

# ATTESTATION ENGAGEMENT

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**Borough of Wattsburg**  
Erie County, Pennsylvania  
25-415  
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund  
For the Period  
January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2015

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October 2016



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of the Auditor General  
Eugene A. DePasquale • Auditor General



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EUGENE A. DePASQUALE  
AUDITOR GENERAL

### Independent Auditor's Report

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

We examined the accompanying Forms MS-965 With Adjustments for the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund of the Borough of Wattsburg, Erie County, for the period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2015. 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 Borough of Wattsburg, Erie County's Forms MS-965 for the period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2015 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.

### Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

As discussed in the Finding And Recommendations and Summary Of Prior Examination Recommendations sections of this report:

- During 2013 the municipality was overcharged \$270.00 for snow plowing and made an overpayment of \$420.00 for snow plowing (see Finding No. 2).
- During 2014 the municipality expended \$300.00 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for snow plowing at a pump house, which is a nonpermissible expenditure (see Finding No. 3).
- In our prior examination period the municipality improperly expended \$8,360.00 of Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money on a project. The municipality reimbursed \$2,786.66 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund on both July 1, 2015 and December 11, 2015. As of December 31, 2015, the last installment of \$2,786.68 was due the municipality's Liquid Fuels Tax Fund by December 31, 2017 (see Summary Of Prior Examination Recommendations).

Although management of the municipality provided us with a management representation letter on the date of our exit conference of July 7, 2016, 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 effects of the bulleted items above and 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 Borough of Wattsburg, Erie County, for the period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2015, 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 the internal control over reporting on the Forms MS-965 or on compliance and other matters; accordingly, we express no such opinions.

## Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

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 the internal control 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 was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the findings listed below, that we consider to be a material weaknesses in internal control:

- Electronic Imaging Of Canceled Checks From The Bank Did Not Include The Back Of The Checks.
  
- Vendor Overcharges And Overpayment Of Invoice.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Forms MS-965 are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of the Borough of Wattsburg, Erie 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 the following instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*:

- Late Receipt Of Allocations.
  
- Nonpermissible Expenditure.

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

Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

We appreciate the courtesy extended by the Borough of Wattsburg, Erie 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eugene A. DePasquale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

August 30, 2016

Eugene A. DePasquale  
Auditor General

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BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
ERIE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
BACKGROUND  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2013 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

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.

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
 ERIE COUNTY  
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
 2013 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 1  
 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Expenditure Summary</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments (Note 4)</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Major equipment purchases	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Minor equipment purchases	-	-	-
Computer/Computer related training	-	-	-
Agility projects	-	-	-
Cleaning streets and gutters	-	-	-
Winter maintenance services	8,406.00	(300.00)	8,106.00
Traffic control devices	3,917.98	(3,917.98)	-
Street lighting	2,691.88	3,917.98	6,609.86
Storm sewers and drains	-	-	-
Repairs of tools and machinery	-	-	-
Maintenance and repair of roads and bridges	519.08	-	519.08
Highway construction and rebuilding projects	22,368.82	-	22,368.82
Miscellaneous (Note 5)	-	300.00	300.00
 Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	 <u>\$ 37,903.76</u>	 <u>\$ -</u>	 <u>\$ 37,903.76</u>

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

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
 ERIE COUNTY  
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
 2013 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 2  
 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Fund Balance</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
1. Balance, January 1, 2013	\$ 47,706.64	\$ -	\$ 47,706.64
Receipts:			
2. State allocation	9,360.20	-	9,360.20
2a. Turnback allocation	-	-	-
2b. Interest on investments (Note 3)	19.57	-	19.57
2c. Miscellaneous (Note 6)	12,813.00	-	12,813.00
3. Total receipts	<u>22,192.77</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,192.77</u>
4. Total funds available	<u>69,899.41</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69,899.41</u>
5. Expenditures (Section 1)	<u>37,903.76</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,903.76</u>
6. Balance, December 31, 2013	<u>\$ 31,995.65</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 31,995.65</u>

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

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
 ERIE COUNTY  
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
 2013 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 3  
 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Equipment Balance</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
1. Prior year equipment balance	\$ 19,221.68	\$ -	\$ 19,221.68
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)	1,872.04	-	1,872.04
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments	-	-	-
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition	21,093.72	-	21,093.72
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures	-	-	-
6. Remainder	<u>21,093.72</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,093.72</u>
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	<u>\$ 21,093.72</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 21,093.72</u>

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

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
 ERIE COUNTY  
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
 2014 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 1  
 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Expenditure Summary</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Major equipment purchases	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Minor equipment purchases	-	-	-
Computer/Computer related training	-	-	-
Agility projects	-	-	-
Cleaning streets and gutters	-	-	-
Winter maintenance services	11,652.00	-	11,652.00
Traffic control devices	-	-	-
Street lighting	6,794.52	-	6,794.52
Storm sewers and drains	-	-	-
Repairs of tools and machinery	-	-	-
Maintenance and repair of roads and bridges	300.00	-	300.00
Highway construction and rebuilding projects	7,729.16	-	7,729.16
Miscellaneous (Note 5)	308.45	-	308.45
 Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	 <u>\$ 26,784.13</u>	 <u>\$ -</u>	 <u>\$ 26,784.13</u>

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

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
 ERIE COUNTY  
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
 2014 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 2  
 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Fund Balance</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
1. Balance, January 1, 2014	\$ 31,995.65	\$ -	\$ 31,995.65
Receipts:			
2. State allocation	-	-	-
2a. Turnback allocation	-	-	-
2b. Interest on investments (Note 3)	9.36	-	9.36
2c. Miscellaneous (Note 6)	308.45	-	308.45
3. Total receipts	<u>317.81</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>317.81</u>
4. Total funds available	<u>32,313.46</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,313.46</u>
5. Expenditures (Section 1)	<u>26,784.13</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,784.13</u>
6. Balance, December 31, 2014	<u>\$ 5,529.33</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,529.33</u>

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

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
 ERIE COUNTY  
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
 2014 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 3  
 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Equipment Balance</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
1. Prior year equipment balance	\$ 21,093.72	\$ -	\$ 21,093.72
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)	-	-	-
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments	-	-	-
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition	21,093.72	-	21,093.72
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures	-	-	-
6. Remainder	<u>21,093.72</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,093.72</u>
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	<u>\$ 5,529.33</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,529.33</u>

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

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
 ERIE COUNTY  
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
 2015 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 1  
 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Expenditure Summary</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Major equipment purchases	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Minor equipment purchases	-	-	-
Computer/Computer related training	-	-	-
Agility projects	-	-	-
Cleaning streets and gutters	-	-	-
Winter maintenance services	13,119.00	-	13,119.00
Traffic control devices	-	-	-
Street lighting	7,577.15	-	7,577.15
Storm sewers and drains	-	-	-
Repairs of tools and machinery	-	-	-
Maintenance and repair of roads and bridges	-	-	-
Highway construction and rebuilding projects	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
 Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	 <u>\$ 20,696.15</u>	 <u>\$ -</u>	 <u>\$ 20,696.15</u>

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

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
 ERIE COUNTY  
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
 2015 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 2  
 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Fund Balance</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
1. Balance, January 1, 2015	\$ 5,529.33	\$ -	\$ 5,529.33
Receipts:			
2. State allocation	21,194.42	-	21,194.42
2a. Turnback allocation	-	-	-
2b. Interest on investments (Note 3)	7.66	-	7.66
2c. Miscellaneous (Summary Of Prior Examination Recommendations)	<u>5,573.32</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,573.32</u>
3. Total receipts	<u>26,775.40</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,775.40</u>
4. Total funds available	<u>32,304.73</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,304.73</u>
5. Expenditures (Section 1)	<u>20,696.15</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,696.15</u>
6. Balance, December 31, 2015	<u>\$ 11,608.58</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 11,608.58</u>

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

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
 ERIE COUNTY  
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
 2015 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 3  
 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Equipment Balance</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
1. Prior year equipment balance	\$ 5,529.33	\$ -	\$ 5,529.33
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)	4,238.88	-	4,238.88
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments	-	-	-
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition	9,768.21	-	9,768.21
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures	-	-	-
6. Remainder	<u>9,768.21</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,768.21</u>
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	<u>\$ 9,768.21</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 9,768.21</u>

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

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
 ERIE COUNTY  
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
 NOTES TO FORMS MS-965 WITH ADJUSTMENTS  
 FOR THE PERIOD  
 JANUARY 1, 2013 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

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:

2012	2013	2014	2015/2016
\$10,000.00	\$10,200.00	\$10,300.00	\$10,500.00

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

2012	2013	2014	2015/2016
\$10,000.00	\$10,200.00	\$10,300.00	\$10,500.00

- 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 was received from the Department of Transportation during the first week in April of each year through 2013. Municipalities began receiving the state allocation in March of each year beginning in 2014. The amount the municipality receives is based half on its population and half on its road mileage.
- The turnback allocation was received from the Department of Transportation during the first week in April of each year through 2013. Municipalities began receiving the turnback allocation in March of each year beginning in 2014. 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.

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
ERIE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
NOTES TO FORMS MS-965 WITH ADJUSTMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2013 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

1. Criteria (Continued)

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.

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
ERIE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
NOTES TO FORMS MS-965 WITH ADJUSTMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2013 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

1. Criteria (Continued)

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 Borough Code*, Title 53 P.S. § 46316, authorizes the borough 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.

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
ERIE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
NOTES TO FORMS MS-965 WITH ADJUSTMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2013 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

2. Deposits (Continued)

There were no deposits exposed to custodial credit risk as of December 31, 2015. 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 borough's name.

Fund Balance

The fund balance as of December 31, 2015, consists of the following:

Cash	<u><u>\$11,608.58</u></u>
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3. Interest On Investments

Our examination disclosed that the municipality deposited idle liquid fuels tax money in an interest-bearing account which earned \$19.57 during 2013, \$9.36 during 2014, and \$7.66 during 2015, thus providing additional funds for road maintenance and repairs.

4. Adjustments

2013 - Section 1

Adjustments were made to "Winter maintenance services" and "Miscellaneous" because expenditures of \$300.00 were misclassified.

Adjustments were made to "Traffic control devices" and "Street lighting" because expenditures of \$3,917.98 were misclassified.

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
 ERIE COUNTY  
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
 NOTES TO FORMS MS-965 WITH ADJUSTMENTS  
 FOR THE PERIOD  
 JANUARY 1, 2013 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

5. Miscellaneous Expenditures

The following miscellaneous expenditures were paid from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund during the examination period:

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Vendor	Payment in error (Note 7)	\$300.00	\$ -
General Fund	Deposits in error (Note 8)	-	259.13
General Fund	Deposits in error (Note 8)	-	<u>49.32</u>
Totals		<u>\$300.00</u>	<u>\$308.45</u>

6. Miscellaneous Receipts

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

<u>Source</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
County of Erie	Reimbursement for County Aid Project	\$12,513.00	\$ -	\$ -
General Fund	Reimbursement for payment in error (Note 7)	300.00	-	-
Department of Treasury	Deposits in error (Note 8)	-	49.32	-
Tax Collector	Deposits in error (Note 8)	-	259.13	-
General Fund	Reimbursement (Summary Of Prior Examination Recommendations)	-	-	2,786.66
General Fund	Reimbursement (Summary Of Prior Examination Recommendations)	-	-	<u>2,786.66</u>
Totals		<u>\$12,813.00</u>	<u>\$308.45</u>	<u>\$5,573.32</u>

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
ERIE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
NOTES TO FORMS MS-965 WITH ADJUSTMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2013 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

7. Payment In Error

On July 3, 2013, the municipality expended \$300.00 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for snow plowing a pump house in error. On September 27, 2013, the municipality transferred this amount from the General Fund to the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to correct the payment in error.

8. Deposits In Error

On September 3, 2014, the municipality deposited \$49.32 that was received from the Department of Treasury and \$259.13 that was received from the Wattsburg Borough Tax Collector into the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund in error. On November 11, 2014, the municipality transferred these amounts from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to the General Fund to correct the deposits in error.

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
ERIE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2013 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

**Finding No. 1 - Electronic Imaging Of Canceled Checks From The Bank Did Not Include The Back Of The Checks**

Our examination disclosed that the imaging of canceled checks from the bank for the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund account was not acceptable because the bank provides only an image of the front side of the canceled checks. Also, our examination disclosed that the municipality made transfers from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to the General Fund for the reimbursement of expenditures that could have been paid from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. Therefore, our disbursement test included checks from the General Fund account. During our testing we discovered that the imaging of canceled checks from the General Fund bank account was not acceptable because the bank provides only the front side of the canceled checks. For us to properly complete our examination testing, we have to examine the front and the back of the canceled checks. Although the municipality obtained and provided us with copies of the backs of those cancelled checks that we needed to review for our examination, the municipality should be receiving images of the backs of all cancelled checks in order to have good internal controls.

Good internal controls and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Management Directive 210.11, dated June 16, 1997, require that imaging systems comply with the provisions of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) procedures for record keeping with electronic imaging. To be acceptable, the documents provided by the system must meet IRS procedures governing size, content, format, and pattern. Those procedures require that all images produced by the imaging system exhibit a high degree of legibility and readability when displayed on paper. Legibility includes the ability to identify all letters and numerals positively and quickly. Readability includes the ability to recognize a group of letters or numerals as words or completed numbers. Imaged documents must include the front and back of a document in which both the front and back are used.

Further, good internal controls ensure that by having a municipal official review the front and back of the canceled checks, any errors or misappropriations can be detected on a timely basis.

Without this control, the potential exists for errors or misappropriations to go undetected for long periods of time.

**Recommendations**

We recommend that the municipal officials obtain images of the front and back of canceled checks in accordance with Directive 210.11. Additionally, municipal officials should review the front and back of each canceled check for any errors or misappropriations.

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
ERIE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2013 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

**Finding No. 1 - Electronic Imaging Of Canceled Checks From The Bank Did Not Include  
The Back Of The Checks (Continued)**

Management's Response

The municipal officials stated:

I will call the bank and ask for this to be on our statements.

Auditor's Conclusion

During our next examination we will determine if the municipality complied with our recommendations.

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
 ERIE COUNTY  
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
 FOR THE PERIOD  
 JANUARY 1, 2013 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

**Finding No. 2 - Vendor Overcharges And Overpayment Of Invoice**

Our examination disclosed that the municipality was overcharged a total of \$270.00 during 2013 for snow plowing as follows:

<u>Product</u>	<u>Quantity Purchased</u>	<u>Contract Price</u>	<u>Invoice Price</u>	<u>Unit Price Difference</u>	<u>Total Price Difference</u>
Snow plowing	9 times	\$228.00	\$258.00	\$30.00	<u>\$270.00</u>

Additionally, the municipality made an overpayment to a vendor of \$420.00 during 2013 for the snow plowing as follows:

<u>Invoice Number</u>	<u>Invoice Total</u>	<u>LFTF Check No.</u>	<u>LFTF Payment</u>	<u>Total Difference</u>
546453/54	\$3,192.00	1221	\$3,612.00	<u>\$420.00</u>

Good internal controls ensure that invoice prices are compared to contract prices and invoice totals are verified before payments are made on vendor invoices. The failure to follow this procedure increases the possibility that overpayments can be made on vendor invoices and go undetected for long periods of time. Additionally, good internal controls ensure that all invoices are reviewed timely to avoid overpayments of invoices. The failure to follow this procedure increases the possibility that overpayments can be made on vendor invoices and go undetected for long periods of time.

**Recommendations**

We recommend that the municipality reimburse \$690.00 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund upon official notification of the Department of Transportation. We also recommend that the municipal officials contact the vendor as soon as possible to obtain reimbursement.

We further recommend that the municipality compare invoice prices to contract prices and invoice totals prior to making payments on vendor invoices.

Additionally, we recommend that the municipality establish and implement internal controls to ensure vendor invoices are reviewed timely to avoid overpayments.

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
ERIE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2013 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

**Finding No. 2 - Vendor Overcharges And Overpayment (Continued)**

Management's Response

The municipal officials stated:

We will send vendor a letter explaining the mistakes and ask for reimbursement.

Auditor's Conclusion

During our next examination we will determine if the municipality complied with our recommendations.

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
ERIE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2013 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

**Finding No. 3 - Nonpermissible Expenditure**

Our examination disclosed that the municipality expended \$300.00 during 2014 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for snow plowing at a pump house, which is a nonpermissible expenditure.

The Liquid Fuels Tax Municipal Allocation Law, 72 P.S. § 2615.4, provides, in part, that monies herein allocated may be used only for construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and repairs of such public roads or streets, including bridges, culverts and drainage structures, for which they are legally responsible. Also permitted are expenditures involving acquisition, maintenance, repairs and operation of street signs, traffic signs, traffic signal control systems, road equipment, and snow fences.

The Department of Transportation has been statutorily authorized to promulgate regulations concerning the administration of Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money and has determined that certain items, including snow plowing at a pump house, are outside the scope of permissible expenditures.

The failure to follow the Liquid Fuels Tax Municipal Allocation Law and the Department of Transportation's Regulations as noted above could result in the municipality having to reimburse \$300.00 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

**Recommendations**

We recommend that the municipality reimburse \$300.00 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund upon official notification by the Department of Transportation.

We further recommend that, in the future, the municipality complies with the Liquid Fuels Tax Municipal Allocation Law and the Department of Transportation's Regulations regarding permissible expenditures.

**Management's Response**

The municipal officials stated:

As this was an oversight, the correction will be made if needed when we hear from PennDOT.

**Auditor's Conclusion**

During our next examination we will determine if the municipality complied with our recommendations.

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
ERIE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2013 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

**Finding No. 4 - Late Receipt Of Allocations**

Our examination disclosed that the 2013 and 2014 Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocations of \$9,360.20 and \$10,085.70, respectively, which should have been distributed from the Department of Transportation to the municipality during the first week of April for 2013 and March for 2014, were not received until June 7, 2013, and April 23, 2015, respectively, because the municipality failed to comply with the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9*, Chapter Two, Section 2.4, which states:

To qualify for the annual liquid fuels tax allocation, a municipality shall:

- Submit annual reports (MS-965, Actual Use Report, MS-965P, Project and Miscellaneous Receipts, and MS-965S, Record of Checks).
- Make deposits and payments or expenditures in compliance with the Act 655. Failure to do so may result in not receiving allocations from PENNDOT until all discrepancies are resolved.
- Submit the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) Report of Elected and Appointed Officials by January 31<sup>st</sup> and the Survey of Financial Condition by March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Ensure resolution of all Contractor Responsibility Program (CRP) holds and blocks imposed by the Department of Revenue and the Department of Labor and Industry.

Because the municipality failed to file documents and information timely as noted above, the municipality did not have use of the 2013 allocation for more than two months and the 2014 allocation for more than one year. Furthermore, had the allocations been received timely, money may have been available for investment purposes, potentially earning interest income which could have been used for road maintenance and repairs.

**Recommendation**

We recommend that, in the future, the municipality complies with the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9* to ensure that the allocations are received during the first week in March as outlined above.

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
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**Finding No. 4 - Late Receipt Of Allocations (Continued)**

Management's Response

The municipal officials stated:

Various secretaries in the past years have been delinquent in filling out the forms.

Auditor's Conclusion

During our next examination we will determine if the municipality complied with our recommendation.

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
ERIE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
SUMMARY OF PRIOR EXAMINATION RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2013 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

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 \$8,360.00 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for Liquid Fuels money improperly expended on project No. 10-25415-01CA.

During our current examination we reviewed a letter dated April 6, 2014, from the Department of Transportation informing the municipality to reimburse \$8,360.00 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund in three installments of \$2,786.66. The municipality reimbursed \$2,786.66 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund on both July 1, 2015 and December 11, 2015. As of the December 31, 2015, the last installment of \$2,786.68 was due the municipality's Liquid Fuels Tax Fund by December 31, 2017.

In our prior report we also recommended that the municipality obtain prior approval from the Department of Transportation before expending liquid fuels tax funds for construction projects.

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

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
ERIE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
SUMMARY OF EXIT CONFERENCE  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2013 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

An exit conference was held July 7, 2016. Those participating were:

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG

The Honorable Ronald Hartman, President of Council  
Mrs. Rosella E. Fenno, Secretary/Treasurer

DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Ms. Ortenzia M. Keller, Auditor

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

BOROUGH OF WATTSBURG  
ERIE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2013 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

This report was initially distributed to:

**The Honorable Leslie Richards**  
Secretary  
Department of Transportation

**Borough of Wattsburg**  
Erie County  
P.O. Box 136  
14431 Main Street  
Wattsburg, PA 16442

**The Honorable Ronald Hartman**  
President of Council

**Mrs. Rosella E. Fenno**  
Secretary/Treasurer

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