 302(c) of Act 205 states, in part:

Annually, the chief administrative officer of the pension plan shall determine the minimum obligation of the municipality with respect to the pension plan for the following plan year.

JERSEY SHORE BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN  
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding No. 2 – (Continued)

Section 302(d) of Act 205 states, in part:

The minimum obligation of the municipality shall be payable to the pension plan from the revenue of the municipality.

Furthermore, Section 302(e) of Act 205 states, in part:

Any amount of the minimum obligation of the municipality which remains unpaid as of December 31 of the year in which the minimum obligation is due shall be added to the minimum obligation of the municipality for the following year, with interest from January 1 of the year in which the minimum obligation was first due until the date the payment is paid. . . .

Cause: Plan officials did not comply with the Act 205 requirements because there was a recent turnover of plan officials.

Effect: The failure to fully pay the MMO could result in the plan not having adequate resources to meet current and future benefit obligations to its members.

Due to the municipality's failure to fully pay the 2010 MMO by the December 31, 2010, deadline, the municipality must add the 2010 MMO balance to the current year's MMO and include interest, as required by Act 205.

Recommendation: Since the plan's assets were transferred to the Tiadaghton Valley Regional Police Pension Plan on November 11, 2011, we recommend that the borough remit the balance of the 2010 MMO to the regional pension plan in accordance with Section 302(e) of Act 205.

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

JERSEY SHORE BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN  
POTENTIAL WITHHOLD OF STATE AID

Finding No. 1 contained in this audit report cites an overpayment of state aid to the borough in the amount of \$11,888. A condition of this nature may lead to a total withholding of state aid in the future unless that finding is corrected. A check in this amount with interest, 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, 11 Stanwix Street, Suite 1450, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

JERSEY SHORE 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. The historical information, beginning as of January 1, 2007, 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)]
01-01-07	\$ 1,158,882	\$ 1,193,036	\$ 34,154	97.1%	\$ 267,140	12.8%
01-01-09	866,232	1,300,154	433,922	66.6%	244,446	177.5%

The January 1, 2011, actuarial valuation report was due to be filed with PERC by March 31, 2012; however, since the borough transferred the plan's assets to the Tiadaghton Valley Regional Police Pension Plan on November 11, 2011, a January 1, 2011, actuarial valuation report was not prepared.

JERSEY SHORE 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.

JERSEY SHORE BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN  
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER  
AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

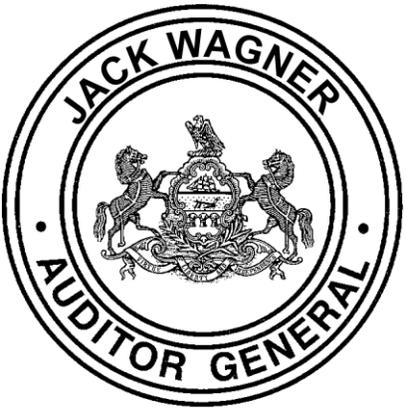
Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2006	\$ 64,693	104.4%
2007	62,805	100.0%
2008	59,009	100.0%
2009	58,698	100.0%
2010	63,979	91.7%

As of November 11, 2011, the plan's assets were transferred to the Tiadaghton Valley Regional Police Pension Plan.

JERSEY SHORE 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
Remaining amortization period	26 years
Asset valuation method	Fair value
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	7.5%
Projected salary increases	6.0%
Includes inflation at	Not disclosed
Cost-of-living adjustments	3.0% postretirement



JERSEY SHORE BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Jersey Shore Borough Police Pension Plan  
Lycoming County  
232 Smith Street  
Jersey Shore, PA 17740

The Honorable Dennis Buttorff	Mayor
Ms. Marguerite Dyroff	Council President
Mr. Joseph Hamm	Borough Manager

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](http://www.auditorgen.state.pa.us).