

COMPLIANCE AUDIT

Forks Township Police Pension Plan Northampton County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017

January 2019



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General

Eugene A. DePasquale • Auditor General



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**EUGENE A. DePASQUALE
AUDITOR GENERAL**

Board of Township Supervisors
Forks Township
Northampton County
Easton, PA 18040

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Forks Township Police Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017. We also evaluated compliance with some requirements subsequent to that period when possible. The audit was conducted pursuant to authority derived from Section 402(j) of Act 205 and in accordance with the standards applicable to performance audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform our audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

The objectives of the audit were:

1. To determine if municipal officials took appropriate corrective action to address the findings contained in our prior audit report; and
2. 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 objectives identified above. To determine if municipal officials took appropriate corrective action to address the findings contained in our prior audit report, we inquired of plan officials and evaluated supporting documentation provided by officials evidencing that the suggested corrective action has been appropriately taken. To determine whether the pension plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies, our methodology included the following:

- We determined 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 period under audit.

- We determined 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.
- We determined whether annual employee contributions 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 period under audit and examining documents evidencing the deposit of these employee contributions into the pension plan.
- We determined whether retirement benefits calculated for all three of the plan members who retired 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 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.
- We determined whether the January 1, 2013, January 1, 2015, and January 1, 2017 actuarial valuation reports were prepared and submitted by March 31, 2014, 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.

Forks Township contracted with an independent certified public accounting firm for annual audits of its basic financial statements which are available at the township's offices. Those 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 Forks Township Police 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 objectives, and assessed whether those significant controls were properly designed and implemented. Additionally and as previously described, we tested transactions, assessed official actions, performed analytical procedures, and interviewed selected officials to provide reasonable assurance of detecting instances of

noncompliance with legal and regulatory requirements or noncompliance with provisions of contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies that are significant within the context of the audit objectives.

The results of our procedures indicated that, in all significant respects, the Forks Township Police 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 findings further discussed later in this report:

- Finding No. 1 – Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Member Contribution Provision Not In Compliance With Act 600
- Finding No. 2 – Partial Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In A Net Overpayment Of State Aid
- Finding No. 3 – Partial Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Improper Elimination/Reduction Of Members' Contributions
- Finding No. 4 – Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Unauthorized Provision For A Killed In Service Benefit
- Finding No. 5 – Restated Plan Document Not Adopted By Ordinance
- Finding No. 6 – Failure To Properly Determine And Fully Pay The Minimum Municipal Obligation Of The Plan

Finding Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 contained in this audit report repeat conditions that were cited in our previous audit report that have not been corrected by township officials. We are concerned by the township's failure to correct those previously reported audit findings and strongly encourage timely implementation of the recommendations noted in this audit report.

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 Forks Township and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report. We would like to thank township officials for the cooperation extended to us during the conduct of the audit.

January 11, 2019



EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE
Auditor General

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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.

Annual state aid allocations are provided from a 2 percent foreign (out-of-state) casualty insurance premium tax, a portion of the foreign (out-of-state) 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 Forks Township Police 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 600 - Police Pension Fund Act, Act of May 29, 1956 (P.L. 1804, No. 600), as amended, 53 P.S. § 767 et seq.

The Forks Township Police Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 284, adopted pursuant to Act 600. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the township and its police officers. The plan was established October 6, 1965. Active members were required to contribute 2 percent of compensation to the plan in 2015, 3 percent of compensation to the plan in 2016, and 3.5 percent of compensation to the plan in 2017. As of December 31, 2017, the plan had 19 active members, no terminated members eligible for vested benefits in the future, and 10 retirees receiving pension benefits from the plan.

BACKGROUND – (Continued)

As of December 31, 2017, selected plan benefit provisions are as follows:

Eligibility Requirements:

Normal Retirement	Age 55 and 25 years of service.
Early Retirement	None
Vesting	A member is 100% vested after 12 years of service.

Retirement Benefit:

Benefit equals 50% of final 60 months average salary, plus a service increment of \$20 times complete years of accrual service in excess of 25 years, up to a maximum of \$100 per month.

Survivor Benefit:

Before Retirement Eligibility	Refund of member contributions plus interest.
After Retirement Eligibility	A monthly benefit equal to 50% of the pension the member was receiving or was entitled to receive on the day of the member's death.

Service Related Disability Benefit:

Benefit equals 50% of the member's salary at the time the disability was incurred, offset by Social Security disability benefits received for the same injury.

FORKS TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS

Partial Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation

Forks Township has partially complied with the prior audit recommendation concerning the following:

- Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Overpayment Of State Aid

During the current audit period, the township reimbursed \$13,244 to the Commonwealth for the overpayment of state aid in 2013; however, plan officials failed to comply with the instructions that accompany Certification Form AG 385 to assist them in accurately reporting the required pension data in the years 2017 and 2018 as further discussed in the Findings and Recommendations section of this report.

- Improper Elimination/Reduction Of Members' Contributions And Failure To Deduct Member Contributions

During the current audit period, the delinquent member contributions for 2014 and 2015 were deposited into the plan. In addition, the township adopted Resolution No. 160104-9 on January 4, 2016 to affirm the waiver of member contributions for 2013, affirm the reduction of member contributions for 2014 and 2015, and reduce member contributions for the year 2016. Subsequent to the current audit period, the township adopted Resolution No. 2018-11-29-3 on November 29, 2018 to reduce member contributions for 2018; however, member contributions for 2017 were not reduced in accordance with Act 600, as discussed in the Findings and Recommendations section of this report.

Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendations

Forks Township has not complied with the prior audit recommendations concerning the following as further discussed in the Findings and Recommendations section of this report:

- Member Contribution Provision Not In Compliance With Act 600

- Unauthorized Provision For A Killed In Service Benefit

FORKS TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**Finding No. 1 – Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Member Contribution
Provision Not In Compliance With Act 600**

Condition: As disclosed in the prior two audit reports, the pension plan’s governing document fails to contain a member contribution provision that is in compliance with Act 600, as illustrated below:

<u>Provision</u>	<u>Governing Document</u>	<u>Act 600</u>
Member contributions	The amount of each contribution will be equal to 2.75% of his compensation for the month, plus 5% of the amount, if any, by which his compensation exceeds the integration level. Integration level means the monthly amount shown in Table 1 of Revenue Ruling 71-466 adjusted from time to time to reflect the current maximum wage base to Social Security tax.	Members shall pay into the fund, monthly, an amount equal to 5% of monthly compensation.

Criteria: Although a municipality has the option to reduce or eliminate member contributions annually through the adoption of an ordinance or resolution, the established member contribution rate in the plan’s governing document should be in compliance with Act 600.

Cause: Plan officials again failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure compliance with the prior audit recommendation.

Effect: The unauthorized member contribution provision contained in the plan’s governing document could result in member contributions being withheld at a rate not authorized by Act 600.

Recommendation: We again recommend that municipal officials take appropriate action to ensure the member contribution provision contained in the plan’s governing document is in accordance with Act 600 provisions.

Management’s Response: In conjunction with the township solicitor and Preferred Financial Management, the township will have the pension plan document amended in compliance with Act 600.

Auditor’s Conclusion: Based on the management response, it appears municipal officials intend to comply with the finding recommendation. Compliance will be evaluated during our next audit of the plan.

FORKS TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding No. 2 – Partial Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In A Net Overpayment Of State Aid

Condition: As disclosed in the Status of Prior Findings section of this report, the township partially complied with the prior audit recommendation by reimbursing the Commonwealth for the overpayment of state aid received in 2013; however, during the current audit period, the township failed to comply with the instructions that accompany Certification Form AG 385 to assist them in accurately reporting the required pension data in the years 2017 and 2018.

The township failed to certify 1 eligible non-uniformed employee (1 unit) on the Certification Form AG 385 filed in 2017. In addition, the township certified 2 ineligible police officers (4 units) and 5 ineligible non-uniformed employees (5 units) on the Certification Form AG 385 filed in 2018. The data contained on these certification forms is based on prior calendar year information.

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 and to ensure full compliance with the prior audit recommendation.

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 township's state aid allocation was based on unit value, the incorrect certification of pension data affected the township's state aid allocation, as identified below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Type of Plan</u>	<u>Units Overstated (Understated)</u>	<u>Unit Value</u>	<u>State Aid Overpayment (Underpayment)</u>
2017	Non-Uniformed	(1)	\$ 4,588	\$ (4,588)
2018	Police	4	\$ 4,684	\$ 18,736
	Non-Uniformed	5	\$ 4,684	\$ 23,420
Net Overpayment of State Aid				<u>\$ 37,568</u>

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

FORKS TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding No. 2 – (Continued)

Furthermore, the township's future state aid allocations may be withheld until the finding recommendation is complied with.

Recommendation: We recommend that the net overpayment of state aid, in the amount of \$37,568, be returned 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 pension plan, should be made payable to: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and mailed to: Department of the Auditor General, Municipal Pension & Fire Relief Programs Unit, 321 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. A copy of the interest calculation must be submitted along with the check.

Furthermore, we again 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.

In addition, if the reimbursement to the Commonwealth is made from 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: It is the intention of the township to return the overpayment in an amount determined by the Department of the Auditor General and make an attempt to submit correct data suitable to prevent future overpayments.

Auditor's Conclusion: Based on the management response, it appears municipal officials intend to comply with the finding recommendation. We note that it is the municipality's responsibility to determine the amount of interest due on the state aid overpayment, as described in the Recommendation above, and submit the interest calculation along with the check. Due to the potential withhold of state aid, the township's compliance with the finding recommendation will be monitored subsequent to the release of the audit report and through our next audit of the plan.

FORKS TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding No. 3 – Partial Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Improper Elimination/Reduction Of Members’ Contributions

Condition: As previously noted in the Background section of this report, the Forks Township Police Pension Plan is locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 284, adopted pursuant to Act 600. Section 6(a) of Act 600 provides that where police officers are covered by Social Security, members shall pay into the fund 5 percent of total compensation. However, pursuant to Section 6(c) of Act 600, municipalities have the option to annually reduce or eliminate members’ contributions through the annual adoption of an ordinance or resolution. As disclosed in the Status of Prior Finding recommendation, the township partially complied with the prior audit recommendation by adopting a resolution to affirm the waiver of member contributions for 2013, affirm the reduction of member contributions for 2014 and 2015, and reduce member contributions for the year 2016. Subsequent to the current audit period, the township adopted Resolution No. 2018-11-29-3 on November 29, 2018 to reduce member contributions for 2018; however, plan officials failed to reduce member contributions for 2017 in accordance with Act 600 provisions.

Criteria: Section 6(c) of Act 600 states, in part:

The governing body of the borough, town, township or regional police department may, on an annual basis, by ordinance or resolution, reduce or eliminate payments into the fund by members.

Cause: Plan officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure that member contributions were annually eliminated or reduced in accordance with Act 600 provisions.

Effect: Although members did contribute to the plan at reduced rates in 2017, members’ contributions were not eliminated or reduced in accordance with Act 600 provisions.

Recommendation: We recommend that the municipality annually eliminate or reduce members’ contributions in accordance with Act 600.

Management’s Response: The township will pass an appropriate resolution authorizing waiver of the omitted member contribution waiver for 2017.

Auditor’s Conclusion: Based on the management response, it appears municipal officials intend to comply with the finding recommendation. Full compliance with the finding recommendation will be evaluated during our next audit of the plan.

FORKS TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding No. 4 – Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Unauthorized Provision For A Killed In Service Benefit

Condition: Forks Township maintains a police pension plan governed by the provisions of Act 600, as amended. Prior to the adoption of Act 51 of 2009, Act 600 contained a mandatory killed in service benefit provision; however, Act 51 specifically repealed the section of Act 600 that referenced the mandatory killed in service benefit. It was recommended that plan officials review the act's implications for the police pension plan with their municipal solicitor. During the current audit period, we determined that the pension plan's governing document continues to provide for a killed in service benefit that is no longer authorized by Act 600.

Section 5.01 (a) (2) of the Forks Township Police Retirement Plan document adopted by Ordinance No. 284 states:

If the Participant dies in the line of duty, the survivor annuity shall begin on the first day of the month on or after the date of the Participant's death. The survivor annuity shall be equal to 100% of the Participant's Salary as of the date of his death.

In addition, the township continues to fund a killed in service benefit due to its inclusion in the plan's January 1, 2017 actuarial valuation report.

Criteria: Section 1(a) of Act 51 of 2009 states, in part:

In the event a law enforcement officer, ambulance service or rescue squad member, firefighter, certified hazardous material response team member or National Guard member dies as a result of the performance of his duties, such political subdivision, Commonwealth agency or, in the case of National Guard members, the Adjutant General, or, in the case of a member of a Commonwealth law enforcement agency, the authorized survivor or the agency head, within 90 days from the date of death, shall submit certification of such death to the Commonwealth.

In addition, Section 1(d) of Act 51 of 2009 states, in part:

. . . the Commonwealth shall, from moneys payable out of the General Fund, pay to the surviving spouse or, if there is no surviving spouse, to the minor children of the paid firefighter, ambulance service or rescue squad member or law enforcement officer who died as a result of the performance of his duty the sum of \$100,000, adjusted in accordance with subsection (f) of this section, and an amount equal to the monthly salary, adjusted in accordance with subsection (f) of this section, of the deceased paid firefighter, ambulance service or rescue squad member or law

FORKS TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding No. 4 – (Continued)

enforcement officer, less any workers' compensation or pension or retirement benefits paid to such survivors, and shall continue such monthly payments until there is no eligible beneficiary to receive them. For the purpose of this subsection, the term "eligible beneficiary" means the surviving spouse or the child or children under the age of eighteen years or, if attending college, under the age of twenty-three years, of the firefighter, ambulance service or rescue squad member or law enforcement officer who died as a result of the performance of his duty. When no spouse or minor children survive, a single sum of \$100,000, adjusted in accordance with subsection (f) of this section, shall be paid to the parent or parents of such firefighter, ambulance service member, rescue squad member or law enforcement officer. [Emphasis added.]

Furthermore, Section 2 of Act 51 of 2009 states:

Repeals are as follows:

- (1) The General Assembly declares that the repeals under paragraph (2) are necessary to effectuate the amendment of section 1 of the act.
- (2) The following parts of acts are repealed:
 - (i) Section 5(e)(2) of the act of May 29, 1956 (1955 P.L.1804, No. 600), referred to as the Municipal Police Pension Law.
 - (ii) Section 202(b)(3)(vi) and (4)(vi) of the act of December 18, 1984 (P.L.1005, No. 205), known as the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act.

Therefore, since Act 51 specifically repealed the killed in service provision of Act 600 and the funding provisions for the killed in service benefit that were contained in Act 205, the provision of a killed in service benefit is no longer authorized.

Cause: Plan officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure the plan's governing document is in compliance with Act 600, as amended.

Effect: Since Section 1 of Act 51 provides that the Commonwealth is obligated to pay the killed in service benefit less any pension or retirement benefits paid to eligible survivors, the continued provision of a killed in service benefit could result in the pension plan being obligated to pay a benefit that is no longer authorized by Act 600 and would have been paid entirely by the Commonwealth absent such provision.

FORKS TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding No. 4 – (Continued)

Recommendation: We again recommend that the municipality review the plan's killed in service benefit with its solicitor in conjunction with Act 51 of 2009 and eliminate this unauthorized benefit provision at its earliest opportunity to do so.

Management's Response: In conjunction with the township solicitor and Preferred Financial Management, the township will have the pension plan document amended in compliance with Act 600.

Auditor's Conclusion: Based on the management response, it appears municipal officials intend to comply with the finding recommendation. Compliance will be evaluated during our next audit of the plan.

Finding No. 5 – Restated Plan Document Not Adopted By Ordinance

Condition: The Forks Township Police Pension Plan is currently controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 284. The terms, provisions and conditions of the police pension plan were restated in a separately executed plan document with the Principal Financial Group effective January 1, 2008. During prior audits, a verbal observation was given to plan officials noting that the restated plan document has not been formally adopted. During the current audit period, we note that Ordinance No. 284 still has not been amended to reflect the provisions of the updated plan agreement.

Criteria: Sound internal control dictates that benefit provisions should be consistent within the plan documents to avoid the payment of improper or inconsistent benefits for plan members and their beneficiaries.

Furthermore, in Wynne v. Lower Merion Township, 181 Pa. Superior Ct., 524, the Pennsylvania Superior Court held that an ordinance may be amended only by another ordinance and not by a resolution.

Cause: Plan officials failed to comply with prior verbal recommendations regarding formally adopting the restated plan document.

Effect: The failure to properly adopt the plan agreement could result in improper or inconsistent benefit payments to plan members and their beneficiaries.

Recommendation: We recommend that municipal officials take appropriate action to formally adopt the restated plan document through a properly executed ordinance or resolution.

FORKS TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding No. 5 – (Continued)

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

Auditor's Conclusion: Compliance will be evaluated during our next audit of the plan.

Finding No. 6 – Failure To Properly Determine And Fully Pay The Minimum Municipal Obligation Of The Plan

Condition: Plan officials did not properly determine or fully pay the minimum municipal obligation (MMO) of the police pension plan for the year 2016, as required by Act 205. The MMO determined by the municipality understated payroll by \$303,980, understated administrative expenses by \$1,885, and understated members' contributions by \$12,188. Based upon an estimate prepared by this department, the municipality had an unpaid MMO of \$37,877 for the year 2016.

Criteria: With regard to the MMO, Section 302(c) of Act 205 states, in part:

Annually, the chief administrative officer of the pension plan shall determine the minimum obligation of the municipality with respect to the pension plan for the following plan year.

With regard to the payroll estimate used in the preparation of the MMO, the Pennsylvania Code, Title 16, Section 204.1(c)(1) states, in part:

The payroll used in determining the minimum municipal obligation of a pension plan under section 302(c) of the act shall be based on the payroll to be reported on the Internal Revenue Service Form W-2 and shall be calculated as the total payroll for active members of the plan as of the date of the determination, plus the payroll for the same active members of the plan projected to the year's end using the payroll rates in effect as of the date of the determination.

Section 302(d) of Act 205 states, in part:

The minimum obligation of the municipality shall be payable to the pension plan from the revenue of the municipality.

FORKS TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding No. 6 – (Continued)

Furthermore, Section 302(e) of Act 205 states:

Any amount of the minimum obligation of the municipality which remains unpaid as of December 31 of the year in which the minimum obligation is due shall be added to the minimum obligation of the municipality for the following year, with interest from January 1 of the year in which the minimum obligation was first due until the date the payment is paid at a rate equal to the interest assumption used for the actuarial valuation report or the discount rate applicable to treasury bills issued by the Department of Treasury of the United States with a six-month maturity as of the last business day in December of the plan year in which the obligation was due, whichever is greater, expressed as a monthly rate and compounded monthly.

Cause: Plan officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure the proper determination of the MMO for the year 2016.

Effect: The proper determination of the plan's MMO ensures plan officials can properly allocate the necessary resources to the pension plan for the upcoming year. The failure to fully pay the MMO could result in the plan not having adequate resources to meet current and future benefit obligations to its members.

Due to the municipality's failure to fully pay the 2016 MMO by the December 31, 2016, deadline, the municipality must add the 2016 MMO balance to the current year's MMO and include interest, as required by Act 205.

Recommendation: We recommend that the municipality pay the MMO due to the police pension plan for the year 2016, with interest, in accordance with Section 302(e) of Act 205. A copy of the interest calculation must be maintained by the township for examination during our next audit of the plan.

Furthermore, we recommend that, in the future, plan officials properly determine the amount of compensation, administrative expenses, and member contributions to be used in the MMO calculation.

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

Auditor's Conclusion: Compliance will be evaluated during our next audit of the plan.

FORKS TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
POTENTIAL WITHHOLD OF STATE AID

Finding No. 2 contained in this audit report cites an overpayment of state aid to the township in the amount of \$37,568. A condition of this nature may lead to a total withholding of state aid in the future unless that finding is corrected. A check in this amount with interest, 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, 321 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

FORKS TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

The supplementary information contained on Pages 14 through 16 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	\$ 261,843	\$ 284,282
Interest	402,002	427,942
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(181,666)	(181,666)
Difference between expected and actual experience	(112,987)	(157,938)
Change in assumptions	205,405	317,264
Net Change in Total Pension Liability	<u>574,597</u>	<u>689,884</u>
Total Pension Liability – Beginning	5,578,323	6,152,920
Total Pension Liability – Ending (a)	<u>\$ 6,152,920</u>	<u>\$ 6,842,804</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position		
Contributions – employee	\$ 14,431	\$ 31,960
Contributions – employer	153,004	135,878
State Aid contributions	225,000	232,898
Net investment income	254,959	(57,447)
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(181,666)	(181,666)
Administrative expense	(21,936)	(24,936)
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	<u>443,792</u>	<u>136,687</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position – Beginning	4,884,730	5,328,522
Plan Fiduciary Net Position – Ending (b)	<u>\$ 5,328,522</u>	<u>\$ 5,465,209</u>
Net Pension Liability – Ending (a-b)	<u>\$ 824,398</u>	<u>\$ 1,377,595</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	86.6%	79.87%
Estimated Covered Employee Payroll	\$ 1,739,447	\$ 1,740,176
Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Employee Payroll	47.39%	79.16%

FORKS TOWNSHIP POLICE 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	\$ 308,918	\$ 327,698
Interest	450,899	497,744
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(211,400)	(255,540)
Difference between expected and actual experience	267,994	(154,084)
Change in assumptions	108,101	(15,637)
Net Change in Total Pension Liability	924,512	400,181
Total Pension Liability – Beginning	6,842,804	7,767,316
Total Pension Liability – Ending (a)	<u>\$ 7,767,316</u>	<u>\$ 8,167,497</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position		
Contributions – employee	\$ 56,026	\$ 51,672
Contributions – employer	137,448	182,105
State Aid contributions	220,482	222,009
Net investment income	350,413	811,594
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(211,400)	(255,540)
Administrative expense	(24,596)	(28,096)
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	528,373	983,744
Plan Fiduciary Net Position – Beginning	5,465,209	5,993,582
Plan Fiduciary Net Position – Ending (b)	<u>\$ 5,993,582</u>	<u>\$ 6,977,326</u>
Net Pension Liability – Ending (a-b)	<u>\$ 1,773,734</u>	<u>\$ 1,190,171</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	77.16%	85.43%
Estimated Covered Employee Payroll	\$ 1,843,284	\$ 1,815,691
Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Employee Payroll	96.23%	65.55%

FORKS TOWNSHIP POLICE 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 township as of December 31, 2015, calculated using the discount rate of 6.40%, 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:

	1% Decrease (5.40%)	Current Discount Rate (6.40%)	1% Increase (7.40%)
Net Pension Liability – 12/31/15	\$ 2,382,861	\$ 1,377,595	\$ 544,183

The following presents the net pension liability of the township as of December 31, 2016 and 2017, calculated using the discount rate of 6.25%, 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:

	1% Decrease (5.25%)	Current Discount Rate (6.25%)	1% Increase (7.25%)
Net Pension Liability – 12/31/16	\$ 2,934,738	\$ 1,773,734	\$ 812,431
Net Pension Liability – 12/31/17	\$ 2,394,718	\$ 1,190,171	\$ 190,643

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT RETURNS

Annual Money-Weighted Rate of Return, Net of Investment Expense:

2017	13.62%
2016	6.45%
2015	(1.09%)
2014	5.29%

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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	\$ 4,052,458	\$ 5,356,480	\$ 1,304,022	75.7%
01-01-15	5,205,357	6,270,992	1,065,635	83.0%
01-01-17	6,232,270	7,866,718	1,634,448	79.2%

Note: The market values of the plan's assets at 01-01-13, 01-01-15, and 01-01-17 have been adjusted to reflect the smoothing of gains and/or losses over a 4-year averaging period. This method will lower contributions in years of less than expected returns and increase contributions in years of greater than expected returns. The net effect over long periods of time is to have less variance in contribution levels from year to year.

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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.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER
AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2012	\$ 429,843	100.0%
2013	406,412	100.0%
2014	378,004	100.0%
2015	368,776	100.0%
2016	395,807	*90.4%
2017	404,114	100.0%

* See Finding No. 6

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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	Level dollar
Amortization method	Entry age normal
Remaining amortization period	10 years
Asset valuation method	Fair value, 4-year smoothing
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	6.25%
Projected salary increases	4.25%

FORKS TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

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