

COMPLIANCE AUDIT

Hanover Township Non-Uniformed Employees' Money Purchase Pension Plan Northampton County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2019

January 2021



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
Hanover Township
Northampton County
Bethlehem, PA 18017

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Hanover Township Non-Uniformed Employees' Money Purchase Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2019. 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 objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our 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 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. To determine if municipal officials took appropriate corrective action to address the finding contained in our prior report, we inquired of plan officials and evaluated supporting documentation provided by officials evidencing that the suggested corrective action has been appropriately taken. 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:

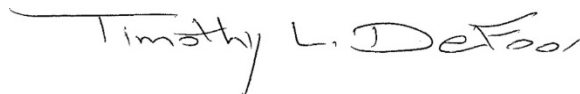
- We determined whether state aid was properly determined and deposited in accordance with Act 205 requirements by verifying the annual deposit date of state aid and determining whether deposits were made within 30 days of receipt for all years within the period under audit.
- We determined whether annual 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, 2014 to December 31, 2019, are presented on the Summary of Deposited State Aid and Employer Contributions.
- 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 made during the audit period for all 12 active employees employed during 2017 and all 14 active employees employed during 2018 and 2019, amounting to \$39,532, \$47,403 and \$51,352, for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019, respectively.
- We determined whether retirement benefits calculated for plan members who 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 pension benefits due to the terminated individuals and comparing these amounts to supporting documentation evidencing amounts determined and actually paid to the recipients.
- We determined whether the January 1, 2017, and January 1, 2019 actuarial valuation reports were prepared and submitted by March 31, 2018, and 2020, 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.

Township officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Hanover Township Non-Uniformed Employees' Money Purchase 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 objectives.

The results of our procedures indicated that, in all significant respects, the Hanover Township Non-Uniformed Employees' Money Purchase 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 Hanover 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 long horizontal line extending to the left of the first letter.

TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR
Auditor General

January 22, 2021

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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.

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 Hanover Township Non-Uniformed Employees' Money Purchase 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.

The Hanover Township Non-Uniformed Employees' Money Purchase Pension Plan is a single-employer defined contribution pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Resolution No. 2006-19, effective January 1, 2007, as amended for all township employees hired on or after January 1, 2007. The plan was established January 1, 2007. Active members are required to contribute 6 percent of annual salary to the plan and may make voluntary contributions of up to limits established by Internal Revenue Service Regulations. The municipality is required to match each members' contributions up to 8 percent of annual salary. As of December 31, 2019, the plan had 14 active members.

HANOVER TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES'
MONEY PURCHASE PENSION PLAN
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

Compliance With Prior Recommendation

Hanover Township has complied with the prior recommendation concerning the following:

- Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In A Net Overpayment Of State Aid

During the current audit period, the township returned excess state aid of \$4,149 to the Commonwealth for the overpayment of state aid received during 2015 and 2016 and complied with the instructions accompanying Certification Form AG 385 and accurately reported the required pension data.

HANOVER TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES'
MONEY PURCHASE PENSION PLAN
SUMMARY OF DEPOSITED STATE AID AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid	Employer Contributions
2014	None	\$ 21,556
2015	None	28,515
2016	None	26,482*
2017	None	39,532
2018	None	47,105
2019	None	49,163

* Note: In 2016, the township met the plan's \$33,190 funding requirement by depositing \$26,482 in employer contributions and applying \$6,708 in accumulated forfeitures from terminated employees' accounts.

HANOVER TOWNSHIP NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES'
MONEY PURCHASE PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom W. Wolf
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Mr. John N. Diacogiannis
Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors

Mr. John J. Finnigan, Jr.
Township Manager

Ms. Beth A. Bucko
Treasurer

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.