

# DELAWARE TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN

NORTHUMBERLAND 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 Delaware 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 including, but not limited to, the following:

Act 69 - The Second Class Township Code, Act of May 1, 1933 (P.L. 103, No. 69), as reenacted and amended, 53 P.S. § 65101 et seq.

The Delaware Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer defined contribution pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of an ordinance dated August 1, 1995, as amended. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan. The municipality is required to contribute 13 percent of each member's compensation.





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#### EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE AUDITOR GENERAL

Board of Township Supervisors Delaware Township Northumberland County Watsontown, PA 17777

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Delaware 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 finding 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 Delaware 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 Delaware 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 – Partial Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Overpayment Of State Aid

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 officials of Delaware Township and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

March 19, 2013

EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE Auditor General

Eugent O-Pager



### DELAWARE TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

#### Partial Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation

Delaware Township has partially complied with the prior audit recommendation concerning the following:

#### · Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Overpayment Of State Aid

During the current audit period, the township reimbursed \$3,402 to the Commonwealth for the overpayment of state aid received in 2008; however, plan officials failed to comply with the instructions that accompany Certification Form AG 385 to assist them in accurately reporting the required pension data in the year 2011 as further discussed in the Finding and Recommendation section of this report.

### DELAWARE TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

## <u>Finding – Partial Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Incorrect Data On</u> <u>Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Overpayment Of State Aid</u>

Condition: As disclosed in the prior audit report, the township certified 1 ineligible nonuniformed employee (1 unit) and overstated payroll by \$17,474 in 2008 on Certification Form AG 385. During the current audit period, the township reimbursed \$3,402 to the Commonwealth for the overpayment of state aid received; however, plan officials failed to comply with the instructions that accompany Certification Form AG 385 to assist them in accurately reporting the required pension data in the year 2011.

The township certified 1 ineligible nonuniformed employee (1 unit) and overstated payroll by \$27,157 on the Certification Form AG 385 filed in 2011. The data contained on this certification form is based on prior calendar year information.

<u>Criteria</u>: Pursuant to Act 205, at Section 402(e)(2), in order to be eligible for certification, an employee must have been employed on a full-time basis for at least six consecutive months and must have been participating in a pension plan during the certification year.

<u>Cause</u>: Plan officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure the accuracy of the data certified and to ensure full compliance with the prior audit recommendation.

<u>Effect</u>: The data submitted on this certification form is used, in part, to calculate the state aid due to the municipality for distribution to its pension plan.

The township's state aid allocation for 2011 was based on the plan's pension costs in the amount of \$31,857. However, based on the corrected information, the township was only entitled to an allocation of \$27,982 (5 units at \$5,596.43 each). Therefore, the township received an overpayment of state aid in the amount of \$3,875.

In addition, the township used the overpayment of state aid to pay the minimum municipal obligation (MMO) due to the nonuniformed pension plan; therefore, if the reimbursement to the Commonwealth is made from the pension plan, the plan's MMO will not be fully paid.

Recommendation: We recommend that the total overpayment of state aid, in the amount of \$3,875, be reimbursed to the Commonwealth from township funds. A check in this amount, with interest compounded annually from date of receipt to date of repayment, at a rate earned by the pension plan, should be made payable to: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and mailed to: Department of the Auditor General, Municipal Pension & Fire Relief Programs Unit, 11 Stanwix Street, Suite 1450, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. A copy of the interest calculation must be submitted along with the check.

### DELAWARE TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

#### Finding – (Continued)

We also recommend that in the future, plan officials establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure compliance with the instructions that accompany Certification Form AG 385 to assist them in accurately reporting the required pension data.

In addition, if the reimbursement to the Commonwealth is made from nonuniformed pension plan funds, we recommend that any resulting MMO deficiency be paid to the pension plan with interest, at a rate earned by the pension plan.

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

### DELAWARE TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)

# SCHEDULE OF STATE AID AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid Deposited	Employer Contributions
2006	\$ 15,443	\$ 7,280
2007	16,032	11,719
2008	15,932	15,922
2009	18,768	20,101
2010	22,644	5,682
2011	31,857	1,419

#### DELAWARE TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett Governor Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Delaware Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan Northumberland County 1960 Eight Street Drive Watsontown, PA 17777

Mr. Jon F. McCormick Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors

Mr. William M. Michael Sr. Secretary/Treasurer

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, Room 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.