

LIMITED PROCEDURES ENGAGEMENT

Emporium Borough Police Pension Plan Cameron County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2018

January 2020



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
Emporium Borough
Cameron County
Emporium, PA 15834

We conducted a Limited Procedures Engagement (LPE) of the Emporium Borough Police Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2015 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 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 Emporium Borough Police Pension Plan was not being administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies.

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 Emporium 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.

December 26, 2019



EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE
Auditor General

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EMPORIUM BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

The supplementary information contained on Pages 1 through 3 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, 2015, 2016, 2017 AND 2018

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Total Pension Liability					
Service cost (beginning of year)	\$ 14,209	\$ 14,861	\$ 12,612	\$ 14,329	\$ 13,683
Interest (includes interest on service cost)	22,172	19,002	19,161	18,955	19,321
Changes of benefits	-	-	-	-	9,940
Difference between expected and actual experience	(68,789)	-	(4,239)	-	(19,667)
Changes of assumptions	-	(3,047)	9,094	-	-
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(26,095)	(25,669)	(25,669)	(25,669)	(25,669)
Net Change in Total Pension Liability	(58,503)	5,147	10,959	7,615	(2,392)
Total Pension Liability – Beginning	401,792	343,289	348,436	359,395	367,010
Total Pension Liability – Ending (a)	<u>\$ 343,289</u>	<u>\$ 348,436</u>	<u>\$ 359,395</u>	<u>\$ 367,010</u>	<u>\$ 364,618</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position					
Contributions – employer *	\$ 466	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contributions – PMRS assessment	-	20	-	-	20
PMRS investment income	85,296	88,590	92,139	91,642	95,120
Market value investment income	(3,756)	(92,971)	41,831	199,370	(199,523)
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(26,095)	(25,669)	(25,669)	(25,669)	(25,669)
PMRS Administrative expense	(120)	(120)	(80)	(80)	(80)
Additional administrative expense	(3,271)	(3,693)	(4,514)	(4,215)	(4,245)
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	52,520	(33,843)	103,707	261,048	(134,377)
Plan Fiduciary Net Position – Beginning	1,548,469	1,600,989	1,567,146	1,670,853	1,931,901
Plan Fiduciary Net Position – Ending (b)	<u>\$ 1,600,989</u>	<u>\$ 1,567,146</u>	<u>\$ 1,670,853</u>	<u>\$ 1,931,901</u>	<u>\$ 1,797,524</u>
Net Pension Liability – Ending (a-b)	<u>\$ (1,257,700)</u>	<u>\$ (1,218,710)</u>	<u>\$ (1,311,458)</u>	<u>\$ (1,564,891)</u>	<u>\$ (1,432,906)</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	466.37%	449.77%	464.91%	526.39%	492.99%
Estimated Covered Employee Payroll	\$ 75,962	\$ 74,662	\$ 78,476	\$ 84,495	\$ 80,684
Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Employee Payroll	(1,655.70%)	(1,632.30%)	(1,671.16%)	(1,852.05%)	(1,775.95%)

* The 2014 employer contributions consist of administrative expenses and allocated insurance premiums paid from actuarial surplus.

EMPORIUM BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN
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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 5.50%, 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 (4.50%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (5.50%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (6.50%)</u>
Net Pension Liability – 12/31/14	\$ (1,220,235)	\$ (1,257,700)	\$ (1,289,218)
Net Pension Liability – 12/31/15	\$ (1,178,985)	\$ (1,218,710)	\$ (1,251,876)

In addition, the following presents the net pension liability of the borough as of December 31, 2016, 2017 and 2018, calculated using the discount rate of 5.25%, as well as what the township'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	\$ (1,270,751)	\$ (1,311,458)	\$ (1,345,597)
Net Pension Liability – 12/31/17	\$ (1,523,321)	\$ (1,564,891)	\$ (1,599,753)
Net Pension Liability – 12/31/18	\$ (1,395,402)	\$ (1,432,906)	\$ (1,464,768)

EMPORIUM BOROUGH POLICE 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	\$ -	\$ 466	\$ (466)	\$ 75,962	0.61%
2015	-	20	(20)	74,662	0.03%
2016	-	-	-	78,476	0.00%
2017	-	-	-	84,495	0.00%
2018	-	20	(20)	80,684	0.02%

EMPORIUM 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, 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	\$ 1,512,405	\$ 392,200	\$ (1,120,205)	385.6%
01-01-15	1,630,656	343,289	(1,287,367)	475.0%
01-01-17	1,772,616	359,395	(1,413,221)	493.2%

EMPORIUM 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.

EMPORIUM BOROUGH POLICE 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	None
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.
Projected salary increases	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.

EMPORIUM BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom W. Wolf
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

The Honorable Justin Zimmer
Mayor

Mr. Randy Frey
Council President

Mr. Donald Reed
Borough Manager

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.