



**WEST MEAD TOWNSHIP NO. 2 FIREMANS RELIEF ASSOCIATION**

**CRAWFORD COUNTY**

**COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT**

**FOR THE PERIOD**

**JANUARY 1, 2008 TO DECEMBER 31, 2009**



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BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Section 403 of The Fiscal Code, Act of April 9, 1929, (P.L. 343, No. 176), and the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Act, as consolidated by the Act of November 23, 2010, (P.L. 1181, No. 118), at 35 Pa.C.S. § 7411 *et seq.*, the Department of the Auditor General's duty is to audit the accounts and records of every volunteer firefighters' relief association to determine that funds received under the Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Distribution Law, Act of December 18, 1984, (P.L. 1005, No. 205), as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.701 *et seq.* (commonly referred to as Act 205), are properly expended.

The West Mead Township No. 2 Firemans Relief Association, herein referred to as West Mead Township No. 2 Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association, is a charitable organization that was formed primarily to afford financial protection to volunteer firefighters and to encourage individuals to participate in volunteer fire service.

Act 118 governs the overall operation of the volunteer firefighters' relief association. The relief association's bylaws define the specific operational procedures by which the volunteer firefighters' relief association conducts business. To fulfill its primary purpose, Act 118 authorizes specific types of expenditures and prescribes appropriate volunteer firefighters' relief association investment options. Within the parameters established by Act 118, it is the responsibility of the volunteer firefighters' relief association to choose investments in a proper and prudent manner.

Volunteer firefighters' relief associations receive public tax monies, and the association officers therefore have a responsibility to the public to conduct the association's financial affairs in a businesslike manner and to maintain sufficient financial records to support the propriety of all association transactions. Volunteer firefighters' relief association officers are also responsible for ensuring that the association operates in accordance with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures.

Act 205 sets forth the computation of the Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Distribution paid to each applicable municipality throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The amount of the distribution is based upon the population of each municipality and the market value of real estate within the municipality. Upon receipt of this distribution, the municipality must allocate the funds to the volunteer firefighters' relief association of the fire service organization or fire service organizations, which is or are recognized as providing the service to the municipality. The West Mead Township No. 2 Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association was allocated state aid from the following municipalities:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
West Mead Township	Crawford	\$15,383	\$13,619
Woodcock Township	Crawford	\$ 4,862	\$ 4,354

BACKGROUND (Continued)

The volunteer firefighters' relief association and the affiliated fire service organization are separate, legal entities. The West Mead Township No. 2 Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association is affiliated with the following fire service organization:

West Mead Township No. 2 Fire Department

Mr. Michael Jordan, President  
WEST MEAD TOWNSHIP NO. 2 VOLUNTEER  
FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION  
Crawford County

We have conducted a compliance audit of the West Mead Township No. 2 Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association pursuant to authority derived from Article VIII, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Section 403 of The Fiscal Code, Act of April 9, 1929, (P.L. 343, No. 176), and mandated by the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Act, as consolidated by the Act of November 23, 2010 (P.L. 1181, No. 118), at 35 Pa.C.S. § 7411 *et seq.*, for the period January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2009.

We conducted this compliance audit in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* applicable to performance audits, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our audit results and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our audit results and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

The objectives of the audit were:

1. To determine if the volunteer firefighters' relief association took appropriate corrective action to address the finding contained in our prior audit report; and
2. To determine if the volunteer firefighters' relief association received and expended state aid and accumulated relief funds in compliance with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures.

Our audit was limited to the areas related to the objectives identified above.

Volunteer firefighters' relief association officers are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the West Mead Township No. 2 Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association's administration of state aid and accumulated relief funds complies with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures including the safeguarding of assets. In conducting our audit, we obtained an understanding of

the volunteer firefighters' relief association's internal controls as they relate to the association's compliance with those requirements and that we considered to be significant within the context of the audit objectives, and assessed whether those significant controls were properly designed and implemented. Our audit procedures also included tests of documentary evidence supporting the West Mead Township No. 2 Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association's recorded financial transactions, tests of the physical existence of inventories, interviews of selected officials and direct confirmation of the West Mead Township No. 2 Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association's cash, investments, and certain other assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2009, with the custodians of the funds, debtors, creditors, and financial institutions to the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objectives. Additionally, we performed procedures to provide a reasonable assurance of detecting instances of violations of legal and regulatory requirements or violations of provisions of contracts that are significant within the context of the audit objectives.

The results of our audit, for the period January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2009, found the West Mead Township No. 2 Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association did not take appropriate corrective action to address the finding contained in our prior audit report, as detailed below and discussed in the Status of Prior Finding section of this report. In addition, the results of our audit found the West Mead Township No. 2 Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association, did not in all significant respects, receive and expend state aid and accumulated relief funds in compliance with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures, as noted in the finding listed below and discussed in detail in the Finding and Recommendation section of this report. The results of our tests also indicated the West Mead Township No. 2 Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association expended funds as presented in the Accompanying Expenditure Information and, as of December 31, 2009, had a cash balance of \$17,438 and no investments.

Finding – Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation –  
Undocumented Expenditure

The contents of this report were discussed with the management of the West Mead Township No. 2 Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association and, where appropriate, their response has been included in the report.

August 31, 2010

JACK WAGNER  
Auditor General



WEST MEAD TOWNSHIP NO. 2 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION  
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

NONCOMPLIANCE WITH PRIOR AUDIT FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

The West Mead Township No. 2 Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association has not complied with the following prior audit finding. This finding is noted below and discussed in detail in the Finding and Recommendation section of this report:

- Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation –  
Undocumented Expenditure

While the relief association received partial reimbursement of \$120 from the affiliated fire department for the prior audit period's undocumented expenditures, the relief association was unable to provide adequate supporting documentation or receive reimbursement for the remaining balance of \$840 (see the finding in the Finding and Recommendation section of this report). In addition, we did not detect any additional undocumented expenditures during the current audit period.

We are concerned with the volunteer firefighters' relief association's failure to fully correct the previously reported audit finding. The association management should strive to implement the recommendation and corrective action noted in this audit report.

WEST MEAD TOWNSHIP NO. 2 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION  
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding – Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation –  
Undocumented Expenditure

Condition: As cited in our prior audit report, the relief association, again, was unable to provide adequate supporting documentation for an expenditure. While the relief association received partial reimbursement totaling \$120 from the affiliated fire department for one of the two prior audit period undocumented expenditures, the relief association was unable to provide adequate documentation or receive reimbursement for the remaining balance of \$840. In addition, while we did not detect any additional undocumented expenditures during the current audit period, we found the relief association inappropriately transferred \$840, on February 6, 2008, to the West Mead Township No. 2 Fire Department in an attempt to address this undocumented expenditure finding. However, this transaction was in error as our recommendation was for the fire department to reimburse the relief association.

Criteria: Act 118 at 35 Pa.C.S. § 7416(f)(1) states:

The funds of any volunteer firefighters' relief association may be spent:

- (1) To pay for such normal and reasonable running expenses as may be appropriate to the businesslike conduct of the affairs of the association, including legal fees, rental or purchase of offices, payment of reasonable compensation of employees and purchase of office equipment and supplies.

In addition, Act 118 at 35 Pa.C.S. § 7418(a) states:

The Office of Auditor General shall have the power and its duty shall be to audit the accounts and records of every volunteer firefighters' relief association receiving money under Chapter 7 of the Act of December 18, 1984 (P.L. 1005, No. 205), [FN1] known as the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act, as far as may be necessary to satisfy the Auditor General that the money received was or is being expended for no purpose other than that authorized by this subchapter. Copies of all audits shall be furnished to the Governor.

Without adequate supporting documentation, such as invoices, this department is unable to determine whether relief association funds were expended for purposes authorized by Act 118. Furthermore, good business practices dictate that supporting documentation be maintained to verify the propriety of all financial transactions.

WEST MEAD TOWNSHIP NO. 2 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION  
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding – (Continued)

Cause: Relief association officials misunderstood the recommendation included in our prior audit finding.

Effect: Lack of supporting documentation, such as an invoice, made it impossible to determine if the expenditure was made in accordance with Act 118 at 35 Pa.C.S. § 7416(f). In addition, the failure to maintain adequate supporting documentation for relief association expenditures can lead to an increased risk of errors occurring and funds being misappropriated. As a result of the relief association's inability to provide adequate supporting documentation for the \$840 remaining balance of the prior period undocumented expenditure coupled with the relief association's erroneous transfer, \$1,680 in relief association funds were not available for investment purposes or to pay for expenditures authorized by Act 118.

Recommendation: We again recommend the relief association provide this department with adequate supporting documentation, such as an invoice, to determine the validity of the original expenditure or that the relief association be reimbursed \$840 for the outstanding balance of the prior period undocumented expenditure. We also recommend that the relief association officials maintain supporting documentation for all future expenditures. Furthermore, we recommend the fire company reimburse the relief association for the \$840 erroneous transfer. For further guidance, please refer to the Auditor General's publication, MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATIONS.

Management's Response: Relief association management agreed with the finding as presented at the audit exit conference and indicated they will take action to comply with the recommendation.

WEST MEAD TOWNSHIP NO. 2 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION  
POTENTIAL WITHHOLD OF STATE AID

A repeat condition such as that reported in the finding may lead to a total withholding of state aid in the future unless the finding is appropriately addressed. However, such action will not be considered if sufficient documentation is provided within 60 days to verify compliance with this department's recommendations. Such documentation should be submitted by the volunteer firefighters' relief association to: Department of the Auditor General, Bureau of Firefighters' Relief Association Audits, Room 316-D Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

WEST MEAD TOWNSHIP NO. 2 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION  
 ACCOMPANYING EXPENDITURE INFORMATION  
 FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2008 TO DECEMBER 31, 2009

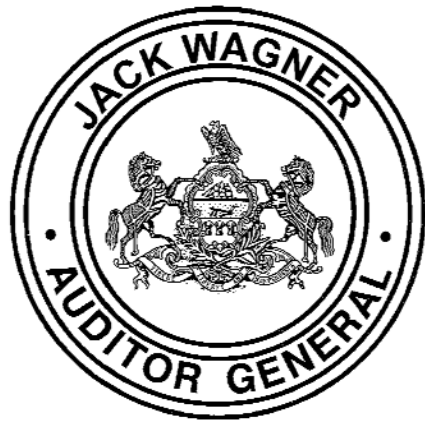
Act 118 at 35 Pa.C.S. § 7412 states: a volunteer firefighters' relief association is an organization formed primarily for the purpose of affording financial protection to volunteer firefighters against the consequences of misfortune suffered as a result of their participation in the fire service. The organization may contain within its membership the members of one or more fire companies and may serve secondary purposes, as set forth in this subchapter, but only if adequate provisions have been first made to serve the primary purpose.

Act 118 at 35 Pa.C.S. § 7416 authorizes the investment of relief association funds and outlines the types of benefits and services that can be provided with volunteer firefighters' relief association funds.

Furthermore, all expenditures must be properly authorized as prescribed in the volunteer firefighters' relief association bylaws and approved at an association meeting.

USES OF FUNDS:

Benefit Services:	
Insurance premiums	\$ 12,188
Relief benefits	9,343
Total Benefit Services	\$ 21,531
Fire Services:	
Equipment purchased	\$ 15,324
Training expenses	10,318
Total Fire Services	\$ 25,642
Administrative Services:	
Miscellaneous administrative expenses	\$ 140
Total Administrative Services	\$ 140
Other Expenditures:	
Erroneous transfer to fire department	\$ 840
Total Other Expenditures	\$ 840



WEST MEAD TOWNSHIP NO. 2 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

West Mead Township No. 2 Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Governing Body:

Mr. Michael Jordan, President

Mr. Daryl Sheets, Vice President

Mr. Justin Sciallo, Secretary

Mr. W. Thomas Chalmers, Treasurer

Reports were also distributed to each municipality, which allocated foreign fire insurance tax monies to this relief association.

Ms. Jill M. Dunlap, Secretary  
West Mead Township

Ms. Renee D. Hayes, Secretary  
Woodcock Township

This report is a matter of public record. Copies of this report may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 318 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. If you have any questions regarding this report or any other matter, you may contact the Department of the Auditor General by accessing our website at [www.auditorgen.state.pa.us](http://www.auditorgen.state.pa.us).