

COMPLIANCE AUDIT

Sandy Township Employee Money Purchase Pension Plan Clearfield County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2023

May 2024



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General

Timothy L. DeFoor • Auditor General



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**TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR
AUDITOR GENERAL**

Board of Township Supervisors
Sandy Township
Clearfield County
Dubois, PA 15801

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Sandy Township Employee Money Purchase Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2023. 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. State aid allocations that were deposited into the pension plan for the years ended December 31, 2018 to December 31, 2023, are presented on the Summary of Deposited State Aid and Employer Contributions.

- 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, 2018 to December 31, 2023, 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 for all active employees employed during the audit period amounting to \$66,791, \$68,457, \$63,236, \$70,339, and \$65,668, for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, respectively, made during the audit period.
- We determined whether retirement benefits calculated for plan members who retired and received a lump sum distribution and plan members who elected to vest 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 retired individuals and comparing these amounts to supporting documentation evidencing amounts determined and actually paid or payable to the recipients.
- We determined whether the January 1, 2019, January 1, 2021, and January 1, 2023 actuarial valuation reports were prepared and submitted by March 31, 2020, 2022, and 2024, 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.

Sandy Township contracted with an independent certified public accounting firm for annual audits of its basic financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 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 Sandy Township Employee 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 objective.

The results of our procedures indicated that, in all significant respects, the Sandy Township Employee 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 Sandy 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
May 9, 2024

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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 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 ~ 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 Sandy Township Employee Money Purchase Pension Plan is a single-employer defined contribution pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Resolution No. 28-2022, and a separately executed joinder agreement with Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Municipal Retirement Trust (PSABMRT), effective October 3, 2022. Prior to October 3, 2022, the plan was locally controlled by the provisions of Resolution No. 2002-25 which also adopted a separately executed joinder agreement with PSABMRT. 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 1, 1998. Active members are required to contribute 6 percent of compensation to the plan. The municipality is also required to contribute 6 percent of eligible participant's compensation. As of December 31, 2023 the plan had 18 active members and 1 terminated member eligible for vested benefits in the future.

SANDY TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEE MONEY PURCHASE PENSION PLAN
SUMMARY OF DEPOSITED STATE AID AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	State Aid	Employer Contributions
2018	\$ 90,224	None
2019	86,352	None
2020	8,556	\$ 79,644
2021	81,885	1,016
2022	None	85,184
2023	8,609	82,391

SANDY TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEE MONEY PURCHASE PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Joshua D. Shapiro
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Mr. Mark Sullivan
Chairman, Board of Township Supervisors

Mr. Shawn Arbaugh
Township Manager

Ms. Theresa Bracken
Secretary

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.