

COMPLIANCE AUDIT

Falls Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan Bucks County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017

March 2019



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General

Eugene A. DePasquale • Auditor General



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**EUGENE A. DePASQUALE
AUDITOR GENERAL**

Board of Township Supervisors
Falls Township
Bucks County
Fairless Hills, PA 19030

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Falls Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017. We also evaluated compliance with some requirements subsequent to that period when possible. 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 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. Employer contributions that were deposited into the pension plan for the years ended December 31, 2012 to December 31, 2017, are presented on the Summary of Deposited State Aid and Employer Contributions.

- We determined that there were no employee contributions required by the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations for the years covered by our audit period.
- We determined whether retirement benefits calculated for all 9 of the plan members who terminated employment or retired and elected a lump-sum form of pension benefit 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 comparing the distributed amounts to supporting documentation evidencing amounts determined and actually paid to recipients.
- We determined whether the January 1, 2013, January 1, 2015 and January 1, 2017 actuarial valuation reports were prepared and submitted by March 31, 2014, 2016 and 2018, 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.


Falls 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 Falls 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 objective, and assessed whether those significant controls were properly designed and implemented. Additionally and as previously described, 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 procedures indicated that, in all significant respects, the Falls Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies.

The contents of this report were discussed with officials of Falls Township and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

February 21, 2019


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 Falls Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan is also governed by implementing regulations adopted by the former Public Employee Retirement Commission published at Title 16, Part IV of the Pennsylvania Code and applicable provisions of various other state statutes.

The Falls Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer defined contribution pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Resolution No. 87-2. The plan is also affected by the provisions of collective bargaining agreements between the township and its non-uniformed employees. The plan was established January 5, 1987. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan. The municipality is required to contribute 5 percent of each member's salary. As of December 31, 2017, the plan had 45 active members, 16 terminated members eligible for vested benefits in the future, and 5 retirees receiving pension benefits.

FALLS TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
STATUS OF PRIOR AUDIT RECOMMENDATION

Status Of Prior Audit Recommendation

· Ineligible Employees Participating In Pension Plan

As disclosed in the prior seven audit reports, the collective bargaining agreements between the township and its non-uniformed employees inappropriately allow part-time school crossing guards to participate in the township's non-uniformed pension plan, which is not authorized by Act 69. Municipal officials have not been successful in removing this provision from the collective bargaining agreements up to and including the latest collective bargaining agreement covering the period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2017.

During the current and prior audit periods, since the township received its state aid allocations based on unit value for its pension plans, it did not receive allocations attributable to the part-time school crossing guards being included in the pension plan. The Department will continue to monitor the effect of the ineligible employees participating in the pension plan on the township's future state aid allocations during subsequent audits of the plan, which may require the township to reimburse any excess state aid received attributable to the participation of the ineligible employees to the Commonwealth.

FALLS TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
SUMMARY OF DEPOSITED STATE AID AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

| Year Ended December 31 | State Aid | Employer Contributions |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| 2012 | None | \$ 101,404 |
| 2013 | None | 103,187 |
| 2014 | None | 114,272 |
| 2015 | None | 110,945 |
| 2016 | None | 118,374 |
| 2017 | None | 120,199 |

FALLS TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom W. Wolf
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Mr. Robert Harvie
Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors

Mr. Jeffrey Dence
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Mr. Jeffrey Rocco
Township Secretary

Mr. Jeff Boraski
Township Supervisor

Mr. Brian Galloway
Township Supervisor

Mr. Peter Gray
Township Manager

Ms. Jean E. Reukauf
Finance Director

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at 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.