

COMPLIANCE AUDIT

Beaver Meadows Borough Police Pension Plan Carbon County, Pennsylvania For the Period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024

April 2026



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General

Timothy L. DeFoor • Auditor General



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**TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR
AUDITOR GENERAL**

The Honorable Mayor and Borough Council
Beaver Meadows Borough
Carbon County
Beaver Meadows, PA 18216

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Beaver Meadows Borough Police Pension Plan for the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024. 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 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 findings 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 findings 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.
- We determined that there were no employee contributions required by the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations for the years covered by our audit period.
- We determined whether retirement benefits calculated for the plan member 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 individual and comparing these amounts to supporting documentation evidencing amounts determined and payable to the recipient.
- We determined whether the January 1, 2021 and January 1, 2023 actuarial valuation reports were prepared and submitted by March 31, 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.

The Beaver Meadows Borough Police 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 Annual Comprehensive 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 Beaver Meadows Borough Police 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.

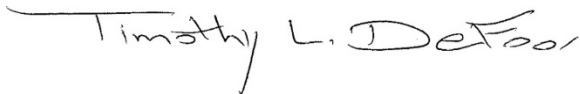
The results of our procedures indicated that, in all significant respects, the Beaver Meadows Borough Police Pension Plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies, except as noted in the following finding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

Finding – Noncompliance With Prior Recommendation – Receipt Of State Aid
In Excess Of Entitlement

The finding contained in this audit report repeats a condition that was cited in our previous report that has not been corrected by borough officials. We are concerned by the borough's failure to correct this previously reported finding and strongly encourage timely implementation of the recommendation noted in this audit report.

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



Timothy L. DeFoor
Auditor General
March 31, 2026

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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 Beaver Meadows Borough Police 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 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 Beaver Meadows Borough Police Pension Plan is a single-employer cash balance pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 1-2020, and a separately executed plan agreement with the plan's custodian effective April 1, 2020, adopted pursuant to Act 15. The plan was established January 1, 2016. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan but may contribute up to 20 percent of compensation to the plan. The municipality is required to contribute 5 percent of compensation. As of December 31, 2024, the plan had no active members and 1 terminated member eligible for vested benefits in the future.

BEAVER MEADOWS BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDINGS

Compliance With Prior Recommendation

Beaver Meadows Borough has complied with the prior recommendation concerning the following:

- Failure To Maintain An Adequate Record-Keeping System To Effectively Monitor Activity Of The Pension Plan

The borough provided annual financial statements of transactions of the custodial account of the pension plan for all years of the audit period.

Noncompliance With Prior Recommendation

Beaver Meadows Borough has not complied with the prior recommendation concerning the following as further discussed in the Finding and Recommendation section of this report:

- Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement

BEAVER MEADOWS BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – Noncompliance With Prior Recommendation – Receipt Of State Aid In Excess Of Entitlement

Condition: As disclosed in the prior audit report, the borough received \$185 of state aid in excess of the plan’s annual pension costs in the year 2020; however, plan officials failed to return the excess to the Commonwealth as recommended. In addition, during the current audit period, borough officials again failed to implement procedures to reconcile the borough’s annual state aid allocation with the plan’s actual pension costs. As a result, the borough received state aid in 2021 and 2022 in excess of the plan’s pension costs, as illustrated below:

	2020	2021	2022
State aid allocation	\$ 2,154	\$ 1,851	\$ 1,709
Actual municipal pension costs	(1,969)	(1,819)	-
Excess state aid	\$ 185	\$ 32	\$ 1,709

In addition, as of the date of the completion of the current audit, the excess state aid remains in the borough’s general fund and has not been deposited into the pension plan.

Criteria: Section 402(f)(2) of Act 205 states:

No municipality shall be entitled to receive an allocation of general municipal pension system State aid in an amount which exceeds the aggregate actual financial requirements of any municipal pension plans for police officers, paid firefighters or employees other than police officers or paid firefighters maintained by the municipality, less the amount of any aggregate annual member or employee contributions during the next succeeding plan year, as reported in the most recent complete actuarial report filed with the commission.

Cause: Plan officials again failed to establish adequate internal control procedures to reconcile the borough’s state aid allocation with the plan’s actual defined contribution pension costs.

Effect: It is this department’s opinion that because the entire proceeds of the insurance premium tax on foreign casualty insurance companies are distributed annually to each eligible recipient municipality, it is inappropriate to use state aid in one year to offset pension costs in other years. Consequently, the overpayment of state aid in the years 2020, 2021, and 2022 must be returned to the Commonwealth for redistribution.

BEAVER MEADOWS BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

Finding – (Continued)

Furthermore, the borough's future state aid allocations may be withheld until the finding recommendation is complied with.

Recommendation: We recommend that the municipality return the \$1,926 of excess state aid received in the years 2020, 2021, and 2022 to the Commonwealth. A check in this amount, with interest compounded annually from date of receipt to date of repayment, at a rate earned by the plan, should be made payable to: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and mailed to: Department of the Auditor General, Municipal Pension & Fire Relief Programs Unit, 321 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. A copy of the interest calculation must be submitted along with evidence of payment.

Furthermore, we again recommend that, in the future, plan officials reconcile the borough's annual state aid allocation and municipal contributions made to the pension plan with the plan's annual pension costs and reimburse any excess state aid received to the Commonwealth.

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

Auditor's Conclusion: Due to the potential withhold of state aid, the borough's compliance with the finding recommendation will be monitored subsequent to the release of the audit report and through our next audit of the plan.

BEAVER MEADOWS BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN
POTENTIAL WITHHOLD OF STATE AID

The finding contained in this audit report cites an overpayment of state aid to the borough in the amount of \$1,926, plus interest. A condition of this nature may lead to a total withholding of state aid in the future unless that finding is corrected. A check in this amount with interest, at a rate earned by the pension plan, should be made payable to: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and mailed to: Department of the Auditor General, Municipal Pension & Fire Relief Programs Unit, 321 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

BEAVER MEADOWS BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 (UNAUDITED)

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Year Ended December 31	Statutorily Required Contribution (SRC)*	Contributions in Relation to the SRC*	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Covered- Employee Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered- Employee Payroll
2016	\$ 1,792	\$ 1,812	\$ (20)	\$ 36,305	4.99%
2017	1,976	1,975	1	39,105	5.05%
2018	2,069	2,078	(9)	41,004	5.07%
2019	2,249	2,724	(475)	41,277	6.60%
2020	1,968	1,969	(1)	38,970	5.05%
2021	1,818	1,819	(1)	35,972	5.06%
2022	20	20	-	-	N/A
2023	-	-	-	-	N/A
2024	-	-	-	-	N/A

N/A – Not applicable

* The Statutorily Required Contribution (SRC) is a contribution amount based upon the payroll and the contribution rate as outlined under the terms of the cash balance pension plan.

BEAVER MEADOWS BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Joshua D. Shapiro
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

The Honorable Michael Gerhard
Mayor

Mr. B.J. Cryder
Council President

Ms. Laura Coppersmith
Secretary/Treasurer

Mr. Richard Cardamone, CPA, CGMA
Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System

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.