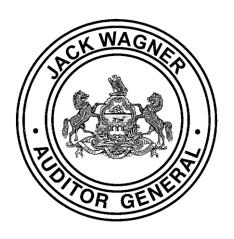
# SUSQUEHANNA REGIONAL POLICE PENSION PLAN LANCASTER COUNTY

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 Susquehanna Regional 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 Susquehanna Regional Police Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 2, as amended, adopted pursuant to Act 600. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the regional police commission and its police officers.



Susquehanna Regional Police Commission Lancaster County Marietta, PA 17547

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Susquehanna Regional Police 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.

Commission officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Susquehanna Regional 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 commission's internal controls as they relate to the commission'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 Susquehanna Regional 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 – Restated Plan Document Not Adopted By Ordinance

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 the Susquehanna Regional Police Commission and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

April 6, 2012

JACK WAGNER Auditor General

### SUSQUEHANNA REGIONAL POLICE PENSION PLAN FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

## Finding - Restated Plan Document Not Adopted By Ordinance

<u>Condition</u>: The terms, provisions and conditions of the police pension plan were restated in a separately executed plan agreement with the Principal Financial Group effective January 1, 2008. However, the restated plan agreement has not been formally adopted by an ordinance that would properly amend the plan's existing governing ordinance. The current ordinance makes reference to an agreement effective January 1, 2003.

<u>Criteria</u>: Act 600 at Section 1(a)(1) states, in part:

Each borough, town and township of this Commonwealth maintaining a police force of three or more full-time members and each regional police department shall, and all other boroughs, towns or townships may, establish, by ordinance or resolution, a police pension fund. . . .

Furthermore, in <u>Wynne v. Lower Merion Township</u>, 181 Pa. Superior Ct., 524, the Pennsylvania Superior Court held that an ordinance may be amended only by another ordinance and not by a resolution.

<u>Cause</u>: Plan officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure the current plan agreement was properly adopted by ordinance.

<u>Effect</u>: The failure to properly adopt the plan agreement could result in improper or inconsistent benefit payments to plan members and their beneficiaries.

<u>Recommendation</u>: We recommend that commission officials take appropriate action to formally adopt the restated plan document through a properly executed ordinance.

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

# SUSQUEHANNA REGIONAL 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)
						Unfunded
			Unfunded			(Assets in
		Actuarial	(Assets in			Excess of)
		Accrued	Excess of)			Actuarial
	Actuarial	Liability	Actuarial			Accrued
Actuarial	Value of	(AAL) -	Accrued	Funded	Covered	Liability as a %
Valuation	Assets	Entry Age	Liability	Ratio	Payroll	of Payroll
Date	(a)	(b)	(b) - (a)	(a)/(b)	(c)	[(b-a)/(c)]
01-01-07	\$ 2,192,213	\$ 1,941,348	\$ (250,865)	112.9%	\$ 738,213	(34.0%)
01-01-09	1,940,760	2,214,355	273,595	87.6%	834,417	32.8%
01-01-11	2,584,876	2,591,060	6,184	99.8%	979,403	0.6%

Note: The market values of the plan's assets at 01-01-09 and 01-01-11 have been adjusted to reflect the smoothing of gains and/or losses over a 5-year averaging period subject to a corridor between 80 to 120 percent of market value. 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.

# SUSQUEHANNA REGIONAL 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.

# SUSQUEHANNA REGIONAL POLICE PENSION PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)

# SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2006	\$ 91,908	100.0%
2007	126,057	100.0%
2008	101,134	100.0%
2009	108,560	100.0%
2010	180,805	108.3%
2011	166,421	120.2%

# SUSQUEHANNA REGIONAL 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 Level dollar

Remaining amortization period 3 years

Asset valuation method 5-year smoothing, subject to a corridor

between 80-120% of market value.

Actuarial assumptions:

Investment rate of return \* 7.75%

Projected salary increases \* 5.0%

\* Includes inflation at Not disclosed

Cost-of-living adjustments Related to the Consumer Price Index

(up to 3% annually) with an overall benefit limit of 130% of the normal

retirement benefit.



### SUSQUEHANNA REGIONAL POLICE PENSION PLAN REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett Governor Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Susquehanna Regional Police Pension Plan Lancaster County 188 Rock Point Road Marietta, PA 17547

Mr. Stephen Mohr Chairman, Regional Police Commission

Mr. Charles E. Haugh Chief Administrative Officer

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.