



**CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP POLICE
PENSION PLAN**

CAMBRIA 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 Township Supervisors
Conemaugh Township
Cambria County
Johnstown, PA 15902

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Conemaugh Township Police 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 finding and conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our finding and 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. State aid allocations that were deposited into the pension plan for the years ended December 31, 2007 to December 31, 2012, are presented on the Summary of Deposited State Aid and Employer Contributions.
- Whether employer contributions are determined and deposited in accordance with the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations. Employer contributions that were deposited into the pension plan for the years ended December 31, 2007 to December 31, 2012, are presented on the Summary of Deposited State Aid and Employer Contributions.
- 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 allocated insurance contracts including ownership and any restrictions, are in compliance with plan provisions, investment policies and state regulations.

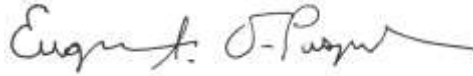
The township has elected to purchase allocated insurance contracts to fund the pension benefits for plan members. Under an allocated funding arrangement, the insurer receives and retains consideration in exchange for a legally enforceable obligation to pay future benefits. In accordance with Statement No. 25 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, allocated insurance contracts are excluded from the pension plan's assets. Consequently, the plan has no reportable assets.

Township officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Conemaugh Township Police 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 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 Conemaugh Township Police 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 – Unauthorized Funding Mechanism.

The contents of this report were discussed with officials of Conemaugh Township and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report. We would like to thank township officials for the cooperation extended to us during the conduct of the audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eugene A. DePasquale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

December 17, 2013

EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE
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 Conemaugh Township Police 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 including, but not limited to, the following:

Act 120 - Foreign Casualty Insurance Premium Tax Allocation Law, Act of May 12, 1943 (P.L. 259, No. 120), as amended, 72 P.S. § 2263.1 et seq.

The Conemaugh Township Police Pension Plan is a single-employer defined contribution pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Resolution No. 2-05. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan. The municipality is required to annually contribute \$4,600 per member. 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.

CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – Unauthorized Funding Mechanism

Condition: During the current audit period it was determined that the allocated insurance contracts maintained by the pension plan are IRS Section 457 retirement accounts and that the municipality deposited plan assets, including state aid allocations, into these accounts to provide benefits to members of the police pension plan at retirement.

Criteria: Section 102 of Act 205 defines a pension plan as follows:

The various aspects of the relationship between a municipality and its employees with respect to the retirement coverage provided by a municipality to the employees.

Section 201.2 of Part IV of Title 16 of the Pennsylvania Code further elaborates on the definition included in Act 205, stating, in part:

The term does not include a plan, program, or arrangement that is funded solely by municipal employee earnings or compensation reported as municipal employee earnings or compensation to the Internal Revenue Service on the Form W-2 Wage and Tax Statement or established under sections 8.1-8.3 of the act of March 30, 1811 (P.L. 145 Sm.L. 228) (72 P.S. 4521.1-4521.3).

Consequently, the Public Employee Retirement Commission (PERC) has determined that Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and IRS Section 457 Deferred Compensation plans are not eligible to participate in the state aid program.

Cause: Municipal officials were not aware that IRS Section 457 type plans are not eligible funding vehicles for pension plans participating in the state aid program.

Effect: Since the funding mechanism does not meet the definition of a pension plan as described above, it is not eligible for participation in the state aid program.

Recommendation: We recommend that plan officials cease paying premiums to the unauthorized funding mechanism and ensure that the contracts are placed on a paid-up status. In addition, we recommend that future state aid allocations be deposited into a funding mechanism eligible for participation in the general municipal pension system state aid program.

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

CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
SUMMARY OF DEPOSITED STATE AID AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid	Employer Contributions
2007	None	None
2008	\$ 8,138	\$ 1,062
2009	9,200	None
2010	9,200	None
2011	9,200	None
2012	9,200	None

CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Conemaugh Township Police Pension Plan
Cambria County
142 Janie Street
Johnstown, PA 15902

Mr. Lawrence Marhefka Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors

Mr. John S. Peschock Chief Administrative Officer

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.