



**ZERBE TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED  
PENSION PLAN**

**NORTHUMBERLAND 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**



**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of the Auditor General  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0018  
Facebook: Pennsylvania Auditor General  
Twitter: @PAAuditorGen**

**EUGENE A. DePASQUALE  
AUDITOR GENERAL**

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

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Zerbe Township Non-Uniformed 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 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 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.

The Zerbe Township Non-Uniformed 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 Non-Uniformed 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.

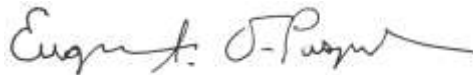
The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Zerbe Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies, except as noted in the following finding 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 or conclude on it 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.

June 17, 2013



EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE  
Auditor General

## CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Background.....	1
Status of Prior Finding.....	2
Finding and Recommendation:	
Finding – Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement.....	3
Potential Withhold of State Aid.....	5
Supplementary Information .....	6
Report Distribution List .....	7

## 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 Zerbe Township Non-Uniformed 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 Non-Uniformed 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.

ZERBE TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED 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 \$2,694 to the Commonwealth for the overpayment of state aid received in 2009; however, plan officials failed to reconcile the amount of state aid allocated to the township with the plan's actual pension costs in the years 2011 and 2012, as further discussed in the Finding and Recommendation section of this report.

ZERBE TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED 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 non-uniformed pension plan’s pension costs in the year 2009. During the current audit period, the township reimbursed \$2,694 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 pension costs in the years 2011 and 2012. The township received state aid in excess of the non-uniformed pension plan’s pension costs in the years 2011 and 2012, as illustrated below:

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
State aid allocation	\$ 4,921	\$ 3,949
Actual municipal pension costs	(4,073)	(1,721)
Excess state aid	\$ 848	\$ 2,228

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 reconcile the amount of the township’s state aid allocations with the plan’s actual defined contribution pension costs to ensure full compliance with the prior audit recommendation.



ZERBE TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN  
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – (Continued)

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 overpayments of state aid received in the years 2011 and 2012 must be returned to the Commonwealth for redistribution.

Furthermore, a condition of this nature may lead to a total withholding of state aid in the future unless the finding is corrected.

Recommendation: We recommend that the municipality return the \$3,076 of excess state aid received in the years 2011 and 2012 to the Commonwealth from the 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 recommend that in the future, plan officials reconcile the township's annual state aid allocation and municipal contributions made to the pension plan with the plan's annual defined contribution pension costs and reimburse any excess state aid received to the Commonwealth.

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

ZERBE TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN  
POTENTIAL WITHHOLD OF STATE AID

The finding contained in this audit report cites an overpayment of state aid to the township in the amount of \$3,076. A condition of this nature may lead to a total withholding of state aid in the future unless the finding is corrected. A check in this amount with interest, at a rate earned by the pension 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.

ZERBE TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN  
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
(UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF STATE AID  
AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid Deposited	Employer Contributions
2007	\$ 6,501	None
2008	6,012	\$ 431
2009	3,891	None
2010	3,611	1,363
2011	4,073	None
2012	1,721	None

ZERBE TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Zerbe Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan  
Northumberland County  
800 Mahanoy Street  
Trevorton, PA 17881

Mr. Michael Schwartz	Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors
Ms. Ellen Troutman	Chief Administrative Officer
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](http://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](mailto:news@auditorgen.state.pa.us).