

# COMPLIANCE AUDIT

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## Otto Township Non-Uniformed Employees' Pension Plan

McKean County, Pennsylvania  
For the Period  
January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2021

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October 2022



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of the Auditor General

Timothy L. DeFoor • Auditor General



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**TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR  
AUDITOR GENERAL**

Board of Township Supervisors  
Otto Township  
McKean County  
Duke Center, PA 16729

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Otto Township Non-Uniformed Employees' Pension Plan 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 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 finding contained in our prior 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 finding contained in our prior 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. State aid allocations that were deposited into the pension plan for the years ended December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2021, are presented on the Summary of Deposited State Aid and Employer Contributions.
- 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. Employer contributions that were deposited into the pension plan for the years ended December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2021, are presented on the Summary of Deposited State Aid and Employer Contributions.
- We determined that there were no employee contributions required by the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations for the years covered by our audit period.
- We determined whether retirement benefit calculated for the plan member who elected to vest 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 pension benefits due to the retired individual and comparing these amounts to supporting documentation evidencing amounts determined and payable to the recipient.
- 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.

Otto Township contracted with an independent certified public accounting firm for annual audits of its basic financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020, and the governmental activities and business-type activities for the year ended December 31, 2021 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 Otto Township Non-Uniformed Employees' Pension Plan 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 objectives.

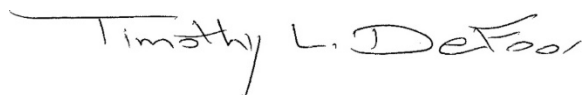
The results of our procedures indicated that, in all significant respects, the Otto Township Non-Uniformed Employees' Pension Plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies, except as noted in the following findings further discussed later in this report:

Finding No. 1 – Partial Compliance With Prior Recommendation – Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement

Finding No. 2 – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Underpayment Of State Aid

Finding No. 1 contained in this audit report repeats a condition that was cited in our previous report that has not been corrected by township officials. We are concerned by the township's failure to correct this previously reported finding and strongly encourage timely implementation of the recommendation noted in this audit report.

The contents of this report were discussed with officials of Otto 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.



Timothy L. DeFoor  
Auditor General  
October 4, 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 Otto Township Non-Uniformed Employees' Pension Plan 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 69 - The Second Class Township Code, Act of May 1, 1933 (P.L. 103, No. 69), as reenacted and amended, 53 P.S. § 65101 et seq.

The Otto Township Non-Uniformed Employees' Pension Plan is a single-employer defined contribution pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of a Resolution dated September 27, 2000, as amended, and a separately executed money purchase pension plan agreement, effective January 1, 2000. The plan was established January 1, 2000. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan. The municipality is required to contribute 10 percent of each participant's compensation. As of December 31, 2021, the plan had three active members and one terminated member eligible for vested benefits in the future.

OTTO TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN  
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

Partial Compliance With Prior Recommendation

Otto Township has partially complied with the prior recommendation concerning the following:

- Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement

During the current audit period, the township reimbursed \$4,645 to the Commonwealth for the excess state aid received in 2014 and 2016; however, plan officials failed to reconcile the plan's defined contribution pension costs with state aid received, as further discussed in the Findings and Recommendations section of this report.

OTTO TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN  
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**Finding No. 1 – Partial Compliance With Prior Recommendation – Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement**

Condition: As disclosed in the Status of Prior Finding section of this report, the township partially complied with the prior recommendation by reimbursing the Commonwealth for the excess state aid received; however, plan officials again failed to reconcile the amount of state aid received to the non-uniformed pension plan's defined contribution pension costs in the years 2019 and 2021, as illustrated below:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2021</u>
State aid allocation	\$ 13,129	\$ 16,121
Actual municipal pension costs	(12,469)	(14,765)
Excess state aid	\$ 660	\$ 1,356

Criteria: Section 402(f)(2) of Act 205 states:

No municipality shall be entitled to receive an allocation of general municipal pension system State aid in an amount which exceeds the aggregate actual financial requirements of any municipal pension plans for police officers, paid firefighters or employees other than police officers or paid firefighters maintained by the municipality, less the amount of any aggregate annual member or employee contributions during the next succeeding plan year, as reported in the most recent complete actuarial report filed with the commission.

Cause: Plan officials again failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to annually reconcile the township's state aid allocation with the plan's actual defined contribution pension costs and full compliance with the prior recommendation.

Effect: It is this department's opinion that because the entire proceeds of the insurance premium tax on foreign casualty insurance companies are distributed annually to each eligible recipient municipality, it is inappropriate to use state aid in one year to offset pension costs in other years. Consequently, the overpayment of state aid in the years 2019 and 2021 must be returned to the Commonwealth for redistribution.

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



OTTO TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN  
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**Finding No. 1 – (Continued)**

Recommendation: We recommend that the municipality return the \$2,016 of excess state aid received in the years 2019 and 2021 to the Commonwealth from the 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 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 evidence of payment.

Furthermore, we again recommend that, in the future, plan officials reconcile the township's annual state aid allocation with the plan's annual defined contribution pension costs and reimburse any excess state aid received to the Commonwealth.

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

Auditor's Conclusion: 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 pension plan.

**Finding No. 2 – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Underpayment Of State Aid**

Condition: The township failed to certify an eligible non-uniformed employee and understated payroll by \$23,431 on the Certification Form AG 385 filed in 2022. 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: There was a recent turnover in municipal officials responsible for administration of the pension plan and the township's internal control procedures were not adequate to timely identify the omission and ensure accuracy of the data certified.

OTTO TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN  
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**Finding No. 2 – (Continued)**

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 plan. Because the township's state aid allocation was based on pension costs, the township received an underpayment of state aid as identified below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Normal Cost</u>	<u>Payroll Understated</u>	<u>State Aid Underpayment</u>
2022	10.0%	\$ 23,431	\$ 2,343

Although the township will be reimbursed for the underpayment of state aid due to the township's certification error, the full amount of the 2022 state aid allocation was not available to be deposited timely and therefore resulted in the township having to make additional municipal contributions in order to meet the plan's funding obligation.

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 audit of the plan.

OTTO TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN  
POTENTIAL WITHHOLD OF STATE AID

Finding No. 1 contained in this audit report cites an overpayment of state aid to the township in the amount of \$2,016, plus interest. 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.

OTTO TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN  
SUMMARY OF DEPOSITED STATE AID AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid	Employer Contributions
2016	\$ 11,692	\$ 30
2017	11,692	172
2018	11,864	765
2019	11,219	None
2020	11,223	\$ 5,997
2021	12,965	None

OTTO TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

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

**Mr. Eric Barton**  
Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors

**Ms. Jeannine Drummond**  
Secretary

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).