

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN

WASHINGTON COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2006, TO DECEMBER 31, 2008



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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 Independence 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 Independence Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer defined contribution pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 92-2. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan. The municipality is required to contribute 7 percent of each participant's compensation.



Board of Township Supervisors
Independence Township
Washington County
Avella, PA 15312

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Independence Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2006, to December 31, 2008. 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 conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our 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.

Township officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure to provide reasonable assurance that the Independence Township 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 township's internal control structure as it relates to the township'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 Independence Township Nonuniformed 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 and, accordingly, express no form of assurance on it.

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

March 19, 2009

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS

Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendations

Independence Township 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 township reimbursed \$2,117 to the Commonwealth for the overpayment of state aid received in 2006; and

- Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement And Municipal Contributions Made In Excess Of Contributions Required To Fund The Plan

The plan reimbursed \$779 to the township's general fund for the excess municipal contributions made to the plan during the years 2004 and 2005. In addition, the township reimbursed \$1,347 to the Commonwealth for the overpayment of state aid received in 2005.

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF STATE AID
AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid Deposited	Employer Contributions
2003	\$ 4,206	\$ 236
2004	4,441	None
2005	2,408	None
2006	2,394	None
2007	4,424	373
2008	4,797	252

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Independence Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan
Washington County
P.O. Box E
Avella, PA 15312

Mr. Mark A. Kinney Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors

Ms. Mildred Ostop Township Secretary

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.