

Comment #66 – 8/2/18 – 3:32 p.m.

**MEASURING PENSION OBLIGATIONS AND DETERMINING PENSION PLAN COSTS OR CONTRIBUTIONS
STANDARD OF PRACTICE**

The following is my comments on the above:

It seems ironic and a bit hypocritical that when the State of Montana passed a law that is fitting for the city/towns within it that GASB can come along and put in a ruling that results in a finding in our audits as well as a cost to our taxpayers even though we are complying with Montana Law.

Our town has about 2500 citizens-we have about 20 retired firefighter pensions paid out monthly at a rate of \$170/retiree.

We have met the requirement of the State of Montana for the three years of payments however the GASB requirements would instill another fee for an actuary that doesn't do anyone any good. If we are meeting Montana Law that should be good enough, it passed our legislative scrutiny to become a law. They realized and appreciated the fact that the taxpayers of Montana should not have to pay someone from out of state to come in, charging each city/town at least \$3,000 for this actuary every two years. They would much rather see the taxpayer's dollars spent on the firefighters actual retirement.

I am pleading with you to allow the State of Montana cities/towns to follow Montana Law. This is an excerpt from Montana Law: ***assets in the fund are maintained at a level equal to at least three times but no more than five times the benefits paid by the fund in the previous or current fiscal year, whichever is greater;***

Agnes Fowler

Finance Officer - City of Conrad