

COMPLIANCE AUDIT

Municipality of Murrysville Comprehensive Municipal Pension Trust Fund Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2021

August 2022



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General

Timothy L. DeFoor • Auditor General



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**TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR
AUDITOR GENERAL**

The Honorable Mayor and Municipal Council
Municipality of Murrysville
Westmoreland County
Murrysville, PA 15668

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Municipality of Murrysville Comprehensive Municipal Pension Trust Fund for the period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2021. We also evaluated compliance with some requirements subsequent to that period when possible. The audit was conducted pursuant to authority derived from the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act (Act 205 of 1984, as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.402(j)), which requires the Auditor General, as deemed necessary, to audit every municipality which receives general municipal pension system state aid and every municipal pension plan and fund in which general municipal pension system state aid is deposited. The audit was not conducted, nor was it required to be, in accordance with Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. We planned and performed the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objective.

The objective of the audit was to determine if the pension trust fund 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 objective identified above. To determine whether the pension trust fund 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 plans' governing document and applicable laws and regulations by examining the municipality's calculation of the plans' annual financial requirements and minimum municipal obligation (MMO) and comparing these calculated amounts to amounts actually budgeted and deposited into the pension plans as evidenced by supporting documentation.
- We determined whether annual employee contributions were calculated, deducted, and deposited into the pension plans in accordance with the plans' governing documents and applicable laws and regulations by testing total members' contributions on an annual basis using the rates obtained from the plans' governing documents in effect for all years within the period under audit and examining documents evidencing the deposit of these employee contributions into the pension plans.
- We determined whether retirement benefits calculated for the police officer and the non-uniformed plan member who retired during and subsequent to the current audit period, and through the completion of our fieldwork procedures, represent payments to all (and only) those entitled to receive them and were properly determined and disbursed in accordance with the plans' governing documents, applicable laws, and regulations by recalculating the amount of the monthly pension benefits due to the retired individuals and comparing these amounts to supporting documentation evidencing amounts determined and actually paid to the recipients.
- We determined whether the January 1, 2019 and January 1, 2021 actuarial valuation reports were prepared and submitted by March 31, 2020 and 2022, 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.
- We determined whether transfers were properly authorized, timely, and appropriately recorded by plan officials by examining supporting documentation for all of the transfers made during the audit period.
- We determined whether the pension trust fund is in compliance with Act 205 for distressed municipalities through inquiry of plan officials and evaluation of the recovery remedies implemented during the audit period and through the completion of our fieldwork procedures.
- We determined whether provisions of the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) in the police pension plan were in accordance with the provisions of Act 205 by examining provisions stated in the plan's governing documents.

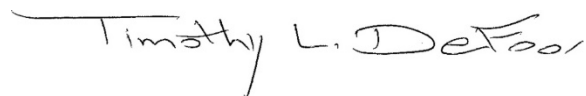
The Municipality of Murrysville contracted with an independent certified public accounting firm for annual audits of its basic financial statements, for the years ending December 31, 2018, 2019, and 2020, which are available at the municipal's offices. Those financial statements were not audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion or other form of assurance on them.

Municipal officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Municipality of Murrysville Comprehensive Municipal Pension Trust Fund is administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies. As previously described, we tested transactions, interviewed selected officials, and performed procedures to the extent necessary 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 objective.

The results of our procedures indicated that, in all significant respects, the Municipality of Murrysville Comprehensive Municipal Pension Trust Fund was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy L. DeFoor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the left of the first name.

Timothy L. DeFoor
Auditor General
August 15, 2022

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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.

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 Municipality of Murrysville Comprehensive Municipal Pension Trust Fund is also governed by implementing regulations 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 Municipality of Murrysville Comprehensive Municipal Pension Trust Fund was established by Ordinance No. 812-10, effective May 19, 2010. The ordinance required the municipality to aggregate the assets of its non-uniformed and police pension plans into a single pension trust fund pursuant to Section 607(b) of Act 205.

The Municipality of Murrysville Police Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 914-14, adopted pursuant to Act 600. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the municipality and its police officers. The plan was established January 1, 1962. Active members are required to contribute 5 percent of compensation to the plan. As of December 31, 2017, the plan had 17 active members, no terminated members eligible for vested benefits in the future, 17 retirees receiving pension benefits from the plan, and 3 retirees receiving benefits funded through annuities purchased with plan assets.

The Municipality of Murrysville Non-Uniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 832-11, as amended. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the municipality and its non-uniformed employees. The plan was established January 1, 1967. Active members hired before January 1, 2012 are not required to contribute to the plan; however, active members hired on or after January 1, 2012 are required to contribute 2.5 percent of compensation to the plan. As of December 31, 2021, the plan had 34 active members, 10 terminated members eligible for vested benefits in the future, 34 retirees receiving pension benefits from the plan, and 8 retirees receiving benefits funded through annuities purchased with plan assets.

MUNICIPALITY OF MURRYSVILLE COMPREHENSIVE
MUNICIPAL PENSION TRUST FUND
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

POLICE PENSION PLAN

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, 2017, 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)
01-01-17	\$ 13,177,089	\$ 13,989,773	\$ 812,684	94.2%
01-01-19	14,283,917	16,143,450	1,859,533	88.5%
01-01-21	15,815,938	17,033,341	1,217,403	92.9%

Note: The market values of the plan's assets at 01-01-17, 01-01-19, and 01-01-21 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.

MUNICIPALITY OF MURRYSVILLE COMPREHENSIVE
MUNICIPAL PENSION TRUST FUND
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN

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, 2017, 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)
01-01-17	\$ 8,814,563	\$ 9,198,131	\$ 383,568	95.8%
01-01-19	9,736,339	10,242,187	505,848	95.1%
01-01-21	11,291,135	10,850,989	(440,146)	104.1%

Note: The market values of the plan’s assets at 01-01-17, 01-01-19, and 01-01-21 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.

MUNICIPALITY OF MURRYSVILLE COMPREHENSIVE
MUNICIPAL PENSION TRUST FUND
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.

MUNICIPALITY OF MURRYSVILLE COMPREHENSIVE
MUNICIPAL PENSION TRUST FUND
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(UNAUDITED)

POLICE PENSION PLAN

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	Actuarially Determined Contribution	Actual Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Covered- Employee Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered- Employee Payroll
2012	\$ 541,370	\$ 541,370	\$ -	\$1,792,486	30.2%
2013	547,297	547,297	-	*	
2014	574,358	574,358	-	1,739,239	33.0%
2015	578,195	578,195	-	1,725,834	33.5%
2016	234,889	234,889	-	2,022,672	11.6%
2017	233,885	233,885	-	1,990,965	11.7%
2018	235,365	235,365	-	2,095,449	11.2%
2019	384,026	384,026	-	1,910,950	20.1%
2020	355,980	355,980	-	1,939,702	18.4%
2021	433,130	433,231	(101)	1,963,292	22.1%

* This schedule is presented pursuant to the implementation of GASB Statement No. 67, *Financial Reporting for Pension Plans* by reporting entities responsible for administering the pension plan to improve financial reporting by state and local governmental pension plans. Due to the statement being implemented only recently, the amount of Covered-Employee Payroll was not provided for odd years prior to 2014.

MUNICIPALITY OF MURRYSVILLE COMPREHENSIVE
MUNICIPAL PENSION TRUST FUND
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	Actuarially Determined Contribution	Actual Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Covered- Employee Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered- Employee Payroll
2012	\$ 357,603	\$ 357,603	\$ -	\$1,862,232	19.2%
2013	352,217	352,217	-	*	
2014	314,926	314,926	-	1,852,808	17.0%
2015	315,078	315,078	-	1,900,740	16.6%
2016	261,094	261,094	-	1,954,683	13.4%
2017	259,114	259,114	-	1,966,584	13.2%
2018	296,630	296,630	-	2,161,341	13.7%
2019	305,202	305,202	-	1,895,062	16.1%
2020	253,632	253,632	-	1,970,812	12.9%
2021	234,444	234,545	(101)	2,061,560	11.4%

* This schedule is presented pursuant to the implementation of GASB Statement No. 67, *Financial Reporting for Pension Plans* by reporting entities responsible for administering the pension plan to improve financial reporting by state and local governmental pension plans. Due to the statement being implemented only recently, the amount of Covered-Employee Payroll was not provided for odd years prior to 2014.

MUNICIPALITY OF MURRYSVILLE COMPREHENSIVE
MUNICIPAL PENSION TRUST FUND
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
NOTES TO SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES
(UNAUDITED)

POLICE PENSION PLAN

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, 2021
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Amortization method	Level dollar, closed
Remaining amortization period	10 years
Asset valuation method	4-year smoothing, the actuarial value of assets will be limited to a maximum of 120% and a minimum of 80% of the fair market value of assets.
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return *	7.25%
Projected salary increases *	4.5%
Cost-of-living adjustments	In accordance with Act 600 provisions.

* Includes inflation at 2.75%

MUNICIPALITY OF MURRYSVILLE COMPREHENSIVE
MUNICIPAL PENSION TRUST FUND
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(UNAUDITED)

NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN

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, 2021
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Amortization method	Level dollar, closed
Remaining amortization period	Not applicable
Asset valuation method	4-year smoothing, the actuarial value of assets will be limited to a maximum of 120% and a minimum of 80% of the fair market value of assets.
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return *	7.0%
Projected salary increases *	4.0%

* Includes inflation at 2.75%

MUNICIPALITY OF MURRYSVILLE COMPREHENSIVE
MUNICIPAL PENSION TRUST FUND
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This report was initially distributed to the following:

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