

LIMITED PROCEDURES ENGAGEMENT

Rice Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan Luzerne County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017

February 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
Rice Township
Luzerne County
Mountain Top, PA 18707

We conducted a Limited Procedures Engagement (LPE) of the Rice Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017 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 municipal officials took appropriate corrective action to address the finding contained in our prior LPE Report, by inquiring of plan officials and evaluating supporting documentation provided by officials evidencing that the suggested corrective action has been appropriately taken.
- 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 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, 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.


Based on the results of our procedures performed during our LPE, nothing came to our attention indicating that the Rice Township Non-Uniformed 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 township 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 Rice Township and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in this report. We would like to thank township officials for the cooperation extended to us during the conduct of this LPE.

February 21, 2019


EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE
Auditor General

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RICE TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

Compliance With Prior LPE Report Recommendation

Rice Township has complied with the prior LPE report recommendation concerning the following:

· Undocumented Pension Benefit Calculation

The township reviewed this situation with the plan custodian as recommended, determined the correct monthly pension benefit amount and adjusted the pension benefit accordingly, for the retired individual in question.

RICE TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

The supplementary information contained on pages 2 through 4 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	\$ 8,025	\$ 8,319
Interest	15,687	16,771
Difference between expected and actual experience	568	-
Changes of assumptions	-	(6,490)
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(4,852)	(4,852)
Net Change in Total Pension Liability	<u>19,428</u>	<u>13,748</u>
Total Pension Liability – Beginning	279,580	299,008
Total Pension Liability – Ending (a)	<u>\$ 299,008</u>	<u>\$ 312,756</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position		
Contributions – employer	\$ 15,467	\$ 14,679
Net investment income	12,662	(1,625)
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(4,852)	(4,852)
Administrative expense	(634)	(714)
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	<u>22,643</u>	<u>7,488</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position – Beginning	240,903	263,546
Plan Fiduciary Net Position – Ending (b)	<u>\$ 263,546</u>	<u>\$ 271,034</u>
Net Pension Liability – Ending (a-b)	<u>\$ 35,462</u>	<u>\$ 41,722</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	88.14%	86.66%
Estimated Covered Employee Payroll	\$ 138,914	\$ 138,579
Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Employee Payroll	25.53%	30.11%

RICE TOWNSHIP 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	\$ 8,409	\$ 8,113
Interest	17,541	18,485
Difference between expected and actual experience	1,185	-
Changes of assumptions	10,855	-
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(4,532)	(4,532)
Net Change in Total Pension Liability	<u>33,458</u>	<u>22,066</u>
Total Pension Liability – Beginning	312,756	346,214
Total Pension Liability – Ending (a)	<u>\$ 346,214</u>	<u>\$ 368,280</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position		
Contributions – employer	\$ 15,546	\$ 16,056
Net investment income	22,716	54,080
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(4,532)	(4,532)
Administrative expense	(894)	(875)
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	<u>32,836</u>	<u>64,729</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position – Beginning	271,034	303,870
Plan Fiduciary Net Position – Ending (b)	<u>\$ 303,870</u>	<u>\$ 368,599</u>
Net Pension Liability – Ending (a-b)	<u>\$ 42,344</u>	<u>\$ (319)</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	87.77%	100.09%
Estimated Covered Employee Payroll	\$ 154,366	\$ 151,091
Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Employee Payroll	27.43%	(0.21%)

RICE TOWNSHIP 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 township as of December 31, 2014 and 2015 calculated using the discount rate of 5.5%, 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 (4.5%)	Current Discount Rate (5.5%)	1% Increase (6.5%)
Net Pension Liability – 12/31/14	\$ 76,914	\$ 35,462	\$ (781)
Net Pension Liability – 12/31/15	\$ 86,608	\$ 41,722	\$ 2,760

In addition, the following presents the net pension liability of the township as of December 31, 2016 and 2017 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:

	1% Decrease (4.25%)	Current Discount Rate (5.25%)	1% Increase (6.25%)
Net Pension Liability – 12/31/16	\$ 89,422	\$ 42,344	\$ 1,007
Net Pension Liability – 12/31/17	\$ 49,760	\$ (319)	\$ (44,291)

RICE TOWNSHIP 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	\$ 221,860	\$ 262,027	\$ 40,167	84.7%
01-01-15	268,421	299,008	30,587	89.8%
01-01-17	322,194	346,214	24,020	93.1%

RICE TOWNSHIP 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.

RICE TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 (UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER
 AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2012	\$ 16,859	100.0%
2013	15,140	100.0%
2014	15,447	100.1%
2015	14,679	100.0%
2016	15,526	100.0%
2017	16,056	100.0%

RICE TOWNSHIP 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
Remaining amortization period	8 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

RICE TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom W. Wolf
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Mr. Robert Pipech
Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors

Mr. Jeffrey D. Beck
Secretary/Treasurer

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.