

LIMITED PROCEDURES ENGAGEMENT

Bellwood Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan Blair County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018

October 2019



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General

Eugene A. DePasquale • Auditor General



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EUGENE A. DePASQUALE
AUDITOR GENERAL

The Honorable Mayor and Borough Council
Bellwood Borough
Blair County
Bellwood, PA 16617

We conducted a Limited Procedures Engagement (LPE) of the Bellwood Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018 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.
- 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.
- Whether annual employee contributions were required during the engagement period and, if so, were calculated, deducted, and deposited into the pension plan in accordance with the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations by testing total members' contributions on an annual basis using the rates obtained from the plan's governing document in effect for all years within the engagement period and examining documents evidencing the deposit of these employee contributions into the pension plan.

- Whether retirement benefits calculated for plan members who retired during the engagement 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 recalculating the amount of the monthly pension benefit due to retired individuals and comparing these amounts to supporting documentation evidencing amounts determined and actually paid to recipients.
- Whether the January 1, 2015 and January 1, 2017 actuarial valuation reports were prepared and submitted by March 31, 2016 and 2018, 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.

Based on the results of our procedures performed during our LPE, nothing came to our attention indicating that the Bellwood Borough 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 – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Underpayment Of State Aid

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 borough should continue to maintain documentation related to this pension plan.

The accompanying supplementary information is presented for purposes of additional analysis. We did not audit the information or conclude on it and, accordingly, express no form of assurance on it.

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

September 30, 2019



EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE
Auditor General

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Finding And Recommendation:	
Finding – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Underpayment Of State Aid	1
Supplementary Information	2
Report Distribution List	9

BELLWOOD BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Underpayment Of State Aid

Condition: The borough failed to certify one eligible non-uniformed employee and understated payroll by \$16,595 on the Certification Form AG 385 filed in 2018. The data contained on this certification form is based on prior calendar year information.

Criteria: Pursuant to Act 205, at Section 402(e)(2), an employee who has been employed on a full-time basis for at least six consecutive months and has been participating in a pension plan during the certification year is eligible for certification.

Cause: Plan officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure the accuracy of the data certified.

Effect: The data submitted on this certification form 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 allocation was based on pension costs, the borough received an underpayment of state aid of \$1,654 as identified below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Normal Cost</u>	<u>Payroll Understated</u>	<u>State Aid Underpayment</u>
2018	9.9657%	\$ 16,595	1,654

Although the additional state aid will be allocated to the borough, the full amount of the 2018 state aid allocation was not available to be deposited timely and therefore was not available to pay operating expenses or for investment.

Recommendation: We recommend that in the future, plan officials establish adequate internal control procedures, such as having at least two people review the data certified, to ensure compliance with the instructions that accompany Certification Form AG 385 to assist them in accurately reporting the required pension data.

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

Auditor’s Conclusion: Compliance will be evaluated during our next engagement of the plan.

BELLWOOD BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

The supplementary information contained on Pages 2 through 5 reflects the implementation of GASB Statement No. 67, *Financial Reporting for Pension Plans*. The objective of this statement is to improve financial reporting by state and local governmental pension plans.

SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE NET PENSION
LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2015

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Total Pension Liability		
Service cost	\$ 29,541	\$ 28,950
Interest (includes interest on service cost)	40,658	42,553
Difference between expected and actual experience	(8,042)	-
Changes of assumptions	-	(6,454)
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(27,857)	(25,864)
Net Change in Total Pension Liability	<u>34,300</u>	<u>39,185</u>
Total Pension Liability – Beginning	725,550	759,850
Total Pension Liability – Ending (a)	<u>\$ 759,850</u>	<u>\$ 799,035</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position		
Contributions – employer	\$ 25,916	\$ 24,117
Contributions – PMRS assessment	-	200
Contributions – employee	9,908	10,184
PMRS investment income	36,296	38,940
Market value investment income	901	(38,135)
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(27,857)	(25,864)
PMRS administrative expense	(220)	(200)
Additional administrative expense	(1,392)	(1,623)
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	<u>43,552</u>	<u>7,619</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position – Beginning	657,183	700,735
Plan Fiduciary Net Position – Ending (b)	<u>\$ 700,735</u>	<u>\$ 708,354</u>
Net Pension Liability – Ending (a-b)	<u>\$ 59,115</u>	<u>\$ 90,681</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	92.22%	88.65%
Estimated Covered Employee Payroll	\$ 196,267	\$ 184,662
Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Employee Payroll	30.12%	49.11%

BELLWOOD BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE NET PENSION
LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2017

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Total Pension Liability		
Service cost (beginning of year)	\$ 27,229	\$ 27,937
Interest (includes interest on service cost)	44,534	45,754
Difference between expected and actual experience	(962)	-
Changes of assumptions	22,417	-
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(27,905)	(36,408)
Net Change in Total Pension Liability	<u>65,313</u>	<u>37,283</u>
Total Pension Liability – Beginning	799,035	864,348
Total Pension Liability – Ending (a)	<u><u>\$ 864,348</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 901,631</u></u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position		
Contributions – employer	\$ 27,773	\$ 29,457
Contributions – PMRS assessment	240	220
Contributions – employee	10,707	10,779
PMRS investment income	44,484	42,735
Market value investment income	17,859	95,770
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(27,905)	(36,408)
PMRS administrative expense	(220)	(220)
Additional administrative expense	(2,179)	(1,965)
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	<u>70,759</u>	<u>140,368</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position – Beginning	708,354	779,113
Plan Fiduciary Net Position – Ending (b)	<u><u>\$ 779,113</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 919,481</u></u>
Net Pension Liability – Ending (a-b)	<u><u>\$ 85,235</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (17,850)</u></u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	90.14%	101.98%
Estimated Covered Employee Payroll	\$ 173,513	\$ 174,764
Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Employee Payroll	49.12%	(10.21%)

BELLWOOD BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 (UNAUDITED)

Sensitivity Of The Net Pension Liability To Changes In The Discount Rate

The following presents the net pension liability of the borough as of December 31, 2014 and 2015, calculated using the discount rate of 5.5%, as well as what the borough's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage-point lower or 1 percentage-point higher than the current rate:

	<u>1% Decrease (4.5%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (5.5%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (6.5%)</u>
Net Pension Liability – 12/31/14	\$ 141,823	\$ 59,115	\$ (12,090)
Net Pension Liability – 12/31/15	\$ 176,910	\$ 90,681	\$ 16,722

In addition, the following presents the net pension liability of the borough as of December 31, 2016 and 2017, calculated using the discount rate of 5.25%, as well as what the borough's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage-point lower or 1 percentage-point higher than the current rate:

	<u>1% Decrease (4.25%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (5.25%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (6.25%)</u>
Net Pension Liability – 12/31/16	\$ 169,412	\$ 85,235	\$ 13,836
Net Pension Liability – 12/31/17	\$ 69,958	\$ (17,850)	\$ (92,329)

BELLWOOD BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 (UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

<u>Year Ended December 31</u>	<u>Actuarially Determined Contribution</u>	<u>Actual Contributions</u>	<u>Contribution Deficiency (Excess)</u>	<u>Covered- Employee Payroll</u>	<u>Contributions as a Percentage of Covered- Employee Payroll</u>
2014	\$ 23,525	\$ 25,916	\$ (2,319)	\$ 196,267	13.20%
2015	24,317	24,317	-	184,662	13.17%
2016	24,988	28,013	(3,025)	173,513	16.14%
2017	26,672	29,677	(3,005)	174,764	16.98%
2018	23,422	26,407	(2,985)	*	

* Due to the timing of this engagement, covered-employee payroll for 2018 was not provided in this schedule.

BELLWOOD BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED 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, 2013, is as follows:

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
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)
01-01-13	\$ 627,503	\$ 686,811	\$ 59,308	91.4%
01-01-15	716,710	759,850	43,140	94.3%
01-01-17	840,300	864,348	24,048	97.2%

BELLWOOD BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED 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.

BELLWOOD BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 NOTES TO SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES
 (UNAUDITED)

The information presented in the 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, 2017
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Amortization method	Level dollar closed
Remaining amortization period	7 years
Asset valuation method	The Actuarial Value of Assets equals the plan's member, municipal, DROP (if applicable) reserve accounts plus the retiree actuarial liability. This asset smoothing is based on the unique legislative structure of PMRS and the administrative rules adopted by the PMRS Board in conjunction with Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law, all of which are subject to comply with the Actuarial Standards of Practice No. 44, Selection and Use of Asset Valuation Methods when defining the actuarial Value of Assets.
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	5.25%, compounded annually, net of investment and administration expenses
Salary scale	Total rate (including inflation) (e.g. age 25 – 7.05%; age 35 – 4.55%; age 45 – 3.97%; age 55 – 3.44%; age 65 – 2.80%)
Cost-of-living adjustments	2.8% per year, subject to plan limitations

BELLWOOD BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
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