

JACKSON TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN

BUTLER COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2006, TO DECEMBER 31, 2008



JACKSON TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN

BUTLER COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2006, TO DECEMBER 31, 2008

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Background	1
Letter from the Auditor General	3
Status of Prior Finding	5
Finding and Recommendation:	
Finding – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In A Net Underpayment Of State Aid.....	6
Supplementary Information	8
Report Distribution List	13

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 Jackson 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 600 - Police Pension Fund Act, Act of May 29, 1956 (P.L. 1804, No. 600), as amended, 53 P.S. § 761 et seq.

The Jackson Township Police Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 05-08, adopted pursuant to Act 600. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the township and its police officers.



Board of Township Supervisors
Jackson Township
Butler County
Zelienople, PA 16063

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Jackson Township Police 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 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. Jackson Township contracted with an independent certified public accounting firm for annual audits of its basic financial statements which are available at the township's offices. Those financial statements were not audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion or other form of assurance on them.

Township officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Jackson 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 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 the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objectives.

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Jackson 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 – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In A Net Underpayment Of State Aid

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 Jackson Township and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

September 10, 2009

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General

JACKSON TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation

Jackson Township has complied with the prior audit recommendation concerning the following:

- Failure To Properly Determine And Fully Pay The Minimum Municipal Obligation Of The Plan

During the audit period, the township paid the balance of the 2005 minimum municipal obligation due to the plan in accordance with Act 205 requirements.

JACKSON TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In A Net Underpayment Of State Aid

Condition: The township failed to certify 1 eligible nonuniformed employee and understated payroll by \$13,198 and certified part-time wages of 1 ineligible police officer and overstated payroll by \$3,765 in 2007 on Certification Form AG 385. In addition, the township understated the total eligible payroll for police officers by \$588 in 2009 on Certification Form AG 385.

Criteria: Pursuant to Act 205, at Section 402(e)(2), an employee who has been employed on a full-time basis for at least six consecutive months and has been participating in a pension plan during the certification year is eligible for certification.

In addition, according to the instructions that accompany Certification Form AG 385, the total payroll eligible to be certified should be Internal Revenue Service Form W-2 earnings pertaining to full-time positions.

Cause: Plan officials were unaware of the applicable Act 205 guidelines for the certification of eligible employees.

Furthermore, plan officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure the accuracy of the data certified.

Effect: The data submitted on these certification forms is used, in part, to calculate the state aid due to the municipality for distribution to its pension plans. Because the township’s state aid allocations were based on pension costs, the township received an underpayment of state aid of \$455 as identified below:

Year	Type Of Plan	Normal Cost	Payroll Overstated (Understated)	State Aid Overpayment (Underpayment)
2007	Police	10.87034%	\$ 3,765	\$ 409
	Nonuniformed	6.13912%	\$ (13,198)	\$ (810)
2009	Police	9.13551%	\$ (588)	\$ (54)
Net Underpayment of State Aid				<u>\$ (455)</u>

Although the township will be reimbursed for the underpayment of state aid due to the township’s certification errors, the full amount of the 2007 and 2009 state aid allocations were not available to be deposited timely and therefore were not available to pay operating expenses or for investment.

JACKSON TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – (Continued)

Recommendation: We recommend that, in the future, plan officials comply with the instructions that accompany Certification Form AG 385 to assist them in accurately reporting the required pension plan data.

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

JACKSON TOWNSHIP POLICE 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, except for distressed pension plans, for which annual reporting was required through January 1, 2003. The historical information, beginning as of January 1, 2003, is as follows:

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets (a)	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) - Entry Age (b)	Unfunded (Assets in Excess of) Actuarial Accrued Liability (b) - (a)	Funded Ratio (a)/(b)	Covered Payroll (c)	Unfunded (Assets in Excess of) Actuarial Accrued Liability as a % of Payroll [(b-a)/(c)]
01-01-03	\$ 356,933	\$ 544,281	\$ 187,348	65.6%	\$ 240,557	77.9%
01-01-05	442,270	545,286	103,016	81.1%	279,053	36.9%
01-01-07	602,848	602,428	(420)	100.1%	300,596	(0.1%)

Note: The market values of the plan's assets at 01-01-03, 01-01-05 and 01-01-07, have been adjusted to reflect the smoothing of gains and/or losses over a 3-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.

JACKSON TOWNSHIP POLICE 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. However, when assets are in excess of the actuarial accrued liability, the higher the bracketed percentage, the stronger the plan.

JACKSON TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 (UNAUDITED)

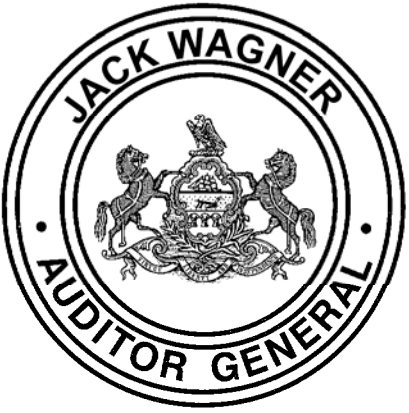
SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER
 AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2003	\$ 41,519	100.0%
2004	44,232	105.2%
2005	56,709	100.0%
2006	42,613	102.1%
2007	44,953	108.4%
2008	34,914	100.0%

JACKSON TOWNSHIP POLICE 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, 2007
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Amortization method	N/A
Remaining amortization period	N/A
Asset valuation method	Fair value, 3-year smoothing
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return *	7.5%
Projected salary increases *	5.0%
* Includes inflation at	Not disclosed
Cost-of-living adjustments	None assumed



JACKSON TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Jackson Township Police Pension Plan
Butler County
140 Magill Road
Zelienople, PA 16063

Mr. Thomas West Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors

Mr. Richard Crown Township Manager

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.