



**SPRINGDALE TOWNSHIP POLICE
PENSION PLAN**

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2010, TO DECEMBER 31, 2012

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE - AUDITOR GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL



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**EUGENE A. DePASQUALE
AUDITOR GENERAL**

Board of Township Commissioners
Springdale Township
Allegheny County
Harwick, PA 15049

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Springdale Township Police Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2012. The audit was conducted pursuant to authority derived from Section 402(j) of Act 205 and in accordance with the standards applicable to performance audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* 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. Our methodology addressed determinations about the following:

- Whether state aid was properly determined and deposited in accordance with Act 205 requirements.
- Whether employer contributions are determined and deposited in accordance with the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations.
- Whether employee contributions are required and, if so, are determined, deducted and deposited into the pension plan and are in accordance with the plan provisions and applicable laws and regulations.

- Whether obligations for plan benefits are accurately determined in accordance with plan provisions and based on complete and accurate participant data; and whether actuarial valuation reports are prepared and submitted to the Public Employee Retirement Commission (PERC) in accordance with state law and selected information provided on these reports is accurate, complete and in accordance with plan provisions to ensure compliance for participation in the state aid program.
- Whether the terms of the contractual agreement with the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System are in accordance with the plan's governing document, if separately stated, and applicable laws and regulations.
- Whether refunds are made to eligible members in accordance with the plan provisions and applicable laws and regulations.

The Springdale Township Police 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.

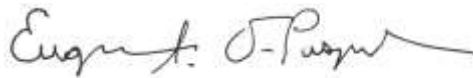
Township officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Springdale Township Police Pension Plan is administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances 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 provide reasonable assurance of detecting instances of noncompliance with legal and regulatory requirements or noncompliance with provisions of contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies that are significant within the context of the audit objectives.

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Springdale 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 – Failure To Include An Eligible Employee In The Pension Plan

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

The contents of this report were discussed with officials of Springdale Township and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report. We would like to thank township officials for the cooperation extended to us during the conduct of the audit.



EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE
Auditor General

November 20, 2013

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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.

Annual state aid allocations are provided from a 2 percent foreign (out-of-state) casualty insurance premium tax, a portion of the foreign (out-of-state) 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 Springdale 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 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 Springdale Township Police Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 382, adopted pursuant to Act 15. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the township and its police officers. As of December 31, 2012, the plan had 2 active members.

SPRINGDALE TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation

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

- Failure To Properly Determine The Minimum Municipal Obligation Of The Plan

The township adjusted and fully paid the plan's 2010 minimum municipal obligation in accordance with Act 205 requirements.

SPRINGDALE TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding - Failure To Include An Eligible Employee In The Pension Plan

Condition: The township has excluded a full-time police officer from participating in the pension plan. The police officer was hired on February 1, 2011, and had a 1 year probation period.

Criteria: The pension plan operates under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law (Act 15). Act 15, at Section 402, states, in part:

. . . When a municipality elects to enroll its municipal employees into the system, then each officer other than elected officials, and each municipal employee thereof, employed on a full-time basis, shall be required to become a member of the system. . . (emphasis added)

Furthermore, the plan agreement with PMRS states, in part:

Coverage – This plan shall cover all full-time police officers hereafter referred to as member, of the township. . . .

Cause: Plan officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure the police officer was enrolled in the plan at the expiration of his probationary period.

Effect: The police officer has yet to begin accruing the benefits that are due pursuant to Act 15 and the PMRS agreement.

Recommendation: We recommend that plan officials take appropriate action to ensure that the full-time police officer is given the opportunity to participate in the pension plan and be eligible for all the benefits due from the pension plan at their earliest opportunity to do so.

Management's Response: Municipal officials agreed with the finding without exception and indicated that they will look into this matter with the assistance of the plan's actuary.

Auditor's Conclusion: Compliance will be evaluated during our next audit of the plan.

SPRINGDALE 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. The historical information, beginning as of January 1, 2007, 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)]
01-01-07	\$ 80,433	\$ 79,822	\$ (611)	100.8%	\$ 121,395	(0.5%)
01-01-09	100,424	76,893	(23,531)	130.6%	185,401	(12.7%)
01-01-11	159,827	135,981	(23,846)	117.5%	175,086	(13.6%)

SPRINGDALE 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. When assets are in excess of the actuarial accrued liability, the higher the bracketed percentage, the stronger the plan.

SPRINGDALE 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
2007	\$ 9,171	100.0%
2008	5,991	108.3%
2009	14,871	100.1%
2010	19,062	100.0%
2011	15,997	100.0%
2012	12,366	100.0%

SPRINGDALE 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, 2011
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Amortization method	N/A
Remaining amortization period	N/A
Asset valuation method	Fair value
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	6.0%, net of expenses
Projected salary increases *	Age-related scale for merit/ seniority (e.g. age 30 - 6.4%; age 40 - 5.0%; age 50 - 4.1%; age 60 - 3.7%)
Cost-of-living adjustments	3.0%, where applicable

* Includes inflation at 3.0%

SPRINGDALE TOWNSHIP POLICE PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Springdale Township Police Pension Plan
Allegheny County
P.O. Box 177
Harwick, PA 15049

Mr. George A. Manning	President, Board of Township Commissioners
Ms. Dawn A. Biery	Secretary
Ms. Kristine M. Cline	Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at www.auditorgen.state.pa.us. Media questions about the report can be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 231 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: news@auditorgen.state.pa.us.