

# COMPLIANCE AUDIT

---

## Blooming Grove Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan Pike County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2022

---

March 2024



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of the Auditor General

Timothy L. DeFoor • Auditor General

---



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

**TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR  
AUDITOR GENERAL**

Board of Township Supervisors  
Blooming Grove Township  
Pike County  
Lords Valley, PA 18428

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Blooming Grove Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2022. We also evaluated compliance with some requirements subsequent to that period when possible. The audit was conducted pursuant to authority derived from the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act (Act 205 of 1984, as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.402(j)), which requires the Auditor General, as deemed necessary, to audit every municipality which receives general municipal pension system state aid and every municipal pension plan and fund in which general municipal pension system state aid is deposited. The audit was not conducted, nor was it required to be, in accordance with Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. We planned and performed the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our 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. To determine whether the pension plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies, our methodology included the following:

- We determined whether state aid was properly determined and deposited in accordance with Act 205 requirements by verifying the annual deposit date of state aid and determining whether deposits were made within 30 days of receipt for all years within the period under audit.

- We determined whether annual employer contributions were calculated and deposited in accordance with the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations by examining the municipality's calculation of the plan's annual financial requirements and minimum municipal obligation (MMO) and comparing these calculated amounts to amounts actually budgeted and deposited into the pension plan as evidenced by supporting documentation.
- We determined whether annual employee contributions were calculated, deducted, and deposited into the pension plan in accordance with the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations by testing total members' contributions on an annual basis using the rates obtained from the plan's governing document in effect for all years within the period under audit and examining documents evidencing the deposit of these employee contributions into the pension plan. We also tested individual employee contributions for all four active employees employed during the years 2018 and 2019, amounting to \$21,575, and \$20,979, respectively, for all five active employees employed during the year 2020, amounting to \$20,109, and for all four active employees employed during the years 2021 and 2022, amounting to \$18,685 and \$19,979, respectively, made during the audit period.
- We determined whether retirement benefits calculated for plan members who retired or separated employment and received a lump-sum distribution during the current audit period represent payments to all (and only) those entitled to receive them and were properly determined and disbursed in accordance with the plan's governing document, applicable laws, and regulations by recalculating the amount of the monthly pension benefits due to the retired individuals and comparing these amounts to supporting documentation evidencing amounts determined and actually paid to the recipients.
- We determined whether the January 1, 2017, January 1, 2019, and January 1, 2021 actuarial valuation reports were prepared and submitted by March 31, 2018, 2020, and 2022, respectively, in accordance with Act 205 and whether 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 by comparing selected information to supporting source documentation.

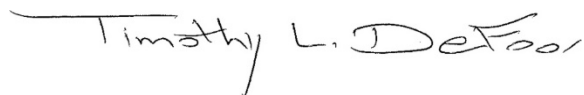
The Blooming Grove Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan participates in the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS), which is an agent multiple-employer public employee retirement system that acts as a common investment and administrative agent for participating municipal pension plans. PMRS issues a separate Annual Comprehensive 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 Blooming Grove Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan is administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies. As previously described, we tested transactions, interviewed selected officials, and performed procedures to the extent necessary 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 procedures indicated that, in all significant respects, the Blooming Grove Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies.

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 Blooming Grove Township and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report. We would like to thank township officials for the cooperation extended to us during the conduct of the audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy L. DeFoor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first name.

Timothy L. DeFoor  
Auditor General  
February 26, 2024

## CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Background.....	1
Supplementary Information .....	2
Report Distribution List .....	4

## 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.

Annual state aid allocations are provided from a two 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 Blooming Grove Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan is also governed by implementing regulations 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 Blooming Grove Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer cash balance pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 72 and a separately executed plan agreement with the plan custodian effective January 1, 2020, adopted pursuant to Act 15. Prior to January 1, 2020, the plan was locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 65 and a separately executed plan agreement with the plan custodian effective October 1, 2013, adopted pursuant to Act 15. The plan was established January 1, 1998. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan; however, may optionally contribute up to 20 percent of compensation to the plan. The municipality is required to contribute 5 percent of compensation to the plan. As of December 31, 2022, the plan had four active members and two retirees receiving pension benefits.

BLOOMING GROVE TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN  
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
 (UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	Statutorily Required Contribution (SRC)*	Contributions in Relation to the SRC*	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)**	Covered- Employee Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered- Employee Payroll
2014	\$ 8,590	\$ 8,548	\$ 42	\$ 169,388	5.05%
2015	8,773	8,684	89	173,059	5.02%
2016	8,963	8,963	-	176,862	5.07%
2017	9,383	9,382	1	185,326	5.06%
2018	9,181	8,373	808	181,216	4.62%
2019	9,166	9,994	(828)	180,527	5.54%
2020	9,555	9,555	-	187,493	5.10%
2021	9,604	9,604	-	189,272	5.07%
2022	9,775	9,775	-	192,294	5.08%

\* The Statutorily Required Contribution (SRC) is a contribution amount based upon the payroll and the contribution rate as outlined under the terms of the cash balance pension plan.

\*\* The Statutorily Required Contribution and the actual Contribution were provided by PMRS. Deviation between these amounts may be due to contributions to or transfers from the municipal reserve account.

In 2014, the township met the plan's \$8,470 funding requirement through the deposit of \$6,269 in state aid and \$2,201 in municipal contributions.

In 2015, the township met the plan's \$8,684 funding requirement through the deposit of \$6,531 in state aid and \$2,153 in municipal contributions.

In 2016, the township met the plan's \$8,963 funding requirement through the deposit of \$6,649 in state aid and \$2,314 in municipal contributions.

In 2017, the township met the plan's \$9,266 funding requirement through the deposit of \$6,802 in state aid and \$2,464 in municipal contributions.

BLOOMING GROVE TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN  
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
(UNAUDITED)

In 2018, the township met the plan's \$9,201 funding requirement through the deposit of \$7,164 in state aid and \$2,037 in municipal contributions.

In 2019, the township met the plan's \$9,166 funding requirement through the deposit of \$8,074 in state aid and \$1,092 in municipal contributions.

In 2020, the township met the plan's \$9,555 funding requirement through the deposit of \$8,706 in state aid and \$849 in municipal contributions.

In 2021, the township met the plan's \$9,604 funding requirement through the deposit of \$8,538 in state aid and \$1,066 in municipal contributions.

In 2022, the township met the plan's \$9,775 funding requirement through the deposit of \$9,464 in state aid and \$311 in municipal contributions.



BLOOMING GROVE TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

**The Honorable Joshua D. Shapiro**  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

**Mr. Nicholas Mazza**  
Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors

**Ms. Jo-Anna M. Donahue**  
Secretary/Treasurer

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at [www.PaAuditor.gov](http://www.PaAuditor.gov). Media questions about the report can be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 229 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: [news@PaAuditor.gov](mailto:news@PaAuditor.gov).