

MAHONING TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN

LAWRENCE COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2009, TO DECEMBER 31, 2011



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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 Mahoning 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 Mahoning Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer defined contribution pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Resolution No. 02-2001, as amended. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the township and its nonuniformed employees. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan. The municipality is required to contribute 5 percent of each member's base wages.



Board of Township Supervisors
Mahoning Township
Lawrence County
Hillsville, PA 16132

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Mahoning 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 *Government Auditing Standards* applicable to performance audits 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 this objective.

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

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Mahoning 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 – Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An 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 Mahoning Township and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

June 4, 2012

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General

MAHONING TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

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

Condition: The township understated the nonuniformed payroll by \$5,622 on the Certification Form AG 385 filed in 2010. The data contained on this certification form is based on prior calendar year information.

Criteria: Pursuant 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 failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure the accuracy of the data certified.

Effect: 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. Because the township’s state aid allocation was based on pension costs, the township received an underpayment of state aid of \$281 as identified below:

<u>Normal Cost</u>	<u>Payroll Understated</u>	<u>State Aid Underpayment</u>
5.0%	\$ 5,622	\$ 281

Although the township will be reimbursed for the underpayment of state aid due to the township’s certification error, the full amount of the 2010 state aid allocation was not available to be deposited timely and therefore resulted in the township having to make additional municipal contributions in order to meet the plan’s funding obligation.

Recommendation: We recommend that 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.

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

MAHONING TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF STATE AID
AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid Deposited	Employer Contributions
2006	\$ 5,742	\$ 548
2007	5,709	31
2008	6,120	740
2009	6,261	1,003
2010	6,146	1,329
2011	6,453	65

MAHONING TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Mahoning Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan
Lawrence County
4538 West State Street
P.O. Box 99
Hillsville, PA 16132

Mr. Mark Sacken Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors
Mr. Gilbert V. Lucarelli 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.