

# LIMITED PROCEDURES ENGAGEMENT

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## Northumberland Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan Northumberland County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2017

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November 2018



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of the Auditor General

Eugene A. DePasquale • Auditor General



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EUGENE A. DePASQUALE  
AUDITOR GENERAL

The Honorable Mayor and Borough Council  
Northumberland Borough  
Northumberland County  
Northumberland, PA 17857

We conducted a Limited Procedures Engagement (LPE) of the Northumberland Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2017 to determine its compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies. We also evaluated compliance with some requirements subsequent to that period when possible. The LPE was conducted pursuant to authority derived from Section 402(j) of the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act (P.L. 1005, No. 205, as amended, 53 P.S. § 895.101 *et seq.*) but was not conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. 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. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis to support our LPE results.

Our LPE was limited to determining the following:

- 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 engagement period.
- 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.
- Whether annual employee contributions were required during the engagement period and, if so, 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 engagement period and examining documents evidencing the deposit of these employee contributions into the pension plan.

- Whether retirement benefits calculated for plan members who retired during the engagement 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 benefit due to retired individuals and comparing these amounts to supporting documentation evidencing amounts determined and actually paid to recipients.
- 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.


Based on the results of our procedures performed during our LPE, nothing came to our attention indicating that the Northumberland Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan was not being administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies.

Our determination to perform a LPE for this engagement period does not preclude the Department from conducting an audit in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* of the pension plan in subsequent periods. The borough should continue to maintain documentation related to this pension plan.

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 Northumberland Borough and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in this report. We would like to thank borough officials for the cooperation extended to us during the conduct of this LPE.

November 14, 2018

  
EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE  
Auditor General

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NORTHUMBERLAND BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN  
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
(UNAUDITED)

The supplementary information contained on Pages 1 and 2 reflects the implementation of GASB Statement No. 67, *Financial Reporting for Pension Plans*. The objective of this statement is to improve financial reporting by state and local governmental pension plans.

SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE NET PENSION  
LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014, 2015, AND 2016

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Total Pension Liability			
Service cost	\$ 46,877	\$ 41,943	\$ 47,614
Interest	53,224	54,296	57,248
Difference between expected and actual experience	(56,265)	(430)	16,768
Changes of assumptions	-	(3,885)	31,126
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	<u>(18,259)</u>	<u>(19,733)</u>	<u>(69,646)</u>
Net Change in Total Pension Liability	25,577	72,191	83,110
Total Pension Liability – Beginning	<u>929,840</u>	<u>955,417</u>	<u>1,027,608</u>
Total Pension Liability – Ending (a)	<u>\$ 955,417</u>	<u>\$ 1,027,608</u>	<u>\$ 1,110,718</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position			
Contributions – employer	\$ 39,654	\$ 37,525	\$ 33,427
Contributions – PMRS assessment	-	340	280
Contributions – employee	10,245	10,313	12,114
PMRS investment income	45,427	50,780	48,566
Market value investment income	17,655	(71,255)	29,365
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(18,259)	(19,733)	(69,646)
PMRS administrative expense	(200)	(340)	(260)
Additional administrative expense	<u>(1,742)</u>	<u>(2,117)</u>	<u>(2,379)</u>
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	92,780	5,513	51,467
Plan Fiduciary Net Position – Beginning	<u>816,869</u>	<u>909,649</u>	<u>915,162</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position – Ending (b)	<u>\$ 909,649</u>	<u>\$ 915,162</u>	<u>\$ 966,629</u>
Net Pension Liability – Ending (a-b)	<u>\$ 45,768</u>	<u>\$ 112,446</u>	<u>\$ 144,089</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	95.21%	89.06%	87.03%
Estimated Covered Employee Payroll	\$ 394,184	\$ 343,756	\$ 403,793
Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Employee Payroll	11.61%	32.71%	35.68%

\* 2014 employer contributions includes actuarial surplus used for disability insurance premiums of \$727 and administrative expenses of \$200; 2015 employer contributions includes actuarial surplus used for administrative expenses of \$60; 2016 employer contributions includes actuarial surplus used for administrative expenses of \$20.

NORTHUMBERLAND BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN  
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
 (UNAUDITED)

Sensitivity of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the net pension liability of the borough as of December 31, 2014 and 2015, calculated using the discount rate of 5.5%, as well as what the borough's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage-point lower or 1 percentage-point higher than the current rate:

	<u>1% Decrease (4.5%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (5.5%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (6.5%)</u>
Net Pension Liability – 12/31/14	\$ 166,942	\$ 45,768	\$ (56,979)
Net Pension Liability – 12/31/15	\$ 240,788	\$ 112,446	\$ 3,626

The following presents the net pension liability of the borough as of December 31, 2016, calculated using the discount rate of 5.25%, as well as what the borough's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage-point lower or 1 percentage-point higher than the current rate:

	<u>1% Decrease (4.25%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (5.25%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (6.25%)</u>
Net Pension Liability – 12/31/16	\$ 249,947	\$ 144,089	\$ 53,752

NORTHUMBERLAND BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN  
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
 (UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS

Historical trend information about the plan is presented herewith as supplementary information. It is intended to help users assess the plan’s funding status on a going-concern basis, assess progress made in accumulating assets to pay benefits when due, and make comparisons with other state and local government retirement systems.

The actuarial information is required by Act 205 biennially. The historical information, beginning as of January 1, 2013, is as follows:

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets (a)	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) - Entry Age (b)	Unfunded (Assets in Excess of) Actuarial Accrued Liability (b) - (a)	Funded Ratio (a)/(b)
01-01-13	\$ 795,843	\$ 852,513	\$ 56,670	93.4%
01-01-15	925,720	955,417	29,697	96.9%
01-01-17	1,033,204	1,110,718	77,514	93.0%

NORTHUMBERLAND BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN  
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
(UNAUDITED)

The comparability of trend information is affected by changes in actuarial assumptions, benefit provisions, actuarial funding methods, accounting policies, and other changes. Those changes usually affect trends in contribution requirements and in ratios that use the actuarial accrued liability as a factor.

Analysis of the dollar amount of the actuarial value of assets, actuarial accrued liability, and unfunded (assets in excess of) actuarial accrued liability in isolation can be misleading. Expressing the actuarial value of assets as a percentage of the actuarial accrued liability (Column 4) provides one indication of the plan's funding status on a going-concern basis. Analysis of this percentage, over time, indicates whether the system is becoming financially stronger or weaker. Generally, the greater this percentage, the stronger the plan.



NORTHUMBERLAND BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN  
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
 (UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER  
 AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2012	\$ 3,169	100.0%
2013	1,277	165.7%
2014	19,326	200.4%
2015	37,805	100.0%
2016	33,687	100.0%
2017	38,976	100.0%

NORTHUMBERLAND BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN  
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
 NOTES TO SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES  
 (UNAUDITED)

The information presented in the supplementary schedules was determined as part of the actuarial valuation at the date indicated. Additional information as of the latest actuarial valuation date follows:

Actuarial valuation date	January 1, 2017
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Amortization method	Level dollar
Remaining amortization period	9 years
Asset valuation method	The Actuarial Value of Assets equals the plan's member, municipal, DROP (if applicable) reserve accounts plus the retiree actuarial liability. This asset smoothing is based on the unique legislative structure of PMRS and the administrative rules adopted by the PMRS Board in conjunction with Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law, all of which are subject to comply with the Actuarial Standards of Practice No. 44, Selection and Use of Asset Valuation Methods when defining the actuarial Value of Assets.

Actuarial assumptions:

Investment rate of return	5.25%, compounded annually, net of investment and administration expenses
Salary scale	Total rate (including inflation) (e.g. age 25 – 7.05%; age 35 – 4.55%; age 45 – 3.97%; age 55 – 3.44%; age 65 – 2.80%)
Cost-of-living adjustments	2.8% per year, subject to plan limitations

NORTHUMBERLAND BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

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