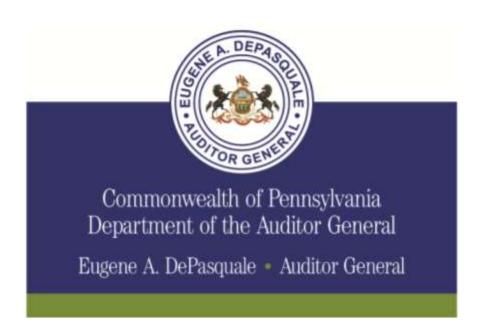
ATTESTATION ENGAGEMENT

Township of Bell

Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania 64-202

Liquid Fuels Tax Fund
For the Period
January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2013

March 2015





Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General Harrisburg, PA 17120-0018 Facebook: Pennsylvania Auditor General Twitter: @PAAuditorGen

EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE AUDITOR GENERAL

Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Leslie Richards Acting Secretary Department of Transportation Harrisburg, PA 17120

We examined the accompanying Forms MS-965 With Adjustments for the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund of the Township of Bell, Westmoreland County, for the period January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2013. The municipality's management is responsible for the Forms MS-965. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Forms MS-965 With Adjustments based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. An examination includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the Township of Bell, Westmoreland County's Forms MS-965 for the period January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2013 and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are mandated by Section 403 of *The Fiscal Code*, 72 P.S. § 403, to audit each municipality's Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to ensure that funds received are expended in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States include attestation engagements as a separate type of audit. An attestation engagement performed pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards* involves additional standards that exceed the standards provided by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Accordingly, this attestation engagement complies with both *Government Auditing Standards* and Section 403 of *The Fiscal Code*.

As described in Note 4, the adjustments included on the Forms MS-965 With Adjustments are made by the Department of the Auditor General.

<u>Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)</u>

Although management of the municipality provided us with a management representation letter on the date of our exit conference of September 4, 2014, held at the municipality, they did not respond to our request for an updated management representation letter including the disclosure of any subsequent events that affected the Forms MS-965 through the date of this report.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the preceding paragraph, the Forms MS-965 With Adjustments present, in all material respects, the information required by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund of the Township of Bell, Westmoreland County, for the period January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2013, in conformity with the criteria set forth in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we are required to report all deficiencies that are considered to be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control; fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws or regulations that have a material effect on the Forms MS-965; and any other instances that warrant the attention of those charged with governance; noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and abuse that has a material effect on the Forms MS-965. We are also required to obtain and report the views of responsible officials concerning the findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as any planned corrective actions. We performed our examination to express an opinion on whether the Forms MS-965 are presented in accordance with the criteria described above and not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on internal control over reporting on the Forms MS-965 or on compliance and other matters; accordingly, we express no such opinions.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Forms MS-965 will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over reporting on the Forms MS-965 was for the limited purpose of expressing an opinion on whether the Forms MS-965 are presented in accordance with the criteria described above and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our engagement we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

<u>Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)</u>

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Forms MS-965 are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of the Township of Bell, Westmoreland County's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of amounts on the Forms MS-965. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our engagement, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the management of the Township of Bell, Westmoreland County, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We appreciate the courtesy extended by the Township of Bell, Westmoreland County, to us during the course of our examination. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michael B. Kashishian, CPA, CGAP, CFE, Director, Bureau of County Audits, at 717-787-1363.

February 20, 2015

Eugene A. DePasquale Auditor General

Eugraf: O-Pagur

CONTENTS

	rage
Background	1
Financial Section:	
2012 Form MS-965 With Adjustments	2
2013 Form MS-965 With Adjustments	5
Notes To Forms MS-965 With Adjustments	8
Summary Of Prior Examination Recommendations	14
Summary Of Exit Conference	15
Report Distribution	16

TOWNSHIP OF BELL WESTMORELAND COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND BACKGROUND FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2012 TO DECEMBER 31, 2013

Background

The Liquid Fuels Tax Municipal Allocation Law, Title 72 P.S. § 2615.5, provides municipalities other than counties (townships, boroughs, cities, towns, home rule, and optional plan governments) with an annual allocation of liquid fuels taxes from the state's Motor License Fund to be used for the maintenance and repair of streets, roads, and bridges for which the municipality is responsible. The allocation of these funds to municipalities is based: (1) 50 percent on the municipality's proportion of local road mileage to the total local road mileage in the state, and (2) 50 percent on the proportion of a municipality's population to the total population in the state.

The Vehicle Code, Title 75 P.S. § 9511, provides municipalities with annual maintenance payments to be received from the Motor License Fund for functionally local highways that were transferred to a municipality from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Each municipality must deposit the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money and annual maintenance payments that it receives into a special fund called the Municipal Liquid Fuels Tax Fund or State Fund. A municipality may not deposit any other monies into this fund except when the municipality does not have enough money in the special fund to meet the payments called for by its current annual budget for road and bridge purposes. In this case, the municipality may borrow money or transfer money from its General Fund to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

The Department of Transportation has been given the regulatory authority for the administration of these funds. To qualify for its annual allocation, each municipality shall submit the following documents and information to the Department of Transportation:

- 1. Evidence that the treasurer is bonded in accordance with the law, or that its treasurer is a bank requiring no bond by January 31 of each year.
- 2. A report indicating the manner in which its liquid fuels tax allocation was expended in the previous year (Form MS-965) by January 31 of each year.
- 3. A report of elected and appointed officials by January 31 of each year.
- 4. A Survey of Financial Condition by March 15 of each year.

Department of Transportation *Publication 9* contains the policies and procedures that govern the use of Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money. However, if there is a difference between *Publication 9* and any legislation, the legislation shall govern.

TOWNSHIP OF BELL WESTMORELAND COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2012 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 1 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Expenditure Summary	Reported	Adju	istments	Adjusted Amount
Major equipment purchases	\$ 12,133.80	\$	-	\$ 12,133.80
Minor equipment purchases			-	-
Computer/Computer related training	-		-	-
Agility projects	-		-	-
Cleaning streets and gutters	640.20		-	640.20
Winter maintenance services			-	-
Traffic control devices	635.14		-	635.14
Street lighting			-	-
Storm sewers and drains	4,358.17		-	4,358.17
Repairs of tools and machinery	13,573.55		-	13,573.55
Maintenance and repair of				
roads and bridges	49,666.32		-	49,666.32
Highway construction and				
rebuilding projects	-		-	-
Miscellaneous			-	
Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	\$ 81,007.18	\$		\$ 81,007.18

TOWNSHIP OF BELL WESTMORELAND COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2012 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 2 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Fund Balance		Reported	Adjı	ıstments	 Adjusted Amount
1. Balance, January 1, 2012	\$ 8,961.79		\$	-	\$ 8,961.79
Receipts:					
2. State allocation		99,191.42		-	99,191.42
2a. Turnback allocation		-		-	-
2b. Interest on investments (Note 3)		9.58		-	9.58
2c. Miscellaneous (Note 5)		11,878.46			11,878.46
3. Total receipts		111,079.46			111,079.46
4. Total funds available		120,041.25			120,041.25
5. Expenditures (Section 1)		81,007.18		-	 81,007.18
6. Balance, December 31, 2012	\$	39,034.07	\$	-	\$ 39,034.07

TOWNSHIP OF BELL WESTMORELAND COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2012 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 3 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Equipment Balance	<u>I</u>	Reported	djustments (Note 4)	 Adjusted Amount
1. Prior year equipment balance	\$	-	\$ 3,781.53	\$ 3,781.53
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)	1	19,838.28	-	19,838.28
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments		-	11,878.46	11,878.46
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition		19,838.28	15,659.99	35,498.27
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures		12,133.80	 	 12,133.80
6. Remainder		7,704.48	15,659.99	23,364.47
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	\$	7,704.48	\$ 15,659.99	\$ 23,364.47

Notes to Forms MS-965 With Adjustments are an integral part of this report.

TOWNSHIP OF BELL WESTMORELAND COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2013 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 1 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Expenditure Summary	 Reported	Adjı	ustments	 Adjusted Amount
Major equipment purchases	\$ 14,851.44	\$	-	\$ 14,851.44
Minor equipment purchases	-		-	-
Computer/Computer related training	_		-	-
Agility projects	_		-	-
Cleaning streets and gutters	906.95		-	906.95
Winter maintenance services	-		-	-
Traffic control devices	294.34		-	294.34
Street lighting	-		-	-
Storm sewers and drains	464.00		-	464.00
Repairs of tools and machinery	4,548.95		-	4,548.95
Maintenance and repair of				
roads and bridges	42,526.72		-	42,526.72
Highway construction and				
rebuilding projects	76,124.84		-	76,124.84
Miscellaneous				
Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	\$ 139,717.24	\$	-	\$ 139,717.24

TOWNSHIP OF BELL WESTMORELAND COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2013 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 2 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Fund Balance		Reported	Adju	stments	 Adjusted Amount
1. Balance, January 1, 2013	\$	39,034.07	\$	-	\$ 39,034.07
Receipts:					
2. State allocation		97,921.23		-	97,921.23
2a. Turnback allocation		-		-	-
2b. Interest on investments (Note 3)		7.25		-	7.25
2c. Miscellaneous (Note 5)		11,487.63			11,487.63
3. Total receipts	-	109,416.11		-	109,416.11
4. Total funds available		148,450.18			 148,450.18
5. Expenditures (Section 1)		139,717.24			 139,717.24
6. Balance, December 31, 2013	\$	8,732.94	\$		\$ 8,732.94

Notes to Forms MS-965 With Adjustments are an integral part of this report.

TOWNSHIP OF BELL WESTMORELAND COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2013 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 3 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Equipment Balance]	Reported	djustments Note 4)	Adjusted Amount
1. Prior year equipment balance	\$	18,334.47	\$ 5,030.00	\$ 23,364.47
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)	1	19,584.25	-	19,584.25
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments				<u>-</u>
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition		37,918.72	5,030.00	42,948.72
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures		14,851.44		 14,851.44
6. Remainder		23,067.28	5,030.00	 28,097.28
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	\$	8,732.94	\$ -	\$ 8,732.94

Notes to Forms MS-965 With Adjustments are an integral part of this report.

1. Criteria

Section 1

This section of Form MS-965 With Adjustments provides a summary of Liquid Fuels Tax Fund expenditures by category. Categories requiring explanation include:

• Major equipment purchases are purchases of road machinery and road equipment with varying yearly costs in excess of the amounts indicated below:

Prior To 2012	2012	2013	2014
\$4,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,200.00	\$10,300.00

• Minor equipment purchases are purchases of road machinery and road equipment with varying yearly costs, or less, than the amounts indicated below:

Prior To 2012	2012	2013	2014
\$4,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,200.00	\$10,300.00

Agility projects are exchanges of services with the Department of Transportation.

Section 2

This section of Form MS-965 With Adjustments provides information on the fund balance. Categories requiring explanation include:

- The state allocation is generally received from the Department of Transportation during the first week in April of each year. The amount the municipality receives is based half on its population and half on its road mileage.
- The turnback allocation is generally received from the Department of Transportation during the first week in April of each year. A municipality receives a yearly turnback allocation based on road mileage for all roads that were transferred to the municipality from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Highway Transfer Program.

1. <u>Criteria (Continued)</u>

Section 2 (Continued)

• Expenditures include the total transferred from Section 1.

Section 3

This section of Form MS-965 With Adjustments determines if the municipality expended Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money in excess of the permissible amount for equipment and the balance that the municipality may carry forward for the purchase of equipment to the subsequent year.

Department of Transportation *Publication 9* requires that the amount expended for equipment purchases in a given year not exceed the sum of the equipment balance carried forward from the previous year and 20 percent of the current year's Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocation and, if applicable, 20 percent of the turnback allocation plus other Department of Transportation approved adjustments.

If the municipality spent in excess of the amount listed on Line 4, the excess must be reimbursed to the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

The equipment balance to be carried forward for the subsequent year is the lesser of the amount on Line 6 or the ending fund balance on Line 6 of Section 2, but not less than zero.

Basis Of Presentation

The financial activities of the municipality are accounted for in separate funds. The Liquid Fuels Tax Fund is used to account for state aid revenues from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation used primarily for building and improving local roads and bridges. The Forms MS-965 have been prepared in accordance with reporting requirements prescribed by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation as a result of the Fuels Tax Act 655, dated 1956 and as amended, which does not constitute a complete presentation of the entity's assets, liabilities, expenses, and fund balance. Accordingly, the presentation of Forms MS-965 With Adjustments is restricted to the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund, which represents a segment of the entity.

1. <u>Criteria (Continued)</u>

Basis Of Accounting

The accompanying Forms MS-965 With Adjustments are prepared in accordance with reporting requirements prescribed by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Under this method, revenues are recognized when received and expenditures are recorded when paid.

General Fixed Assets

General fixed assets are recognized as expenditures at the time of purchase. No depreciation has been provided on the heavy equipment used to maintain and repair roads and bridges.

2. Deposits

The Second Class Township Code, Title 53 P.S. § 68204, authorizes the township to deposit its funds in the following:

- Deposits in savings accounts or time deposits, other than certificates of deposit or share accounts of institutions having their principal place of business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or other like insurance. For any amount above the insured maximum, the depository shall pledge approved collateral.
- Certificates of deposit purchased from institutions insured by the FDIC or other like insurance to the extent that such accounts are so insured. For any amounts in excess of the insured maximum, such deposits shall be collateralized by a pledge or assignment of assets. Certificates of deposit may not exceed 20 percent of a bank's total capital surplus or 20 percent of a savings and loan or savings bank's assets minus liabilities.

Deposits consist of receipts and deposits in a financial institution. Pennsylvania statutes require all deposits to be insured and, for any amount above the insured maximum, to be secured with approved collateral as defined.

TOWNSHIP OF BELL WESTMORELAND COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND NOTES TO FORMS MS-965 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2012 TO DECEMBER 31, 2013

2. Deposits (Continued)

There were no deposits exposed to custodial credit risk as of December 31, 2013. Custodial credit risk, as defined by GASB No. 40, includes deposits that are not covered by depository insurance and the deposits are uncollateralized, collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution, or collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent but not in the municipality's name.

Fund Balance

The fund balance as of December 31, 2013 consists of the following:

Cash \$8,732.94

3. Interest On Investments

Our examination disclosed that the municipality deposited idle liquid fuels tax money in an interest-bearing account which earned \$9.58 during 2012, and \$7.25 during 2013, thus providing additional funds for road maintenance and repairs.

4. Adjustments

2012 - Section 3

An adjustment of \$3,781.53 was made to "Prior year equipment balance" because an incorrect equipment balance was carried forward.

An adjustment of \$11,878.46 was made to "PENNDOT approved adjustments" because approved adjustments were understated.

2013 - Section 3

An adjustment of \$5,030.00 was made to "Prior year equipment balance" because an incorrect equipment balance was carried forward.

5. <u>Miscellaneous Receipts</u>

The following miscellaneous receipts were deposited into the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund during the examination period:

Source	Description	2012	2013
General Fund Vendor General Fund	Reimbursement for equipment Sale of equipment Reimbursement (Summary of prior examination recommendations)	\$ 1,248.47 10,629.99	\$ - - 11,487.63
Total		\$11,878.46	\$11,487.63

6. Lease-Purchase Agreement

On September 23, 2009, the municipality entered into a lease-purchase agreement with Kansas State Bank to purchase two 1994 International trucks and one 1996 International truck for \$37,990.00. The agreement was for a term of three years at an interest rate of 9.3 percent. Principal and interest payments of \$1,213.38 are due monthly. Prior years' principal and interest payments from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund were \$26,357.67 and \$5,190.21, respectively.

During the current examination period the municipality paid principal of \$11,632.33 and interest of \$501.47 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. These amounts are reflected in major equipment purchases on the 2012 Form MS-965 – Section 1. The lease-purchase agreement was paid-in-full on October 10, 2012.

7. Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank Loan

On September 12, 2011, the municipality borrowed \$350,000.00 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank to finance construction project No. 11-64-202-01. The term of the loan was for 10 years at an interest rate of 1.625 percent. Principal and interest payments of \$19,031.21 are due semiannually.

During the current examination period the municipality paid principal of \$65,012.88 and interest of \$11,111.96 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. These amounts are reflected in highway construction and rebuilding projects on the 2013 Form MS-965 – Section 1. The outstanding balance of the loan as of December 31, 2013 was \$284,987.12, plus interest.

8. Lease-Purchase Agreement

On December 20, 2012, the municipality entered into a lease-purchase agreement with First Niagra Leasing Inc. to purchase a Case Model 521E wheel loader for \$95,422.00. The municipality made a down payment of \$25,000.00 from the General Fund leaving a balance of \$70,422.00 to be financed. The agreement was for a term of five years at an interest rate of 2.724 percent. Principal and interest payments of \$14,851.44 are due annually.

During the current examination period the municipality paid principal of \$14,851.44 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. This amount is reflected in major equipment purchases on the 2013 Form MS-965 – Section 1. The outstanding balance of the lease-purchase agreement as of December 31, 2013 was \$55,570.56, plus interest.

TOWNSHIP OF BELL WESTMORELAND COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND SUMMARY OF PRIOR EXAMINATION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2012 TO DECEMBER 31, 2013

Summary Of Prior Examination Recommendations

In our prior report we recommended that the Department of Transportation review our examination finding to determine if the municipality should reimburse \$11,487.63 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for purchases over \$10,000.00 without advertising for bids.

During our current examination we reviewed a letter dated October 10, 2013, from the Department of Transportation informing the municipality to reimburse \$11,487.63 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. We noted that the municipality reimbursed this amount to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund on November 20, 2013.

In our prior report we also recommended that the municipality comply with *The Second Class Township Code* and the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9* by advertising for bids for all purchases over \$10,000.00. The threshold for advertising for bids increased to \$18,500.00 for 2012, \$18,900.00 for 2013 and \$19,100.00 for 2014.

During our current examination we noted that the municipality complied with our recommendation.

TOWNSHIP OF BELL WESTMORELAND COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND SUMMARY OF EXIT CONFERENCE FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2012 TO DECEMBER 31, 2013

An exit conference was held September 4, 2014. Those participating were:

TOWNSHIP OF BELL

Mrs. Angela M. Duffner, Secretary/Treasurer

DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Mr. Brian Delaney, Auditor

The results of the examination were presented and discussed in their entirety.

TOWNSHIP OF BELL WESTMORELAND COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND REPORT DISTRIBUTION FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2012 TO DECEMBER 31, 2013

This report was initially distributed to:

The Honorable Leslie Richards
Acting Secretary
Department of Transportation

Township of Bell Westmoreland County P.O. Box D Salina, PA 15680

The Honorable John Bowman Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

Mrs. Angela M. Duffner Secretary/Treasurer

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, 231 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: news@auditorgen.state.pa.us.