

COMPLIANCE AUDIT

Bridgewater Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan Beaver County, Pennsylvania

October 2025



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
Bridgewater Borough
Beaver County
Bridgewater, PA 15009

We have conducted a compliance audit of the Bridgewater Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan 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 objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our 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 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 finding 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:

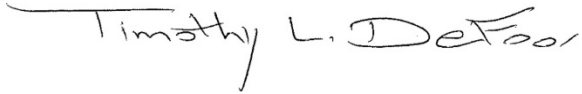
- For the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024, we determined whether state aid was properly determined and deposited in accordance with Act 205 requirements by verifying the annual deposit date of state aid and determining whether deposits were made within 30 days of receipt.
- For the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024, 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.
- For the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024, we determined that there were no employee contributions required by the plan's governing document and applicable laws and regulations.
- For the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024, we determined whether retirement benefits calculated for the plan member who retired 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 monthly pension benefits due to the retired individual and comparing these amounts to supporting documentation evidencing amounts determined and actually paid to the recipient.
- We determined whether the January 1, 2023 actuarial valuation report was prepared and submitted by March 31, 2024 in accordance with Act 205 and whether selected information provided on this report 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 Bridgewater Borough Non-Uniformed 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 Bridgewater Borough Non-Uniformed 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 Bridgewater Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan was administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, administrative procedures, and local ordinances and policies for the periods noted above.

The contents of this report were discussed with officials of Bridgewater 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.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Timothy L. DeFoor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the left of the first name.

Timothy L. DeFoor
Auditor General
October 16, 2025

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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 Bridgewater Borough Non-Uniformed 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 Bridgewater Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan is a single-employer cash balance pension plan locally controlled by the provisions of Ordinance No. 474, and a separately executed plan agreement with the plan's custodian effective January 1, 2020, adopted pursuant to Act 15. The plan was established January 1, 2000. Active members are not required to contribute to the plan. The municipality is annually required to contribute \$2,300 per participant. As of December 31, 2024, the plan had one active member and one retiree receiving pension benefits.

BRIDGEWATER BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
STATUS OF PRIOR FINDING

Compliance With Prior Recommendation

Bridgewater Borough has complied with the prior recommendation concerning the following:

- Failure To Maintain An Adequate Record-Keeping System To Ensure Effective Control Over Pension Plan Assets

For the period subject to audit, the borough provided annual financial statements of transactions of the custodial account of the pension plan.

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

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

<u>Year Ended December 31</u>	<u>Statutorily Required Contribution (SRC)*</u>	<u>Contributions in Relation to the SRC*</u>	<u>Contribution Deficiency (Excess)**</u>	<u>Covered- Employee Payroll***</u>	<u>Contributions as a Percentage of Covered- Employee Payroll</u>
2015	\$ 4,640	\$ 4,640	\$ -	\$ 65,401	7.09%
2016	8,012	8,012	-	65,622	12.21%
2017	4,640	4,640	-	66,789	6.95%
2018	4,640	3,490	1,150	69,392	5.03%
2019	4,640	5,790	(1,150)	74,148	7.81%
2020	4,660	4,660	-	78,281	5.95%
2021	4,640	4,640	-	96,925	4.79%
2022	4,640	4,640	-	95,122	4.88%
2023	4,640	4,640	-	98,769	4.70%
2024	2,300	2,300	-		

* 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.

** The SRC and the actual Contribution were provided by PMRS. Deviation between these amounts may be due to contributions to or transfers from the municipal reserve account.

*** Due to the timing of this audit, covered-employee payroll for 2024 was not provided in this schedule.

BRIDGEWATER BOROUGH NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLAN
REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

This report was initially distributed to the following:

The Honorable Joshua D. Shapiro
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

The Honorable Tim Reddinger
Mayor

Mr. Dennis Bevington
Council President

Mr. Max Strano
Council Vice-President

Ms. Vickie Adams
Borough 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.