



**WESTERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE FORCE
PENSION PLAN**

BERKS COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2011 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**

Regional Police Commission
Western Berks Regional Police Force
Berks County
Wernersville, PA 19565

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Western Berks Regional Police Force Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2011 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 the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings 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. 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 benefit payments, if any, represent payments to all (and only) those entitled to receive them and are properly determined in accordance with 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 benefit payments have only been made to living recipients, based on the Social Security numbers found in the pension records for retirees and beneficiaries.
- Whether transfers were properly authorized, accurate, timely and properly recorded.

Commission officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Western Berks Regional Police Force 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 regional police commission's internal controls as they relate to the regional police 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 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 objective.

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Western Berks Regional Police Force 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 findings further discussed later in this report:

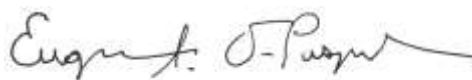
Finding No. 1 – Failure To Establish Pension Plan By Ordinance Or Resolution

Finding No. 2 – Failure To Appoint A Chief Administrative Officer

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 Western Berks Regional Police Commission and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report. We would like to thank regional police commission officials for the cooperation extended to us during the conduct of the audit.

February 3, 2014



EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE
Auditor General

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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 Western Berks Regional Police Force 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 Western Berks Regional Police Force Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan controlled by the provisions of Act 600. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the regional police commission and its police officers. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan. As of December 31, 2012, the plan had 4 active members, 1 terminated member eligible for vested benefits in the future and 1 retiree receiving pension benefits from the plan.

BACKGROUND – (Continued)

As of December 31, 2012, selected plan benefit provisions are as follows:

Eligibility Requirements:

Normal Retirement Age 50 and 25 years of service.

Early Retirement None

Vesting 100% after 12 years of service.

Retirement Benefit:

50% of average monthly pay based on last 36 months multiplied by the accrued benefit adjustment, plus \$20 per year of service in excess of 25 (maximum \$100).

Survivor Benefit:

Before Retirement Eligibility Refund of member contributions plus interest.

After Retirement Eligibility A monthly benefit equal to 50% of the pension the member was receiving or was entitled to receive on the day of the member's death.

Service Related Disability Benefit:

50% of the member's salary at the time the disability was incurred, offset by Social Security disability benefits received for the same injury.

WESTERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE FORCE PENSION PLAN
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding No. 1 - Failure To Establish Pension Plan By Ordinance Or Resolution

Condition: Robesonia Borough and Wernersville Borough formed the Western Berks Regional Police Force Pension Plan; however, the plan was not formally established by ordinance or resolution in accordance with Act 600 provisions.

Criteria: Section 1(a)(1) of Act 600 states, in part:

Each borough, town and township. . . maintaining a police force of three or more full-time members and each regional police department shall establish, by ordinance or resolution, a police pension fund.

Cause: Plan officials failed to adopt adequate internal control procedures to ensure the regional pension plan was established by ordinance or resolution in accordance with Act 600 provisions.

Effect: The participating municipalities' intentions were not formally established through a properly executed ordinance or resolution.

Recommendation: We recommend that plan officials, with the assistance of their solicitor, establish the police pension plan in accordance with Act 600 provisions through the adoption of a properly executed ordinance or resolution at their earliest opportunity to do so.

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

WESTERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE FORCE PENSION PLAN
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding No. 2 - Failure To Appoint A Chief Administrative Officer

Condition: Plan officials have not appointed a chief administrative officer (CAO) for the pension plan by ordinance, resolution or by a motion recorded in the minutes of a commission meeting.

Criteria: Section 102 of Act 205 defines the CAO as “The person who has primary responsibility for the execution of the administrative affairs of the municipality in the case of the municipality, or of the pension plan in the case of the pension plan, or the designee of that person.”

Municipal officials may appoint two CAOs - one for the pension plan and one for the municipality or appoint one person to fill both positions. Act 205 identifies specific duties for each position, as follows:

CAO of the Municipality

- Supervise and direct the preparation of actuarial reports (Section 201(d));
- Certify and file actuarial valuation reports with the Public Employee Retirement Commission (Section 201(b)); and
- Make actuarial report information available to plan members (Section 201(e)).

CAO of the Pension Plan

- Annually, determine and submit to the governing body of the municipality the financial requirements of the pension plan and minimum municipal obligation (Section 302(b), Section 302(c), Section 303(b), Section 303(c) and Section 304); and
- Provide the governing body of the municipality with a cost estimate of the effect of any proposed benefit plan modification (Section 305(a)).

Cause: Plan officials were unaware of the need to appoint a CAO for the pension plan in accordance with Act 205 provisions.

WESTERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE FORCE PENSION PLAN
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding No. 2 - (Continued)

Effect: The failure to formally appoint a CAO could result in important filing deadlines being overlooked, state aid being adversely affected or delayed and investment opportunities being lost.

Recommendation: Because of the significance of the CAO's responsibilities to the municipality or pension plan, we recommend that the CAO be formally appointed by ordinance, resolution or motion recorded in the minutes of a commission meeting. Such ordinance, resolution or motion should detail the CAO's responsibilities and be filed with other plan documents.

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

WESTERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE FORCE 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, 2011, 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)]
01-01-11	\$ 1,085,865	\$ 1,026,743	\$ (59,122)	105.8%	\$ 206,864	(28.6%)

Generally accepted accounting principles require the above data to be presented as of the plan's actuarial valuation dates for the past six consecutive fiscal years. Since six years of data were not yet available, this requirement will be implemented prospectively.

WESTERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE FORCE 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.

WESTERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE FORCE PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER
AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2011	\$ 6,665	214.8%
2012	26,686	100.0%

Generally accepted accounting principles require the above data to be presented for the past six consecutive fiscal years. Since six years of data were not yet available, this requirement will be implemented prospectively.

WESTERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE FORCE 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	Market value
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	7.0%
Projected salary increases	5.0%
Cost-of-living adjustments	3.0%

WESTERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE FORCE PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Western Berks Regional Police Force Pension Plan
Berks County
100 North Reber Street
Wernersville, PA 19565

Mr. Edward Evans	Chairman, Regional Police Commission
Ms. Denise Curtis	Administrative Assistant

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.