



**VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION OF MORGANTOWN, BERKS
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

HEREIN REFERRED TO AS:

MORGANTOWN VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION

BERKS COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2003 TO FEBRUARY 20, 2007



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BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Section 403 of The Fiscal Code, Act of April 9, 1929, (P.L. 343, No. 176), and the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Act, Act of June 11, 1968, (P.L. 149, No. 84), as amended, 53 P.S. § 8501 et seq. (commonly referred to as Act 84), the Department of the Auditor General's duty is to audit the accounts and records of every volunteer firefighters' relief association to determine that funds received under the Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Distribution Law, Act of December 18, 1984, (P.L. 1005, No. 205), as amended 53 P.S. § 895.701 et seq. (commonly referred to as Act 205), are properly expended.

The Morgantown Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association is a charitable organization that was formed primarily to afford financial protection to volunteer firefighters and to encourage individuals to participate in volunteer fire service.

Act 84 governs the overall operation of the volunteer firefighters' relief association. The relief association's bylaws define the specific operational procedures by which the volunteer firefighters' relief association conducts business. To fulfill its primary purpose, Act 84 authorizes specific types of expenditures and prescribes appropriate volunteer firefighters' relief association investment options. Within the parameters established by Act 84, it is the responsibility of the volunteer firefighters' relief association to choose investments in a proper and prudent manner.

Volunteer firefighters' relief associations receive public tax monies, and the association officers therefore have a responsibility to the public to conduct the association's financial affairs in a businesslike manner and to maintain sufficient financial records to support the propriety of all association transactions. Volunteer firefighters' relief association officers are also responsible for ensuring that the association operates in accordance with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures.

Act 205 sets forth the computation of the Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Distribution paid to each applicable municipality throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The amount of the distribution is based upon the population of each municipality and the market value of real estate within the municipality. Upon receipt of this distribution, the municipality must allocate the funds to the volunteer firefighters' relief association of the fire service organization or fire service organizations, which is or are recognized as providing the service to the municipality. The Morgantown Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association was allocated state aid from the following municipalities:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Caernarvon Township	Berks	\$22,990	\$24,601	\$28,372	\$29,750
New Morgan Borough	Berks	\$ 2,818	\$ 2,817	\$ 3,018	\$ 3,106

BACKGROUND (Continued)

However, as of February 20, 2007, the Morgantown Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association dissolved its organization. Thereafter, it did not receive any further state aid allocations (see Accompanying Expenditure Information).

The volunteer firefighters' relief association and the affiliated fire service organization were separate, legal entities. The Morgantown Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association was affiliated with the following fire service organization:

Friendship Fire Company No. 1

Mr. Keith Romig, President
MORGANTOWN VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION
Berks County

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Morgantown Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association pursuant to authority derived from Article VIII, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Section 403 of The Fiscal Code, Act of April 9, 1929, (P.L. 343, No. 176), and mandated by the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Act, Act of June 11, 1968, (P.L. 149, No. 84), as amended, 53 P.S. § 8501 *et seq.* (commonly referred to as Act 84), for the period January 1, 2003 to February 20, 2007. The audit was conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* applicable to performance audits, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

The objective of the audit was to determine if the volunteer firefighters' relief association received and expended state aid and accumulated relief funds in compliance with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures.

Our audit was limited to the areas related to the objective identified above.

The Department of the Auditor General (Department) is mandated by state statute to calculate state aid provided to volunteer firefighters' relief associations and to audit volunteer firefighters' relief associations having received such aid. An administrative unit of the Department's Comptroller's Office that is not involved in the audit process calculates state aid and submits requests to the Commonwealth's Treasury Department for the disbursement of state aid to the municipality. The Department has implemented procedures to ensure that Department audit personnel are not directly involved in the calculation and disbursement processes. The Department's mandatory responsibilities are being disclosed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

Volunteer firefighters' relief association officers are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Morgantown Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association's administration of state aid and accumulated funds complies with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures including the safeguarding of assets. In conducting our audit, we obtained an understanding of the volunteer

firefighters' relief association's internal controls as they relate to the association's compliance with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures significant within the context of the audit objective. We also tested transactions, confirmed the closing of the Morgantown Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association's cash account as of February 20, 2007, with the custodian of the funds, and interviewed selected officials to the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objective.

The results of our audit found that for the period January 1, 2003 to February 20, 2007, the Morgantown Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association expended funds as presented in the accompanying information. However, effective February 20, 2007, this relief association dissolved and all remaining monetary assets were transferred to the Twin Valley Fire Department Relief Association (see Accompanying Expenditure Information). Additionally, the results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Morgantown Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association received and expended state aid and accumulated relief association funds in compliance with applicable state laws, contracts, bylaws and administrative procedures.

The contents of this report were discussed with the management of the Morgantown Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association and, where appropriate, their responses have been included in the report.

March 15, 2007

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General

MORGANTOWN VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION
 ACCOMPANYING EXPENDITURE INFORMATION
 FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2003 TO FEBRUARY 20, 2007

Act 84 at 53 P.S. § 8502(1) states, in part, that:

A volunteer firefighters' relief association is an organization formed primarily for the purpose of affording financial protection to volunteer firefighters against the consequences of misfortune suffered as a result of their participation in the fire service. Such an association may also serve other purposes, . . . provided only that adequate provisions be first made to serve its primary purpose. . . .

Act 84 at 53 P.S. § 8506, authorizes the investment of relief association funds and outlines the types of benefits and services that can be provided with volunteer firefighters' relief association funds. All expenditures must be properly authorized as prescribed in the volunteer firefighters' relief association bylaws and approved at an association meeting.

USES OF FUNDS:

Benefit Services:	
Insurance premiums	\$ 464
Tokens of sympathy and goodwill	210
Total Benefit Services	\$ 674
Fire Services:	
Equipment purchased	\$ 96,782
Equipment maintenance	14,936
Training expenses	12,960
Total Fire Services	\$ 124,678
Administrative Services:	
Miscellaneous administrative expenses	\$ 3,457
Total Administrative Services	\$ 3,457
Other Expenditures:	
* Transfer of monetary assets to Twin Valley Fire Department Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association	\$ 27,712
Total Other Expenditures	\$ 27,712

MORGANTOWN VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION
ACCOMPANYING EXPENDITURE INFORMATION
FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2003 TO FEBRUARY 20, 2007

* Transfer of Monetary Assets/Dissolution of Morgantown Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association

During the year 2005, the membership of the Morgantown Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association voted to approve the dissolution of their relief association and the subsequent transfer of assets to the Twin Valley Fire Department Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association. Effective February 20, 2007, the Morgantown Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association completed the process of dissolution by transferring ownership of its equipment inventory and monetary assets to the Twin Valley Fire Department Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association.

MORGANTOWN VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Morgantown Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Officers:

Mr. Keith Romig, President

Ms. Jessica Bernard, Secretary

Mr. Christopher Witkowski, Treasurer

Reports were also distributed to each municipality, which allocated foreign fire insurance tax monies to this relief association.

Mr. John M. Burdy, Secretary
Caernarvon Township

Ms. Carolyn Williams, Secretary
New Morgan Borough

This report is a matter of public record. Copies of this report may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 318 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. If you have any questions regarding this report or any other matter, you may contact the Department of the Auditor General by accessing our website at www.auditorgen.state.pa.us.