# SOUTH ABINGTON TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN

## LACKAWANNA COUNTY

## COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

## FOR THE PERIOD

## JANUARY 1, 2008, TO DECEMBER 31, 2010

**SOUTH ABINGTON TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN**

**LACKAWANNA COUNTY**

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ABBREVIATION

PMRS - Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System

## 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 South Abington Township 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 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 South Abington Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 202, adopted pursuant to Act 15.

JACK WAGNER

AUDITOR GENERAL

Board of Township Supervisors
South Abington Township
Lackawanna County
Chinchilla, PA 18410

We have conducted a compliance audit of the South Abington Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2008, to December 31, 2010. 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 the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our finding and conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our finding and conclusions based on our audit objective.

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 South Abington Township Nonuniformed 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 South Abington Township Nonuniformed 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 objective, 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 objective.

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the South Abington Township 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 A Net 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 South Abington Township and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

February 10, 2012

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General

SOUTH ABINGTON TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

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

Condition: The township failed to certify 1 eligible nonuniformed employee (1 unit) and understated payroll by $41,599 in 2009 on Certification Form AG 385. In addition, the township certified 1 ineligible nonuniformed employee (1 unit) in 2010 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 the accuracy of the data certified.

Effect: The data submitted on these certification forms are used, in part, to calculate the state aid due to the municipality for distribution to its pension plans.

The township's 2009 state aid allocation was based on pension costs. Therefore, the township received an underpayment of state aid in the amount of $3,014 as identified below:

| Normal Cost | Payroll Understated | State Aid Underpayment |
|---|---|---|
| 7.24615% | $ 41,599 | $ 3,014 |

The township's 2010 state aid allocation was based on unit value. Therefore, the township received an overpayment of state aid in the amount of $3,235 as identified below:

| Units Overstated | Unit Value | State Aid Overpayment |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | $ 3,235 | $ 3,235 |

Therefore, as a result of the certification errors, the township received a net overpayment of state aid during the current audit period in the amount of $221.

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

Finding – (Continued)

Recommendation: We recommend that the net overpayment of state aid, in the amount of $221, 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, 11 Stanwix Street, Suite 1450, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. A copy of the interest calculation must be submitted along with the check.

We also 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 nonuniformed 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.

SOUTH ABINGTON TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED 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, 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 | $ 898,553 | $ 852,828 | $ (45,725) | 105.4% | $ 537,466 | (8.5%) |
| 01-01-07 | 1,066,805 | 1,023,849 | (42,956) | 104.2% | 585,869 | (7.3%) |
| 01-01-09 | 1,318,712 | 1,284,423 | (34,289) | 102.7% | 588,797 | (5.8%) |

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.

SOUTH ABINGTON TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER
AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

| Year Ended December 31 | Annual Required Contribution | Percentage Contributed |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | $ 12,119 | 139.7% |
| 2006 | 9,220 | 344.5% |
| 2007 | 34,519 | 100.0% |
| 2008 | 37,368 | 103.5% |
| 2009 | 39,309 | 100.0% |
| 2010 | 43,642 | 100.0% |

SOUTH ABINGTON TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED 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 | N/A |
| Remaining amortization period | N/A |
| Asset valuation method | Fair value |
| Actuarial assumptions: | |
| Investment rate of return | 6.0%, net of expenses |
| Projected salary increases * | 4.5% |
| * Includes inflation at | 3.0% |
| Cost-of-living adjustments | 3.0%, where applicable |

SOUTH ABINGTON TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

South Abington Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan
Lackawanna County
104 Shady Lane Road
Chinchilla, PA 18410

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. Giles W. Stanton | Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors |
| Mr. David O'Neill | Township Manager |
| Ms. Christine Griswold | Secretary/Treasurer |
| Ms. Kristine M. Cline | Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System |

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.