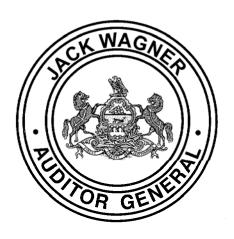
# UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN LEHIGH COUNTY

FOR THE PERIOD

**JANUARY 1, 2007, TO DECEMBER 31, 2009** 



# UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN LEHIGH COUNTY

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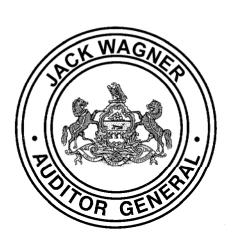
#### **BACKGROUND**

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 Upper Saucon 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 Upper Saucon Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 62, as amended.



Board of Township Supervisors Upper Saucon Township Lehigh County Center Valley, PA 18034

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Upper Saucon Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2007, to December 31, 2009. 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 the objective identified above. Upper Saucon 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 Upper Saucon 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 Upper Saucon 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 – Failure To Timely Pay Pension Benefit

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

August 24, 2010

JACK WAGNER Auditor General

### UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

#### <u>Finding</u> – Failure To Timely Pay Pension Benefit

<u>Condition</u>: An employee who was a fully vested plan member terminated employment with the township on March 27, 1987. A vested benefit calculation was completed that determined the employee's vested pension benefit would commence on April 1, 2009, which was the member's normal retirement date; however, the benefit was not paid until April 1, 2010.

<u>Criteria</u>: The plan agreement dated November 23, 1982, at Section 4.8(d)(1) stated:

The Vested Benefit will be payable at Normal Retirement Date and shall be payable during the lifetime of the member.

<u>Cause</u>: Plan officials relied on a provision contained in the current plan document, effective January 1, 2003, (after the date of the employee's termination of employment) which requires a plan member to notify the township in writing of their intention to receive a vested pension benefit.

<u>Effect</u>: The failure to timely pay a vested benefit due resulted in a plan member being denied benefits to which the member was entitled in accordance with the plan's governing document in effect at the time of the plan member's termination of employment.

<u>Recommendation</u>: We recommend that the township determine and pay the amount due to the vested member retroactive to April 1, 2009, with appropriate interest.

<u>Management's Response</u>: Municipal officials disagreed with the recommendation. The township processed the vested pension benefit as soon as it was requested by the retiree with a benefit start date of April 1, 2010.

<u>Auditor's Conclusion</u>: As previously stated, the plan agreement in effect at the time the employee terminated employment contained no requirement to formally request vested pension benefits in writing in order for benefit payments to commence. Therefore, the finding and recommendation remain as stated.

### UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED 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, 2005, 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)]
01-01-05	\$ 1,528,207	\$ 2,495,970	\$ 967,763	61.2%	\$ 1,503,405	64.4%
01-01-07	2,108,179	3,093,248	985,069	68.2%	1,685,824	58.4%
01-01-09	2,807,555	3,864,171	1,056,616	72.7%	1,854,779	57.0%

Note: The market value of the plan's assets at 01-01-09 has been adjusted to reflect the smoothing of gains and/or losses over a 5-year averaging period, which will also be limited to a maximum of 120 percent and a minimum of 80 percent of the fair market value of assets. 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.

### UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED 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.

# UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)

# SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2004	\$ 110,333	145.5%
2005	243,676	100.1%
2006	226,227	100.0%
2007	237,802	100.0%
2008	227,463	100.0%
2009	236,187	100.0%

## UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED 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, 2009

Actuarial cost method Entry age normal

Amortization method Level dollar

Remaining amortization period 15 years

Asset valuation method The actuarial value of assets will be

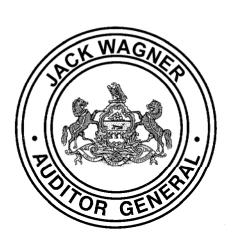
limited to a maximum of 120% and a minimum of 80% of the fair

market value of assets.

Actuarial assumptions:

Investment rate of return 8.0%

Projected salary increases 5.0%



# UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell Governor Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Upper Saucon Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan Lehigh County 5500 Camp Meeting Road Center Valley, PA 18034

Mr. Miro A. Gutzmirtl Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors

Mr. Thomas F. Beil Township Manager

Mr. Robert E. Kassel, Jr. Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Thomas Young Accounting 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.