

# COMPLIANCE AUDIT

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## Wilmore Volunteer Fire Company Relief Association

Cambria County, Pennsylvania

For the Period

January 1, 2013 to February 28, 2017

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December 2017



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of the Auditor General

Eugene A. DePasquale • Auditor General



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**EUGENE A. DePASQUALE  
AUDITOR GENERAL**

Bryan Shuagis, President  
Wilmore Volunteer Fire Company  
Relief Association  
Cambria County

We have conducted a compliance audit of the former Wilmore Volunteer Fire Company Relief Association pursuant to authority derived from Article VIII, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Section 403 of The Fiscal Code, Act of April 9, 1929, (P.L. 343, No. 17693671, and mandated by the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Act, as consolidated by the Act of November 23, 2010 (P.L. 1181, No. 11893671, at 35 Pa.C.S. § 7411 *et seq.*, for the period January 1, 2013 to February 28, 2017.

The objective of the audit was to determine if the former relief association complied with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws, and administrative procedures as they relate to the receipt of state aid and the expenditure of relief association funds. Our audit was limited to the areas related to the objective identified above and was not required to be and was not conducted in accordance with Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Relief association officers are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the relief association's administration of state aid and accumulated relief funds complies with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws, and administrative procedures, including the safeguarding of assets. Relief association officers are responsible for complying with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws, and administrative procedures. It is our responsibility to perform procedures to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objectives. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our conclusions.

Based on our audit procedures, we conclude that, for the period January 1, 2013 to February 28, 2017, the former relief association, in all significant respects, complied with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws, and administrative procedures as they relate to the receipt of state aid and the expenditure of relief association funds.

In addition, as of February 28, 2017, the former relief association completed the process of dissolution and merged with Portage Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 Relief Association of Portage, Pennsylvania. Consequently, all remaining monetary assets and equipment were transferred to the Portage Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 Relief Association of Portage, Pennsylvania.

The supplementary financial information contained in this report is presented for purposes of additional disclosure and analysis. We performed only limited procedures on the supplementary financial information and, accordingly, express no form of assurance on it.

The contents of this report were discussed with the management of the former Wilmore Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association. We would like to thank former relief association officials for the cooperation extended to us during the conduct of the audit.

December 15, 2017



EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE  
Auditor General

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## BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Section 403 of The Fiscal Code, Act of April 9, 1929, (P.L. 343, No. 17693671, and the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Act, as consolidated by the Act of November 23, 2010, (P.L. 1181, No. 11893671, at 35 Pa.C.S. § 7411 *et seq.*, the Department of the Auditor General's duty is to audit the accounts and records of every volunteer firefighters' relief association to determine that funds received under the Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Distribution Law, Act of December 18, 1984, (P.L. 1005, No. 20593671, as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.701 *et seq.* (commonly referred to as Act 20593671, are properly expended.

The former relief association was a charitable organization that was formed primarily to afford financial protection to volunteer firefighters and to encourage individuals to participate in volunteer fire service.

Act 118 governs the overall operation of volunteer firefighters' relief associations. Relief association bylaws define the specific operational procedures by which relief associations conduct business. To fulfill its primary purpose, Act 118 authorizes specific types of expenditures and prescribes appropriate volunteer firefighters' relief association investment options. Within the parameters established by Act 118, it is the responsibility of relief associations to choose investments in a proper and prudent manner.

Volunteer firefighters' relief associations receive public tax monies, and the association officers therefore have a responsibility to the public to conduct the association's financial affairs in a businesslike manner and to maintain sufficient financial records to support the propriety of all association transactions. Volunteer firefighters' relief association officers are also responsible for ensuring that the association operates in accordance with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures.

Act 205 sets forth the computation of the Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Distribution paid to each applicable municipality throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The amount of the distribution is based upon the population of each municipality and the market value of real estate within the municipality. Upon receipt of this distribution, the municipality must allocate the funds to the volunteer firefighters' relief association of the fire service organization or fire service organizations that is or are recognized as providing the service to the municipality.

**BACKGROUND – (Continued)**

The former relief association was allocated state aid from the following municipality:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Wilmore Borough	Cambria	\$1,079	*	*	*

\*During the current audit period, the former relief association did not receive allocations of state aid from Wilmore Borough in 2014, 2015 and 2016. In addition, on August 20, 2014, the former relief association voted and agreed to merge with Portage Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 Relief Association. On December 16, 2016, the court approved the merger, and on February 28, 2017, the former relief association transferred all of its remaining monetary assets and equipment to the Portage Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 Relief Association of Portage, Pennsylvania. (See Supplementary Financial Information)

The volunteer firefighters’ relief association and the affiliated fire service organization were separate, legal entities. The former relief association was affiliated with the following fire service organization:

Wilmore Volunteer Fire Company

WILMORE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY RELIEF ASSOCIATION  
SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION  
CASH BALANCE  
AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2017

Cash	<u>\$</u>	<u>0</u>
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WILMORE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY RELIEF ASSOCIATION  
 SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION  
 SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES  
 FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2013 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2017

Expenditures:

Fire Services:	
Equipment purchased	\$ 1,474
Training expenses	<u>2,094</u>
Total Fire Services	<u>\$ 3,568</u>
Administrative Services:	
Other administrative expenses	<u>\$ 35</u>
Other Expenditures:	
*Transfer of monetary assets	<u>\$ 120</u>
Total Expenditures	<u><u>\$ 3,723</u></u>

\*Transfer of Monetary Assets/Dissolution of Relief Association.

As of February 28, 2017, the former relief association completed the process of dissolution and merged with Portage Volunteer Fire Company No.1 Relief Association of Portage, Pennsylvania. Consequently, all remaining monetary assets and equipment were transferred to the Portage Volunteer Fire Company No.1 Relief Association of Portage, Pennsylvania. Due to the dissolution of the former relief association, we are providing officials of Portage Volunteer Fire Company No.1 Relief Association of Portage, Pennsylvania copies of this report.

WILMORE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY RELIEF ASSOCIATION  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

**The Honorable Tom W. Wolf**  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Wilmore Volunteer Fire Company Relief Association Governing Body:

**Mr. Bryan Shuagis**  
President

Portage Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 of Portage, Pennsylvania Governing Body:

**Ms. Patricia Rousell**  
President

**Mr. Brandon Boblosky**  
Vice President

**Ms. Erin Shuniak**  
Secretary

**Mr. Edmund Myers**  
Treasurer

A report was also distributed to the following municipality, which allocated foreign fire insurance tax monies to the former relief association:

**Ms. Margaret Blaisdell**  
Secretary  
Wilmore Borough

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at [www.PaAuditor.gov](http://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](mailto:news@PaAuditor.gov).