

ZERBE TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY
COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2008, TO DECEMBER 31, 2009



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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Background.....	1
Letter from the Auditor General	3
Status of Prior Finding	5
Finding and Recommendation:	
Finding – Partial Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement	6
Supplementary Information	8
Report Distribution List	9

ABBREVIATION

PMRS - Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System

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 Zerbe 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 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 Zerbe Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer cash balance pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 1998-2, adopted pursuant to Act 15. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan; however, members may voluntarily contribute up to 10 percent of compensation. The municipality is required to contribute 4 percent of each member's compensation.



Board of Township Supervisors
Zerbe Township
Northumberland County
Trevorton, PA 17881

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Zerbe Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2008, 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 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. The Zerbe Township Nonuniformed 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 Zerbe 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 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 the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objectives.

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Zerbe 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 – Partial Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Receipt Of
State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement

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

January 26, 2011

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General

ZERBE TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

Partial Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation

Zerbe Township has partially complied with the prior audit recommendation concerning the following:

· Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement

During the current audit period, the township reimbursed \$1,131 to the Commonwealth for the overpayment of state aid in received in 2007; however, plan officials failed to reconcile the amount of state aid allocated to the township with the plan's actual defined contribution pension costs in the year 2009, as further discussed in the Finding and Recommendation section of this report.

ZERBE TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – Partial Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation – Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement

Condition: As disclosed in the prior audit report, the township received state aid in excess of the nonuniformed pension plan’s defined contribution pension costs in the year 2007. During the current audit period, the township reimbursed \$1,131 to the Commonwealth for the overpayment of state aid received; however, plan officials failed to reconcile the amount of state aid allocated to the township with the plan’s actual defined contribution pension costs in the year 2009. The township received state aid in excess of the nonuniformed pension plan’s defined contribution pension costs in the year 2009, as illustrated below:

State aid allocation	\$ 6,343
Actual municipal pension costs	<u>(3,891)</u>
Excess state aid	<u>\$ 2,452</u>

Criteria: Section 402(f)(2) of Act 205 states:

No municipality shall be entitled to receive an allocation of general municipal pension system State aid in an amount which exceeds the aggregate actual financial requirements of any municipal pension plans for police officers, paid firefighters or employees other than police officers or paid firefighters maintained by the municipality, less the amount of any aggregate annual member or employee contributions during the next succeeding plan year, as reported in the most recent complete actuarial report filed with the commission.

Cause: Plan officials failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to ensure full compliance with the prior audit recommendation.

Effect: It is this department’s opinion that because the entire proceeds of the insurance premium tax on foreign casualty insurance companies are distributed annually to each eligible recipient municipality, it is inappropriate to use state aid in one year to offset pension costs in other years. Consequently, the overpayment of state aid in the year 2009, in the total amount of \$2,452, must be returned to the Commonwealth for redistribution.

ZERBE TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – (Continued)

Recommendation: We recommend that the municipality return the \$2,452 of excess state aid received in the year 2009 to the Commonwealth from township's general fund. A check in this amount, with interest compounded annually from date of receipt to date of repayment, at a rate earned by the plan, should be made payable to: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and mailed to: Department of the Auditor General, Municipal Pension & Fire Relief Programs Unit, 11 Stanwix Street, Suite 1450, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. A copy of the interest calculation must be submitted along with evidence of payment.

Furthermore, we again recommend that, in the future, plan officials reconcile the amount of state aid allocated to the township with the plan's actual defined contribution pension costs.

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

ZERBE TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF STATE AID
AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid Deposited	Employer Contributions
2004	\$ 5,299	\$ 178
2005	5,358	528
2006	5,746	875
2007	6,501	None
2008	6,012	431
2009	3,891	None

ZERBE TOWNSHIP NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Zerbe Township Nonuniformed Pension Plan
Northumberland County
800 Mahanoy Street
Trevorton, PA 17881

Mr. Michael Schwartz	Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors
Mr. Michael Mazer	Secretary
Ms. Kristine M. Cline	Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System

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.