MASONTOWN BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED UNION PENSION PLAN

FAYETTE COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2006, TO DECEMBER 1, 2008



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ABBREVIATION

ERISA - Employee Retirement Income Security Act

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 <u>et seq.</u>). 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 Masontown Borough Nonuniformed Union 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.

As further described in the Letter from the Auditor General included in this report, the borough's nonuniformed union employees participate in the Southwestern Pennsylvania and Western Maryland Area Teamsters and Employers Pension Fund. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the borough and its nonuniformed union employees. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan. The agreement between the municipality and the Southwestern Pennsylvania and Western Maryland Area Teamsters and Employers Pension Fund; The agreement between the municipality and the Southwestern Pennsylvania and Western Maryland Area Teamsters and Employers Pension Fund provides for the following required contributions:

Effective 1-1-2006	\$84 per week per employee
Effective 1-1-2007	\$86 per week per employee
Effective 1-1-2008	\$88 per week per employee



The Honorable Mayor and Borough Council Masontown Borough Fayette County Masontown, PA 15461

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Masontown Borough Nonuniformed Union 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. The borough's nonuniformed union employees participate in the Southwestern Pennsylvania and Western Maryland Area Teamsters and Employers Pension Fund, a Taft-Hartley Act collectively bargained, jointly trusteed, multi-employer pension plan, which is governed primarily by the Federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ERISA provides for substantial federal government oversight of the operating and reporting practices of employee benefit plans subject to its provisions. Accordingly, the scope of our audit was restricted to the activities of the Masontown Borough Nonuniformed Union Pension Plan and did not extend to the activities of the multi-employer pension plan.

Borough officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure to provide reasonable assurance that the Masontown Borough Nonuniformed Union 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 Masontown Borough Nonuniformed Union 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 Masontown Borough and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

June 5, 2009

JACK WAGNER Auditor General

MASONTOWN BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED UNION PENSION PLAN STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS

Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendations

Masontown 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

Municipal officials reimbursed \$9,044 to the Commonwealth for the overpayment of state aid; and

· <u>Allocation Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement</u>

Municipal officials transferred \$1,510 to its defined benefit police pension plan.

MASONTOWN BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED UNION PENSION PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF STATE AID AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid Deposited	Employer Contributions
2003	\$ 29,116	\$ 2,292
2004	28,626	None
2005	15,755	13,729
2006	8,178	23,490
2007	1,561	33,527
2008	6,976	29,949

MASONTOWN BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED UNION PENSION PLAN REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell Governor Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Masontown Borough Nonuniformed Union Pension Plan Fayette County 2 Court Avenue Masontown, PA 15461

The Honorable Thomas E. Loukota Mayor **Council President** Mr. Harry S. Lee

Ms. Donna Weimer

Office Supervisor

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.