

FREEDOM BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN

BEAVER COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2005, TO DECEMBER 31, 2007



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ABBREVIATION

PMRS - Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System

BACKGROUND

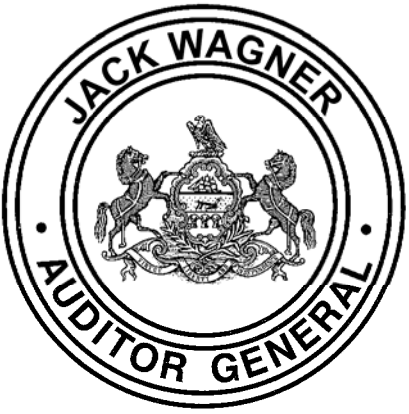
On December 18, 1984, the Pennsylvania Legislature adopted the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act (P.L. 1005, No. 205, as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.101 et seq.). The act established mandatory actuarial reporting and funding requirements and a uniform basis for the distribution of state 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 Freedom Borough 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 15 - Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law, Act of February 1, 1974
(P.L. 34, No. 15), as amended, 53 P.S. § 881.101 et seq.

The Freedom Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer defined contribution pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 518, as amended, adopted pursuant to Act 15. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan. The municipality is required to contribute 10 percent of each member's compensation.



The Honorable Mayor and Borough Council
Freedom Borough
Beaver County
Freedom, PA 15042

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Freedom Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2005, to December 31, 2007. The audit was conducted pursuant to authority derived from Section 402(j) of Act 205 and 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 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. The Freedom Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan participates in the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS), which is an agent multiple-employer public employee retirement system that acts as a common investment and administrative agent for participating municipal pension plans. PMRS issues a separate Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, copies of which are available from the PMRS accounting office. PMRS's financial statements were not audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion or other form of assurance on them.

Borough officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure to provide reasonable assurance that the Freedom Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan is administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies. To assist us in planning and performing our audit, we obtained an understanding of the borough's internal control structure as it relates to the borough's compliance with those requirements. Additionally, we tested transactions, assessed official actions, performed analytical procedures and interviewed selected officials to the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objectives.

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Freedom Borough 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 – Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement

The accompanying supplementary information is presented for purposes of additional analysis. We did not audit the information and, accordingly, express no form of assurance on it.

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

September 25, 2008

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General

FREEDOM BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS

Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendations

Freedom Borough has complied with the prior audit recommendations concerning the following:

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

The borough reimbursed \$482 to the Commonwealth for the overpayment of state aid; and

- Ordinance Improperly Amended By Resolution

The borough adopted Ordinance No. 540, which properly amended the plan's governing ordinance to increase municipal contributions to 10 percent of each member's compensation.

FREEDOM BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement

Condition: The borough received state aid in excess of the nonuniformed pension plan's defined contribution pension costs in the year 2006, as illustrated below:

State aid allocation	\$ 7,533
Forfeitures applied	872
Actual municipal pension costs	(8,034)
	<hr/>
Excess state aid	<u>\$ 371</u>

Criteria: Section 402(f)(2) of Act 205 states:

No municipality shall be entitled to receive an allocation of general municipal pension system State aid in an amount which exceeds the aggregate actual financial requirements of any municipal pension plans for police officers, paid firefighters or employees other than police officers or paid firefighters maintained by the municipality, less the amount of any aggregate annual member or employee contributions during the next succeeding plan year, as reported in the most recent complete actuarial report filed with the commission.

Cause: Plan officials were unaware of the need to annually reconcile the amount of state aid allocated to the pension plan with the plan's actual defined contribution pension costs.

Effect: It is this department's opinion that since the entire proceeds of the insurance premium tax on foreign casualty insurance companies are distributed annually to each eligible recipient municipality, it is inappropriate to use state aid in one year to offset pension costs in other years. Consequently, the overpayment of state aid in the year 2006, in the total amount of \$371, must be returned to the Commonwealth for redistribution.

Recommendation: We recommend that the municipality return the \$371 of excess state aid received in the year 2006 to the Commonwealth from the nonuniformed pension plan. A check in this amount, with interest compounded annually from date of receipt to date of repayment, at a rate earned by the plan, should be made payable to: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and mailed to: Department of the Auditor General, Municipal Pension & Fire Relief Programs Unit, 1205 Pittsburgh State Office Building, 300 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. A copy of the interest calculation must be submitted along with evidence of payment.

FREEDOM BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – (Continued)

Furthermore, we recommend that, in the future, plan officials reconcile the amount of state aid allocated to the nonuniformed pension plan with the plan's defined contribution pension costs.

Management's Response: Municipal officials agreed with the finding without exception. Subsequent to the audit period, the borough reimbursed \$417 to the Commonwealth for the excess state aid received.

Auditor's Conclusion: Based on the management response, it appears municipal officials have partially complied with the finding recommendation. Full compliance will be evaluated during our next audit of the plan.

FREEDOM BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF STATE AID
AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid Deposited	Employer Contributions
2004	\$ 2,548	\$ 1,084
2005	3,582	4,012
2006	7,533	872
2007	7,974	688

Generally accepted accounting principles require the above data to be presented for the past six consecutive fiscal years. Since six years of data were not yet available, this requirement will be implemented prospectively.

FREEDOM BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Freedom Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan
Beaver County
901 3rd Avenue
Freedom, PA 15042

The Honorable Donald W. Zahn	Mayor
Mr. John Kaercher	Council President
Ms. Karen L. M. Willison	Secretary/Treasurer
Mr. Benjamin F. Mader	Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System

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.