



DUNCANNON VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION

HEREIN REFERRED TO AS:

DUNCANNON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION

PERRY COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2006 TO DECEMBER 31, 2008



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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, Act of June 11, 1968, (P.L. 149, No. 84), as amended, 53 P.S. § 8501 et seq. (commonly referred to as Act 84), 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 Duncannon 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 84 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 84 authorizes specific types of expenditures and prescribes appropriate volunteer firefighters' relief association investment options. Within the parameters established by Act 84, 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.

BACKGROUND (Continued)

The Duncannon Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association was allocated state aid from the following municipalities:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Reed Township	Dauphin	\$ 512	\$ 501	\$ 514
Duncannon Borough	Perry	\$ 7,519	\$ 7,612	\$ 7,804
Penn Township	Perry	\$ 9,291	\$ 9,272	\$ 9,551
Wheatfield Township	Perry	\$13,490	\$13,596	\$13,992

The volunteer firefighters' relief association and the affiliated fire service organization are separate, legal entities. The Duncannon Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association is affiliated with the following fire service organization:

Duncannon Fire Company Inc.

Mr. Byron L. Worner, President
DUNCANNON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS'
RELIEF ASSOCIATION
Perry County

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Duncannon 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, Act of June 11, 1968, (P.L. 149, No. 84), as amended, 53 P.S. § 8501 et seq. (commonly referred to as Act 84), for the period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2008.

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 objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our audit results and conclusions based on our audit objective.

The objective of the audit was 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 objective identified above.

Volunteer firefighters' relief association officers are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Duncannon Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association's administration of state aid and accumulated 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 objective, and assessed whether those significant controls were properly designed and implemented.

Our audit procedures also included tests of documentary evidence supporting the Duncannon Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association's recorded financial transactions, tests of the physical existence of inventories, interviews of selected officials and direct confirmation of the Duncannon Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association's cash, investments, and certain other assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2008, with the custodians of the funds, debtors, creditors, and financial institutions to the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objective. 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 objective.

The results of our audit for the period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2008, found, in all significant respects, the Duncannon Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association received and expended funds in compliance with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures, except as noted in the following findings discussed later in this report. The results of our tests indicated the Duncannon Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association expended funds as presented in the accompanying information and as of December 31, 2008, had a cash balance of \$27,661 and no investments.

Finding No. 1 – Unauthorized Expenditures

Finding No. 2 – Inadequate Minutes of Meetings

The contents of this report were discussed with the management of the Duncannon Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

September 22, 2009

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General

DUNCANNON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding No. 1 – Unauthorized Expenditures

Condition: The relief association expended funds for the following items that are not authorized by Act 84:

Date	Check No.	Description	Amount
10/09/07	268	Dress uniform badges	\$ 261
08/30/08	317	Training course not completed by 2 members	400
Total			<u>\$ 661</u>

Criteria: Act 84 at 53 P.S. § 8506(e)(10 and 11) states:

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

- (10) To pay reasonable expenses actually and necessarily incurred for attending bona fide firefighters' training schools.
- (11) To purchase safeguards for preserving life, health, and safety to volunteer firefighters, so as to ensure their availability to participate in the volunteer fire service.

Because the Department of the Auditor General is legislatively prohibited from giving pre-audit advice, an interagency agreement with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) had been established whereby the DCED provided interpretation of Act 84 of 1968, the "Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Act." While the training courses taken by the members were considered bona fide training classes, DCED has taken the position that the relief association cannot pay for courses which were not successfully completed by the member. In addition, dress uniform badges have been deemed by DCED to not qualify as an allowable expenditure since it is not for the protection of the volunteer firefighter. Consequently, these disbursements are not authorized under Act 84.

Cause: Relief association officials were unaware that the aforementioned expenditures were not authorized by Act 84.

Effect: As a result of these improper expenditures, relief association funds were not available for investment purposes or to pay for expenditures authorized by Act 84.

DUNCANNON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding No. 1 – (Continued)

Recommendation: We recommend the relief association be reimbursed \$661 for the unauthorized expenditures and that relief association officials become familiar with Act 84 at 53 P.S. § 8506(e) to aid them in determining the propriety of future expenditures. 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.

DUNCANNON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding No. 2 – Inadequate Minutes of Meetings

Condition: The relief association failed to maintain detailed minutes of meetings as required by Act 84. Specifically, the relief association's minutes did not address all of the financial-related transactions that occurred during the audit period and were not signed by the recording officer.

Criteria: Act 84 at 53 P.S. § 8505(a) states, in part, that the relief association:

. . . must provide for the taking and preserving of minutes of all meetings, and the maintenance of such books of account as may be necessary and appropriate to afford a permanent record of its financial affairs.

Cause: Relief association officials were unaware that maintaining detailed minutes of meetings was required by Act 84.

Effect: The failure to maintain detailed minutes of meetings, signed by the recording officer, prevented the verification as to whether all relief association business was presented before the membership for approval.

Recommendation: We recommend the relief association maintain detailed minutes of meetings, including all financial-related business conducted by the relief association and that the minutes be signed by the recording officer. 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.

DUNCANNON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION
 ACCOMPANYING EXPENDITURE INFORMATION
 FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2006 TO DECEMBER 31, 2008

Act 84 at 53 P.S. § 8502(1) states, in part, that:

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. Such an association may also serve other purposes, . . . provided only that adequate provisions be first made to serve its primary purpose. . . .

Act 84 at 53 P.S. § 8506, 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. 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	\$ 6,478
Total Benefit Services	\$ 6,478
Fire Services:	
Equipment purchased	\$ 74,736
Equipment maintenance	21,505
Training expenses	2,574
Total Fire Services	\$ 98,815
Administrative Services:	
Miscellaneous administrative expenses	\$ 10
Total Administrative Services	\$ 10
Other Expenditures:	
Principal payments on loan	\$ 2,947
Interest payments on loan	166
Total Other Expenditures	\$ 3,113

DUNCANNON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Duncannon Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Governing Body:

Mr. Byron L. Worner, President

Mr. Douglas Leonhard, Vice President

Mr. Brian Waters, Secretary

Mr. Bryan J. Worner, Treasurer

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

Ms. Marjorie I. Aleksy, Secretary
Reed Township

Ms. Helen Klinepeter, Secretary
Penn Township

Ms. Tanuya A. Matter, Treasurer
Duncannon Borough

Ms. Vickie L. Jenkins, Treasurer
Wheatfield 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.