

# LIMITED PROCEDURES ENGAGEMENT

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## South Abington Township Police Pension Plan Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018

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March 2020



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of the Auditor General

Eugene A. DePasquale • Auditor General



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South Abington Township  
Lackawanna County  
Chinchilla, PA 18410

We conducted a Limited Procedures Engagement (LPE) of the South Abington Township Police Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2016 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 municipal officials took appropriate corrective action to address the finding contained in our prior audit 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 annual employee contributions were required during the engagement period and, if so, 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 engagement period and examining documents evidencing the deposit of these employee contributions into the pension plan.
- 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, 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.
- We determined whether provisions of the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) were in accordance with the provisions of Act 205 by examining provisions stated in the plan's governing documents.


Based on the results of our procedures performed during our LPE, nothing came to our attention indicating that the South Abington Township 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 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 South Abington 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.

March 3, 2020

  
EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE  
Auditor General

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SOUTH ABINGTON TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN  
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation

The township has 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 \$8,969 to the Commonwealth for the overpayment of state aid received in 2016 and complied with the instructions accompanying Certification Form AG 385 and accurately reported the required data.

SOUTH ABINGTON TOWNSHIP POLICE 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, 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	\$ 165,880	\$ 173,700	\$ 183,254	\$ 188,677	\$ 199,054
Interest	378,263	405,365	429,650	459,295	485,365
Difference between expected and actual experience	-	(32,987)	-	67,944	-
Changes of assumptions	-	77,642	-	11,131	-
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(188,755)	(230,124)	(253,254)	(294,566)	(277,261)
Net Change in Total Pension Liability	<u>355,388</u>	<u>393,596</u>	<u>359,650</u>	<u>432,481</u>	<u>407,158</u>
Total Pension Liability - Beginning	5,332,253	5,687,641	6,081,237	6,440,887	6,873,368
Total Pension Liability - Ending (a)	<u>\$ 5,687,641</u>	<u>\$ 6,081,237</u>	<u>\$ 6,440,887</u>	<u>\$ 6,873,368</u>	<u>\$ 7,280,526</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position					
Contributions - employer	\$ 269,286	\$ 274,505	\$ 319,930	\$ 266,225	\$ 316,921
Contributions - state aid	78,053	78,417	96,243	91,765	113,961
Contributions - member	36,445	38,546	39,162	42,723	41,312
Net investment income	230,051	(41,298)	374,342	621,023	(357,344)
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(188,755)	(230,124)	(253,254)	(294,566)	(277,261)
Administrative expense	(6,400)	(3,800)	(4,000)	(7,400)	(5,200)
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	<u>418,680</u>	<u>116,246</u>	<u>572,423</u>	<u>719,770</u>	<u>(167,611)</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning	3,982,459	4,401,139	4,517,385	5,089,808	5,809,578
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Ending (b)	<u>\$ 4,401,139</u>	<u>\$ 4,517,385</u>	<u>\$ 5,089,808</u>	<u>\$ 5,809,578</u>	<u>\$ 5,641,967</u>
Net Pension Liability - Ending (a-b)	<u>\$ 1,286,502</u>	<u>\$ 1,563,852</u>	<u>\$ 1,351,079</u>	<u>\$ 1,063,790</u>	<u>\$ 1,638,559</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	77.4%	74.3%	79.0%	84.5%	77.5%
Estimated Covered Employee Payroll	\$ 717,416	\$ 749,298	\$ 735,648	\$ 787,528	\$ 900,000
Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Employee Payroll	179.3%	208.7%	183.7%	135.1%	182.1%

SOUTH ABINGTON 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, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, calculated using the discount rate of 7.0%, 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 (6.0%)	Current Discount Rate (7.0%)	1% Increase (8.0%)
Net Pension Liability - 12/31/14	\$ 2,019,793	\$ 1,286,502	\$ 678,464
Net Pension Liability - 12/31/15	\$ 2,364,881	\$ 1,563,852	\$ 899,753
Net Pension Liability - 12/31/16	\$ 2,188,278	\$ 1,351,079	\$ 656,471
Net Pension Liability - 12/31/17	\$ 1,921,593	\$ 1,063,790	\$ 348,572
Net Pension Liability - 12/31/18	\$ 2,530,293	\$ 1,638,559	\$ 894,583

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
2014	\$ 347,339	\$ 347,339	\$ -	\$ 717,416	48.42%
2015	352,922	352,922	-	749,298	47.10%
2016	348,673	416,173	(67,500)	735,648	56.57%
2017	357,990	357,990	-	787,528	45.46%
2018	430,882	430,882	-	900,000	47.88%

SOUTH ABINGTON TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN  
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT RETURNS

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

2018	(6.16%)
2017	12.20%
2016	8.29%
2015	0.86%
2014	7.80%



SOUTH ABINGTON TOWNSHIP 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	\$ 3,392,293	\$ 5,008,550	\$ 1,616,257	67.7%
01-01-15	4,401,139	5,732,296	1,331,157	76.8%
01-01-17	5,089,808	6,519,962	1,430,154	78.1%

SOUTH ABINGTON TOWNSHIP 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.

SOUTH ABINGTON TOWNSHIP 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
Remaining amortization period	7 years
Asset valuation method	Fair value
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	7.0%
Projected salary increases	5.5%
Cost-of-living adjustments	4.0%

SOUTH ABINGTON TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

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

**Mr. Giles Stanton**  
Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors

**Mr. David O'Neill**  
Township Manager

**Ms. Christine Griswold**  
Secretary/Treasurer

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