

# BLAIRSVILLE/INDIANA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EMPLOYEES PENSION PLAN

**INDIANA COUNTY** 

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

**JANUARY 1, 2010 TO DECEMBER 31, 2012** 

## **COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE - AUDITOR GENERAL** 

DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL





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#### EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE AUDITOR GENERAL

Board of Trustees Blairsville/Indiana Council of Governments Indiana County Blairsville, PA 15717

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Blairsville/Indiana Council of Governments Employees Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2012. 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 the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objective.

The objective of the audit was 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 objective 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.

Board trustees are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Blairsville/Indiana Council of Governments Employees 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 council's internal controls as they relate to the council's compliance with those requirements and that we considered to be significant within the context of our audit objective, 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 objective.

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Blairsville/Indiana Council of Governments Employees Pension Plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies.

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 Trustees of the Blairsville/Indiana Council of Governments and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report. We would like to thank council officials for the cooperation extended to us during the conduct of the audit.

January 14, 2014

EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE

Eugent: O-Pager

**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.

Annual state aid allocations are provided from a 2 percent foreign (out-of-state) casualty insurance premium tax, a portion of the foreign (out-of-state) 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 Blairsville/Indiana Council of Governments Employees 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 Blairsville/Indiana Council of Governments Employees Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of a plan document effective January 1, 2004, as amended. The plan was established January 1, 2004. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan. As of December 31, 2012, the plan had 2 active members, no terminated members eligible for vested benefits in the future and no retirees receiving pension benefits.

## BACKGROUND-(Continued)

As of December 31, 2012, selected plan benefit provisions are as follows:

#### **Eligibility Requirements:**

Normal Retirement Earlier of (a) Age 65 with 5 years of service or (b) Age 62 with 25

years of service.

Early Retirement None

Vesting 100% after 7 years of service.

#### **Retirement Benefit:**

50% of final 36-month average compensation.

#### Survivor Benefit:

Pre-Retirement Eligibility Refund of employee contributions with interest.

Post-Retirement Eligibility Based on optional form of payment selected by the

participant.

#### **Disability Benefit:**

Service Related - Accrued benefit payable at participant's normal retirement date.

Non-Service Related – None

#### BLAIRSVILLE/INDIANA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EMPLOYEES 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)
						Unfunded
			Unfunded			(Assets in
		Actuarial	(Assets in			Excess of)
		Accrued	Excess of)			Actuarial
	Actuarial	Liability	Actuarial			Accrued
Actuarial	Value of	(AAL) -	Accrued	Funded	Covered	Liability as a %
Valuation	Assets	Entry Age	Liability	Ratio	Payroll	of Payroll
Date	(a)	(b)	(b) - (a)	(a)/(b)	(c)	[(b-a)/(c)]
01-01-07	\$ 102,776	\$ 155,225	\$ 52,449	66.2%	\$ 105,583	49.7%
01-01-09	145,763	161,437	15,674	90.3%	75,073	20.9%
01-01-11	197,381	201,164	3,783	98.1%	79,871	4.7%

Note: The market value of the plan's assets at 01-01-09 has been adjusted to reflect the smoothing of gains and/or losses over a 5-year averaging period. This method will lower contributions in years of less than expected returns and increase contributions in years of greater than expected returns. The net effect over long periods of time is to have less variance in contribution levels from year to year.

# BLAIRSVILLE/INDIANA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EMPLOYEES 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. When assets are in excess of the actuarial accrued liability, the higher the bracketed percentage, the stronger the plan.

# BLAIRSVILLE/INDIANA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EMPLOYEES PENSION PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)

# SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2007	\$ 22,644	100.0%
2008	19,705	100.0%
2009	20,124	100.0%
2010	16,525	100.0%
2011	13,005	100.0%
2012	12,945	100.0%

### BLAIRSVILLE/INDIANA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EMPLOYEES 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 14 years

Asset valuation method Fair value

Actuarial assumptions:

Investment rate of return 6.0%

Projected salary increases 3.5%

## BLAIRSVILLE/INDIANA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EMPLOYEES PENSION PLAN REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett Governor Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Blairsville/Indiana Council of Governments Employees Pension Plan Indiana County 203 East Market Street Blairsville, PA 15717

Mr. Richard Thorell Chairman, Board of Trustees

Mr. Terry DiBiase Vice-Chairman, Board of Trustees

Mr. Ronald G. Hood Treasurer

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