

LIMITED PROCEDURES ENGAGEMENT

Susquehanna Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan Cambria County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2015

February 2017



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General

Eugene A. DePasquale • Auditor General



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Board of Township Supervisors
Susquehanna Township
Cambria County
Northern Cambria, PA 15714

We conducted a Limited Procedures Engagement (LPE) of the Susquehanna Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2015 to determine its compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies. We also evaluated compliance with some requirements subsequent to that period when possible. The LPE was conducted pursuant to authority derived from Section 402(j) of the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act (P.L. 1005, No. 205, as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.101 *et seq.*) but was not conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. 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. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis to support our LPE results.

Our LPE was limited to determining the following:

- 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 engagement period. State aid allocations that were deposited into the pension plan for the years ended December 31, 2010 to December 31, 2015, are presented on the Summary of Deposited State Aid and Employer Contributions.
- 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, 2010 to December 31, 2015, are presented on the Summary of Deposited State Aid and Employer Contributions.

- Whether retirement benefits calculated for plan members who terminated employment and received a lump-sum form of pension benefit during the current audit period, represent payments to all (and only) those entitled to receive them and were properly determined and disbursed in accordance with the plan's governing document, applicable laws and regulations by comparing the distributed amounts to supporting documentation evidencing amounts determined and actually paid to the recipient.
- Whether the January 1, 2011, January 1, 2013 and January 1, 2015 actuarial valuation reports were prepared and submitted to the former Public Employee Retirement Commission (PERC) by March 31, 2012, 2014 and 2016, 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.
- Whether the terms of the plan's allocated insurance contracts, including ownership and any restrictions, were in compliance with plan provisions, investment policies, and state regulations by comparing the terms of the contracts with the plan's provisions, investment policies, and state regulations.

Based on the results of our procedures performed during our LPE, nothing came to our attention indicating that the Susquehanna Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan was not being 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 – Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement

Our determination to perform a LPE for this engagement period does not preclude the Department from conducting an audit in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* of the pension plan in subsequent periods. The township should continue to maintain documentation related to this pension plan.

The contents of this report were discussed with officials of Susquehanna Township and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in this report. We would like to thank township officials for the cooperation extended to us during the conduct of this LPE.

February 13, 2017



EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE
Auditor General

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SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement

Condition: The township received state aid in excess of the pension plan’s defined contribution pension costs in the year 2013, as illustrated below:

State aid allocation	\$ 11,920
Actual municipal pension costs	<u>(11,069)</u>
Excess state aid	<u><u>\$ 851</u></u>

Criteria: Section 402(f)(2) of Act 205 states:

No municipality shall be entitled to receive an allocation of general municipal pension system State aid in an amount which exceeds the aggregate actual financial requirements of any municipal pension plans for police officers, paid firefighters or employees other than police officers or paid firefighters maintained by the municipality, less the amount of any aggregate annual member or employee contributions during the next succeeding plan year, as reported in the most recent complete actuarial report filed with the commission.

Cause: Plan officials were unaware of the need to annually reconcile the amount of state aid allocated to the pension plan with the plan’s actual defined contribution pension costs and reimburse the difference to the Commonwealth.

Effect: It is this department’s opinion that because the entire proceeds of the insurance premium tax on foreign casualty insurance companies are distributed annually to each eligible recipient municipality, it is inappropriate to use state aid received in one year to offset pension costs in other years. Consequently, the overpayment of state aid received in the year 2013 must be returned to the Commonwealth for redistribution.

Recommendation: We recommend that the municipality return the \$851 of excess state aid received in the year 2013 to the Commonwealth from the township’s general fund. A check in this amount, with interest compounded annually from date of receipt to date of repayment, at a rate earned by the plan, should be made payable to: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and mailed to: Department of the Auditor General, Municipal Pension & Fire Relief Programs Unit, 320 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. A copy of the interest calculation must be submitted along with evidence of payment.

SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – (Continued)

Furthermore, we recommend that plan officials reconcile the amount of state aid and municipal contributions allocated to the pension plan with the plan's annual defined contribution pension costs. If there is an overpayment of state aid, it should then be reimbursed to the Commonwealth.

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

SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUMMARY OF DEPOSITED STATE AID AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid	Employer Contributions
2010	\$ 6,053	\$ 1,827
2011	7,879	2,964
2012	10,843	1,283
2013	11,920	None
2014	9,594	3,019
2015	12,613	669

SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom W. Wolf
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Mr. Terry Stafford
Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors

Ms. Kathy J. Semelsberger
Township Secretary

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at www.PaAuditor.gov. Media questions about the report can be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 229 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: news@PaAuditor.gov.