# HYNDMAN BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN BEDFORD COUNTY

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2008, TO DECEMBER 31, 2010



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### **ABBREVIATION**

PMRS - Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System

#### **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.

Pension plan aid is provided from a 2 percent foreign casualty insurance premium tax, a portion of the foreign 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 Hyndman Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan is also governed by implementing regulations adopted by the Public Employee Retirement Commission published at Title 16, Part IV of the Pennsylvania Code and applicable provisions of various other state statutes including, but not limited to, the following:

Act 15 - Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law, Act of February 1, 1974 (P.L. 34, No. 15), as amended, 53 P.S. § 881.101 et seq.

The Hyndman Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 4-7-08, adopted pursuant to Act 15.



The Honorable Mayor and Borough Council Hyndman Borough Bedford County Hyndman, PA 15545

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Hyndman Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2008, to December 31, 2010. The audit was conducted pursuant to authority derived from Section 402(j) of Act 205 and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* applicable to performance audits issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform our audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our finding and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our finding and 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 audit 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. The Hyndman Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan participates in the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS), which is an agent multiple-employer public employee retirement system that acts as a common investment and administrative agent for participating municipal pension plans. PMRS issues a separate Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, copies of which are available from the PMRS accounting office. PMRS's financial statements were not audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion or other form of assurance on them.

Borough officials are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the Hyndman Borough Nonuniformed 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 borough's internal controls as they relate to the borough's compliance with those requirements and that we considered to be significant within the context of our audit objectives, and assessed whether those significant controls were properly designed and implemented. Additionally, we tested transactions, assessed official actions, performed analytical procedures and interviewed selected officials to the extent necessary to satisfy the audit objectives.

The results of our tests indicated that, in all significant respects, the Hyndman Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies, except as noted in the following finding further discussed later in this report:

Finding – Ineligible Employee Participating In The Pension Plan

The accompanying supplementary information is presented for purposes of additional analysis. We did not audit the information and, accordingly, express no form of assurance on it.

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

November 22, 2011

JACK WAGNER Auditor General

### HYNDMAN BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

### Compliance With Prior Audit Recommendation

Hyndman Borough has complied with the prior audit recommendation concerning the following:

· Incorrect Data On Certification Form AG 385 Resulting In An Underpayment Of State Aid

During the current audit period, municipal officials established adequate internal control procedures to ensure compliance with the instructions that accompany Certification Form AG 385 and accurately reported the required pension plan data.

## HYNDMAN BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

#### Finding - Ineligible Employee Participating In The Pension Plan

<u>Condition</u>: A member of the nonuniformed pension plan is actually an employee of the borough's municipal authority and does not meet the criteria for plan membership pursuant to Act 205 membership requirements and the plan's governing document provisions.

<u>Criteria</u>: Municipal authorities are created pursuant to the "Municipal Authorities Act of 1945," May 2, P.L. 382, 53 P.S. §301 <u>et seq</u>. A municipal authority is an independent political and corporate body, not an agent or representative of its creating municipality.

Act 205 defines a Municipality as follows:

Any city, borough, incorporated town, township, home rule municipality, association of municipalities cooperating pursuant to the act of July 12, 1972 (P.L. 762, No. 180), referred to as the Intergovernmental Cooperation Law, or authority established by the actions of any county, city, borough, town or township or jointly by any such political subdivisions.

Act 205 also defines a Municipal Employee as follows:

Any person who provides regular services for a municipality in return for compensation from the municipality.

In addition, Act 205 defines a Pension Plan or System as follows:

The various aspects of the relationship between a municipality and its employees with respect to the retirement coverage provided by a municipality to the employees.

Furthermore, the Hyndman Borough Municipal Employee Pension Plan Agreement with PMRS, dated April 7, 2008, at Section 1 states, in part:

<u>Coverage</u>: ...this plan shall cover all full-time municipal employees, hereinafter referred to as member, of the borough. Membership for elected officials, part-time employees not currently members, and employees hired on a temporary or seasonal basis is prohibited, as is membership for individuals paid only on a fee basis.

Consequently, since the plan member is employed by the authority and not the municipality, the plan member is not eligible to participate in the borough's nonuniformed pension plan.

### HYNDMAN BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

#### <u>Finding – (Continued)</u>

<u>Cause</u>: According to the meeting minutes from the September 7, 2010, borough council meeting, the plan's chief administrative officer stated, in part:

During the last audit of the pension plans in 2007, it was suggested that the borough check into the legality of allowing municipal-authority employees to be enrolled in the borough's pension plan. The borough's solicitor agreed with the auditor that authority employees should not be in the borough's plan and the municipal authority should establish a spin-off. The authority has been notified of this but has not taken any action.

<u>Effect</u>: The municipal authority employee's participation in the borough's nonuniformed pension plan could result in unauthorized pension benefits being paid from plan assets.

<u>Recommendation</u>: We recommend that municipal officials consult with their solicitor, PMRS, and the municipal authority board, to establish and implement procedures that will terminate the municipal authority employee's participation in the pension plan at their earliest opportunity to do so.

Management's Response: Borough officials agreed with the finding without exception.

### HYNDMAN BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED 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, 2005, is as follows:

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
						Unfunded
			Unfunded			(Assets in
		Actuarial	(Assets in			Excess of)
		Accrued	Excess of)			Actuarial
	Actuarial	Liability	Actuarial			Accrued
Actuarial	Value of	(AAL) -	Accrued	Funded	Covered	Liability as a %
Valuation	Assets	Entry Age	Liability	Ratio	Payroll	of Payroll
Date	(a)	(b)	(b) - (a)	(a)/(b)	(c)	[(b-a)/(c)]
01-01-05	\$ 665,746	\$ 741,587	\$ 75,841	89.8%	\$ 140,679	53.9%
01-01-07	708,984	782,129	73,145	90.6%	109,147	67.0%
01-01-09	782,028	839,493	57,465	93.2%	120,987	47.5%

### HYNDMAN BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED 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.

Trends in unfunded (assets in excess of) actuarial accrued liability and annual covered payroll are both affected by inflation. Expressing the unfunded (assets in excess of) actuarial accrued liability as a percentage of annual covered payroll (Column 6) approximately adjusts for the effects of inflation and aids analysis of the plan's progress made in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due. Generally, where there is an unfunded actuarial accrued liability, the smaller this percentage, the stronger the plan. However, when assets are in excess of the actuarial accrued liability, the higher the bracketed percentage, the stronger the plan.

# HYNDMAN BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)

## SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYER AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES

Year Ended December 31	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
2005	\$ 21,559	100.0%
2006	19,471	100.0%
2007	22,480	100.0%
2008	23,250	100.0%
2009	22,906	100.0%
2010	23,524	100.0%

### HYNDMAN BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION NOTES TO SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES (UNAUDITED)

The information presented in the required 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, 2009

Actuarial cost method Entry age normal

Amortization method Level dollar, closed

Remaining amortization period 9 years

Asset valuation method Fair value

Actuarial assumptions:

Investment rate of return 6.0%, net of expenses

Projected salary increases \* 4.5%

\* Includes inflation at 3.0%

Cost-of-living adjustments 3.0%, where applicable



## HYNDMAN BOROUGH NONUNIFORMED PENSION PLAN REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett Governor Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Hyndman Borough Nonuniformed Pension Plan Bedford County 3945 Center Street Suite 2 P.O. Box 486 Hyndman, PA 15545

The Honorable Travis Leap Mayor

Mr. Stanley Robinson Council President

Ms. Sharon A. Shaffer Secretary

Ms. Kristine M. Cline Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System

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, Room 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.