



**ALBANY TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED
PENSION PLAN**

BRADFORD COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2009, TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE - AUDITOR GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

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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. Section 402(j) of Act 205 specifically requires the Auditor General, as deemed necessary, to make an audit of every municipality which receives general municipal pension system State aid and of every municipal pension plan and fund in which general municipal pension system State aid is deposited.

Pension plan aid is provided from a 2 percent foreign casualty insurance premium tax, a portion of the foreign 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 Albany Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan is also governed by implementing regulations adopted by the Public Employee Retirement Commission published at Title 16, Part IV of the Pennsylvania Code and applicable provisions of various other state statutes.

The Albany Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of a resolution dated July 10, 2001, as amended.





Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0018
Facebook: Pennsylvania Auditor General
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EUGENE A. DePASQUALE
AUDITOR GENERAL

Board of Township Supervisors
Albany Township
Bradford County
New Albany, PA 18833

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Albany Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2009, to December 31, 2011. The audit was conducted pursuant to authority derived from Section 402(j) of Act 205 and in accordance with the standards applicable to performance audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform our audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our finding and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our finding 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 findings contained in our prior audit 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. Our methodology addressed determinations about the following:

- Whether state aid was properly determined and deposited in accordance with Act 205 requirements.
- Whether employer contributions are determined and deposited in accordance with the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations.
- Whether employee contributions are required and, if so, are determined, deducted and deposited into the pension plan and are in accordance with the plan provisions and applicable laws and regulations.

- Whether benefit payments, if any, represent payments to all (and only) those entitled to receive them and are properly determined in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Whether obligations for plan benefits are accurately determined in accordance with plan provisions and based on complete and accurate participant data; and whether actuarial valuation reports are prepared and submitted to the Public Employee Retirement Commission (PERC) in accordance with state law and 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.
- Whether the terms of the unallocated insurance contract, including ownership and any restrictions, are in compliance with plan provisions, investment policies and state regulations.

Township officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Albany Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan is administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies. In conducting our audit, we obtained an understanding of the township's internal controls as they relate to the township's compliance with those requirements and that we considered to be significant within the context of our audit objectives, and assessed whether those significant controls were properly designed and implemented. Additionally, we tested transactions, assessed official actions, performed analytical procedures and interviewed selected officials 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 tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Albany Township Nonuniformed 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 finding further discussed later in this report:

Finding – Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Failure To Properly Determine And Fully Pay The Minimum Municipal Obligation Of The Plan

As previously noted, one of the objectives of our audit of the Albany Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan was to determine compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies. Act 205 was amended on September 18, 2009, through the adoption of Act 44 of 2009. Among several provisions relating to municipal pension plans, the act provides for the implementation of a distress recovery program. Three levels of distress have been established:

<u>Level</u>	<u>Indication</u>	<u>Funding Criteria</u>
I	Minimal distress	70-89%
II	Moderate distress	50-69%
III	Severe distress	Less than 50%

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. However, we are extremely concerned about the funded status of the plan contained in the schedule of funding progress included in this report which indicates **the plan's funded ratio is 64.1% as of January 1, 2011**, which is the most recent date available. Based on this information, the Public Employee Retirement Commission issued a notification that the township is currently in Level II moderate distress status. We encourage township officials to monitor the funding of the nonuniformed pension plan to ensure its long-term financial stability.

The contents of this report were discussed with officials of Albany Township and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.



April 25, 2013

EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE
Auditor General



ALBANY TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS

Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation

Albany Township has complied with the prior audit recommendation concerning the following:

- Failure To Appoint A Chief Administrative Officer

Township officials formally appointed a chief administrative officer for the pension plan.

Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation

Albany Township has not complied with the prior audit recommendation concerning the following as further discussed in the Finding and Recommendation section of this report:

- Failure To Properly Determine And Fully Pay The Minimum Municipal Obligation Of The Plan

ALBANY TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – Noncompliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Failure To Properly Determine
And Fully Pay The Minimum Municipal Obligation Of The Plan

Condition: As disclosed in the prior audit report, plan officials did not properly determine or fully pay the minimum municipal obligation (MMO) of the nonuniformed pension plan for the year 2003, as required by Act 205. The MMO determined by the township utilized an incorrect normal cost percentage and an outdated amortization contribution requirement. Based upon an estimate prepared by this department, the township has an unpaid 2003 MMO balance of \$2,870.

Criteria: With regard to the MMO, Section 302(c) of Act 205 states, in part:

Annually, the chief administrative officer of the pension plan shall determine the minimum obligation of the municipality with respect to the pension plan for the following plan year.

Section 302(d) of Act 205 states, in part:

The minimum obligation of the municipality shall be payable to the pension plan from the revenue of the municipality.

Furthermore, Section 302(e) of Act 205 states, in part:

Any amount of the minimum obligation of the municipality which remains unpaid as of December 31 of the year in which the minimum obligation is due shall be added to the minimum obligation of the municipality for the following year, with interest from January 1 of the year in which the minimum obligation was first due until the date the payment is paid. . . .

Cause: Plan officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure compliance with the prior audit recommendation.

Effect: The proper determination of the plan's MMO ensures plan officials can properly allocate the necessary resources to the pension plan for the upcoming year. The failure to fully pay the MMO could result in the plan not having adequate resources to meet current and future benefit obligations to its members.

Due to the township's failure to fully pay the 2003 MMO by the December 31, 2003, deadline, the township must add the 2003 MMO balance to the current year's MMO and include interest, as required by Act 205.

ALBANY TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – (Continued)

Recommendation: We again recommend that the township pay the outstanding MMO due to the nonuniformed pension plan for the year 2003, with interest, in accordance with Section 302(e) of Act 205. A copy of the interest calculation must be maintained by the township for examination during our next audit of the plan.

Furthermore, we recommend that in the future, plan officials establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure the MMO is determined and paid in accordance with Act 205 requirements.

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

ALBANY TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED 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, 2007, is as follows:

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
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)	Covered Payroll (c)	Unfunded (Assets in Excess of) Actuarial Accrued Liability as a % of Payroll [(b-a)/(c)]
01-01-07	\$ 94,698	\$ 153,713	\$ 59,015	61.6%	\$ 53,478	110.4%
01-01-09	129,890	188,227	58,337	69.0%	59,675	97.8%
01-01-11	166,505	259,881	93,376	64.1%	62,898	148.5%

ALBANY TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED 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.

Trends in unfunded (assets in excess of) actuarial accrued liability and annual covered payroll are both affected by inflation. Expressing the unfunded (assets in excess of) actuarial accrued liability as a percentage of annual covered payroll (Column 6) approximately adjusts for the effects of inflation and aids analysis of the plan's progress made in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due. Generally, where there is an unfunded actuarial accrued liability, the smaller this percentage, the stronger the plan. However, when assets are in excess of the actuarial accrued liability, the higher the bracketed percentage, the stronger the plan.

ALBANY TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER
AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2006	\$ 15,274	100.0%
2007	15,074	100.0%
2008	14,088	100.0%
2009	14,017	100.0%
2010	14,877	100.0%
2011	15,097	100.0%

ALBANY TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
NOTES TO SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES
(UNAUDITED)

The information presented in the required 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, 2011
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Amortization method	Level dollar
Remaining amortization period	9.2 years
Asset valuation method	Fair value
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	4.5%
Projected salary increases	3.5%
Includes inflation at	Not disclosed
Cost-of-living adjustments	None assumed



ALBANY TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Albany Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan
Bradford County
817 Dog Farm Road
New Albany, PA 18833

Ms. Mary Moon	Chairwoman, Board of Township Supervisors
Ms. Andrae Cummiskey	Secretary/Treasurer

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at www.auditorgen.state.pa.us. Media questions about the report can be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 231 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: news@auditorgen.state.pa.us.