

ATTESTATION ENGAGEMENT

Columbia County
Pennsylvania
19-000
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund
Act 44 Tax Fund
Act 89 Tax Fund
For the Period
January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020

March 2023



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General

Timothy L. DeFoor • Auditor General



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TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR
AUDITOR GENERAL

Independent Auditor's Report

Michael Carroll
Acting Secretary
Department of Transportation
Harrisburg, PA 17120

We examined the accompanying Forms MS-991 With Adjustments for the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund and the Reports of Act 44 and Act 89 Tax Funds With Adjustments of Columbia County for the period January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020 (Forms). The county's management is responsible for presenting the Forms in accordance with the criteria described in the Background section of this report and the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9*. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Forms 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. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Forms are presented in accordance with the criteria described above, in all material respects. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the Forms. The nature, timing and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgement, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Forms whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement.

As described in the Auditor Description Of Select Transactions section of this report, the adjustments included on the Forms are made by the Department of the Auditor General.

As discussed in the Finding and Recommendations section of this report, we noted that the county expended \$23,345.89 from its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund in excess of the amount approved for a construction project.

Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

In our opinion, except for the matter discussed in the preceding paragraph, the Forms present, in all material respects, the information required by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund, the Act 44 Tax Fund, and the Act 89 Tax Fund of Columbia County for the period January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020, in accordance with the criteria described in the Background section of this report and the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9*.

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; 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. 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 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 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 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 was for the limited purpose of expressing an opinion on whether the Forms 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.

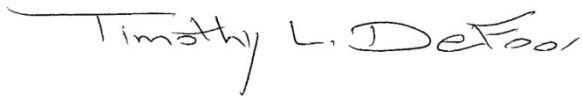
As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Forms are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of Columbia County's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of amounts on the Forms. 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 instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*:

- Liquid Fuels Money Over Expended On Project.

Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

The purpose of this report is to determine whether the county's Liquid Fuels Tax Fund, Act 44 Tax Fund, and Act 89 Tax Fund money is spent in accordance with the laws and regulations identified in the Background section of this report and the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9*. This report is not suitable for any other purpose.

We appreciate the courtesy extended by Columbia County to us during the course of our examination. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Bureau of County Audits at 717-787-1363.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy L. DeFoor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the left of the first letter.

Timothy L. DeFoor
Auditor General
March 9, 2023

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COLUMBIA COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Background

The Vehicle Code makes provisions and provides funding for the County Liquid Fuels, Act 44, and Act 89, Programs. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has regulatory administration and oversight of the funds supporting these county programs. Counties are required to comply with those provisions and to report annually.

The Vehicle Code imposes a state tax on liquid fuels and fuels used or sold and delivered by distributors within the Commonwealth (75 Pa. C.S. § 9004(a)). One-half cent of the tax collected on each gallon of liquid fuels is deposited in the Commonwealth's Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. *The Vehicle Code* further provides for the disposition and use of this tax, including the allocations to counties in June and December of each year to fund construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of county roads, streets and bridges. The allocation to the respective counties is made in the ratio that the average amount returned to each county during the three preceding years bears to the average amount returned to all counties during the three preceding years (75 Pa C.S. § 9010).

The Vehicle Code, as amended by Act 44 of 2007 (July 18, 2007, P.L.169) and Act 89 of 2013 (November 25, 2013, P.L. 169), provides the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation with oversight authority of the Act 44 funds distributed to the counties from the Commonwealth's Motor License Fund (75 Pa. C.S. § 8915.6(b)(2) and as of July 1, 2014 § 9301(b)). The annual distribution to counties is determined based upon the ratio of square footage of deck area of a county's county-owned bridges to the total square footage of deck area of county-owned bridges throughout the Commonwealth. The reporting of the square footage of deck area of a county's county-owned bridges is required as part of the National Bridge Inspection Standards Program.

The Vehicle Code, as amended by Act 89 of 2013 (November 25, 2013, P.L. 974, No.89) provides for semi-annual allocations to all counties that own public bridges (75 Pa. C.S. § 9502(a)(2)(iv)). These allocations are made on the first business day of June and December each year. The Commonwealth allocates the funds available through Act 89 to counties based upon the ratio of square footage of deck area of a county's county-owned bridges to the total square footage of deck area of county-owned bridges throughout the Commonwealth. The reporting of the square footage of deck area of a county's county-owned bridges is required as part of the National Bridge Inspection Standards Program.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Background (Continued)

Criteria

A. *The Vehicle Code* prescribes criteria for liquid fuels program funds (75 Pa C.S. § 9010). The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's *Publication 9* provides more specific policies and procedures to counties for the administration and reporting of the liquid fuels program funds. In the event of any discrepancies between the two, the legislation governs.

(1) Funds received by the counties must be deposited in a special fund designated as the County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund and no other money may be deposited and commingled. Money should be invested to earn interest until expended.

- For purposes of payments under (2), below, the county may borrow and place in the special fund money not in excess of the liquid fuels tax funds to be received during the current calendar year.

(2) Payments from the special fund may be used for:

- Construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of roads, highways, bridges and curb ramps from a road or highway to provide for access by individuals with disabilities consistent with Federal and State law;
- Property damages and compensation of viewers for services in eminent domain proceedings involving roads, highways, and bridges;
- Construction, reconstruction, operation and maintenance of publicly owned ferryboat operations;
- Interest and principal payments on road, bridge, or publicly owned ferryboat operation bonds or sinking fund charges;
- Acquisition, maintenance, repair and operation of traffic signs and signals;
- Erection and maintenance of stop and go signal lights, blinkers and other like traffic control devices;

COLUMBIA COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Background (Continued)

- Indirect costs, including benefit costs, overhead and other administrative charges for those county employees directly engaged in eligible projects, not to exceed 10 percent of the yearly allocation to the county; and
 - Individual vehicle liability insurance for equipment purchased under the fund, not to exceed 10 percent of the yearly allocation to the county.
- (3) Counties may not make expenditures from the special fund for new construction on roads, bridges, curb ramps, or publicly owned ferryboat operations without the approval of the plans for construction by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. And, counties may not allocate money from the special fund to political subdivisions within the county until the application and the contracts or plans for the proposed expenditures have been made on a form prescribed by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.
- (4) Counties may encumber current funds for future road and bridge construction, reconstruction, and maintenance projects including viable municipal projects. Counties must redistribute any unencumbered balance in the special fund to political subdivisions if the unencumbered balance is more than the county's receipts during the preceding twelve month period.
- (5) Counties must submit a report to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation by January 31 for the period ending December 31 on prescribed Form MS-991, The Report of County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund, showing the receipts and expenditures of the money received by the county from the Commonwealth. Upon failure to file the report or instances of any non-compliant payments, allocations, or expenditures, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation may withhold further funding until the delinquent report is filed, the money is allocated, or the expenditures for the prior 12 months are approved.
- B. *The Vehicle Code*, as amended by Act 44 of 2007 (July 18, 2007, P.L. 169) and Act 89 of 2013 (November 25, 2013, P.L. 169), prescribes the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation with oversight authority of the Act 44 funds distributed to the counties from the Commonwealth's Motor License Fund. The County's Act 44 Tax Fund is used to account for the distribution made to the county from the Department of Transportation and the payments made for construction and maintenance of county-owned bridges.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Background (Continued)

(1) Funds received by the counties must be deposited in a special fund designated as the County Act 44 Fund and no other money may be deposited and commingled. (Note: Act 44 and Act 89 Funds may be deposited in a single account. However, the county must account for these funds independently for auditing). Money should be invested to earn interest until expended.

- For purposes of payments under (2), below, the county may borrow and place in the special fund money not in excess of the liquid fuels tax funds to be received during the current calendar year.

(2) Payments from the special fund may be used for:

- Construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and repair of public bridges for which the county is legally responsible.
- Interest and principal payments on bridge loans and bonds or sinking fund charges for such bonds becoming due within that current calendar year.
- County Engineer's salary and benefit costs for bridge work (that portion of the total calculated to be relevant to bridge work only).
- Engineering fees related to bridge work (fees in excess of 10% of the total contract price must be documented and justified to the satisfaction of the District Municipal Services Office).
- Liability insurance for bridge equipment and vehicles when the named beneficiary is the entity's Act 44 Fund.
- Inspection costs associated with bridges.
- Purchase of right-of-way for bridge construction, reconstruction, or maintenance.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Background (Continued)

- (3) For bridge maintenance/preservation activities, the county must confer with a District Municipal Services Representative to determine if Department of Transportation approval is required. All rehabilitations, replacements or any other work that affects the carrying capacity of the structure or the waterway areas requires the approval of the Department of Transportation.
 - (4) In order to receive Act 44 funds as scheduled, each county must submit an annual report showing the receipts and expenditures for the preceding 12 months. The use of the funds must be in compliance with the Act. Failure to do so may result in the county's not receiving allocations until such deficiencies are resolved.
- C. *The Vehicle Code*, as amended by Act 89 of 2013 (November 25, 2013, P.L. 169), prescribes the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation with oversight authority of the Act 89 funds distributed to the counties from the Department of Transportation. The County's Act 89 Tax Fund is used to account for the distribution made to the county from the Department of Transportation and the payments made for construction and maintenance of county-owned bridges.
- (1) Funds received by the counties must be deposited in a special fund designated as the County Act 89 Fund and no other money may be deposited and commingled. (Note: Act 89 and Act 44 Funds may be deposited in a single account. However, the county must account for these funds independently for auditing). Money should be invested to earn interest until expended.
 - For purposes of payments under (2), below, the county may borrow and place in the special fund money not in excess of the liquid fuels tax funds to be received during the current calendar year.
 - (2) Payments from the special fund may be used for:
 - Construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and repair of public bridges for which the county is legally responsible.
 - Interest and principal payments on bridge loans and bonds or sinking fund charges for such bonds becoming due within that current calendar year.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Background (Continued)

- County Engineer's salary and benefit costs for bridge work (that portion of the total calculated to be relevant to bridge work only).
 - Engineering fees related to bridge work (fees in excess of 10% of the total contract price must be documented and justified to the satisfaction of the District Municipal Services Office).
 - Liability insurance for bridge equipment and vehicles when the named beneficiary is the entity's Act 89 Fund.
 - Inspection costs associated with bridges.
 - Purchase of right-of-way for bridge construction, reconstruction, or maintenance.
- (3) For bridge maintenance/preservation activities, the county must confer with a District Municipal Services Representative to determine if Department of Transportation approval is required. All rehabilitations, replacements or any other work that affects the carrying capacity of the structure or the waterway areas requires the approval of the Department of Transportation.
- (4) In order to receive Act 89 funds as scheduled, each county must submit an annual report showing the receipts and expenditures for the preceding 12 months. The use of the funds must be in compliance with the Act. Failure to do so may result in the county's not receiving allocations until such deficiencies are resolved.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Background (Continued)

Basis Of Presentation

In accordance with reporting requirements prescribed by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Form MS-991 With Adjustments and the Reports of Act 44 and Act 89 Tax Funds With Adjustments do not constitute complete financial presentations of the county's assets, liabilities, expenses, and fund balance but include the receipts, expenditures, and fund balances of the County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund, the County Act 44 Tax Fund, and the County Act 89 Tax Fund, respectively.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation prescribes that the county report the following on the Form MS-991, *Report of County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund*:

- A. The balance in the County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund at the beginning of the report calendar year.
- B. Receipts which must be itemized and include the County's Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocations, interest, reimbursable agreements, and miscellaneous items such as loans, sale of salvageable material, and damage claims to road or bridge property.
- C. Accounts receivable (to be realized within 60 days of the year end).
- D. Total Liquid Fuels Tax funds available for expenditure and encumbrances.
- E. Expenditures for county-owned roads, highways, and bridges.
- F. Accounts payable (accrued wages, accrued payroll taxes, and accounts payable vendors to be realized within 60 days of the year end)
- G. The balance in the fund at the close of the report calendar year.
- H. Encumbered and unencumbered balances on hand at the close of the report calendar year.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Background (Continued)

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation prescribes that the county report the following on the Reports Of Act 44 Tax Fund and Act 89 Tax Fund:

- A. The balance in the County Act 44 and Act 89 Tax Fund at the beginning of the report calendar year.
- B. Receipts which must be itemized and include the County's Act 44 and Act 89 allocations, interest, reimbursable agreements, and miscellaneous items such as loans, sale of salvageable material, and damage claims to road or bridge property.
- C. Total Act 44 and Act 89 funds available for expenditure.
- D. Expenditures for county-owned bridges.
- E. The balance in the fund at the close of the report calendar year.

Basis Of Accounting

The accompanying Form MS-991 With Adjustments, Report of Act 44 Tax Fund With Adjustments, and Report of Act 89 Tax Fund 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.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
2019 FORM MS-991 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Actual balance in county Liquid Fuels Tax Fund on January 1, 2019	\$ 217,866.73	\$ -	\$ 217,866.73
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Liquid Fuels Tax Funds received from Commonwealth	173,004.93	-	173,004.93
Interest	298.70	-	298.70
Reimbursable agreements	797,322.85	-	797,322.85
Miscellaneous	113,617.83	-	113,617.83
Total receipts	<u>1,084,244.31</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,084,244.31</u>
Total Liquid Fuels Tax Funds available for expenditures and encumbrances	<u>1,302,111.04</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,302,111.04</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Administrative	-	-	-
Minor equipment purchases	-	-	-
County aid payments	-	-	-
Major equipment expenditures	9,509.11	-	9,509.11
Street cleaning and gutters	-	-	-
Winter maintenance services	-	-	-
Traffic control devices	-	-	-
Street lighting	460.17	-	460.17
Storm sewers and drains	-	-	-
Repairs of tools and machinery	353.80	-	353.80
Maintenance and repairs - roads and bridges	447,662.64	-	447,662.64
Highway construction and rebuilding projects	680,008.07	-	680,008.07
Miscellaneous	2,747.58	-	2,747.58
Total expenditures	<u>1,140,741.37</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,140,741.37</u>
Remaining funds available as of December 31, 2019	<u>\$ 161,369.67</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 161,369.67</u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
2019 FORM MS-991 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

2019 Form MS-991 With Adjustments (Continued)

	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
<u>Approved future year receipts and expenditures</u>			
Accounts receivable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Accounts payable	-	-	-
Unpaid encumbrances	-	70,000.00	70,000.00
Unpaid county aid grants	159,692.00	(105,000.00)	54,692.00
	<u>159,692.00</u>	<u>(105,000.00)</u>	<u>54,692.00</u>
 Total approved future year receipts and expenditures	 <u>159,692.00</u>	 <u>(35,000.00)</u>	 <u>124,692.00</u>
 Year end balance available for future years as of December 31, 2019	 <u>\$ 1,677.67</u>	 <u>\$ 35,000.00</u>	 <u>\$ 36,677.67</u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
2020 FORM MS-991 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Actual balance in county Liquid Fuels Tax Fund on January 1, 2020	\$ 161,369.67	\$ -	\$ 161,369.67
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Liquid Fuels Tax Funds received from Commonwealth	150,291.99	-	150,291.99
Interest	583.39	-	583.39
Reimbursable agreements	-	411,456.85	411,456.85
Miscellaneous	983,702.39	(411,456.85)	572,245.54
Total receipts	<u>1,134,577.77</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,134,577.77</u>
Total Liquid Fuels Tax Funds available for expenditures and encumbrances	<u>1,295,947.44</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,295,947.44</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Administrative	-	-	-
Minor equipment purchases	-	-	-
County aid payments	7,500.00	-	7,500.00
Major equipment expenditures	8,712.00	-	8,712.00
Street cleaning and gutters	-	-	-
Winter maintenance services	-	-	-
Traffic control devices	-	-	-
Street lighting	479.22	-	479.22
Storm sewers and drains	-	-	-
Repairs of tools and machinery	-	-	-
Maintenance and repairs - roads and bridges	53,471.15	-	53,471.15
Highway construction and rebuilding projects	238,140.87	-	238,140.87
Miscellaneous	239,648.94	-	239,648.94
Total expenditures	<u>547,952.18</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>547,952.18</u>
Remaining funds available as of December 31, 2020	<u>\$ 747,995.26</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 747,995.26</u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
2020 FORM MS-991 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

2020 Form MS-991 With Adjustments (Continued)

	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
<u>Approved future year receipts and expenditures</u>			
Accounts receivable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Accounts payable	-	-	-
Unpaid encumbrances	494,000.00	(424,000.00)	70,000.00
Unpaid county aid grants	152,192.00	(152,192.00)	-
	<u>646,192.00</u>	<u>(576,192.00)</u>	<u>70,000.00</u>
Total approved future year receipts and expenditures			
	<u>646,192.00</u>	<u>(576,192.00)</u>	<u>70,000.00</u>
Year end balance available for future years as of December 31, 2020	<u>\$ 101,803.26</u>	<u>\$ 576,192.00</u>	<u>\$ 677,995.26</u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY
2019 REPORT OF ACT 44 TAX FUND
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Balance, January 1, 2019	\$ 359,913.66	\$ -	\$ 359,913.66
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Act 44 Funds	63,945.36	-	63,945.36
Interest	109.46	-	109.46
Reimbursable agreements	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total receipts	<u>64,054.82</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>64,054.82</u>
Total funds available	<u>423,968.48</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>423,968.48</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Construction	-	-	-
Maintenance and repair	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance, December 31, 2019	<u><u>\$ 423,968.48</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 423,968.48</u></u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY
2020 REPORT OF ACT 44 TAX FUND
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Balance, January 1, 2020	\$ 423,968.48	\$ -	\$ 423,968.48
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Act 44 Funds	64,497.25	-	64,497.25
Interest	119.28	-	119.28
Reimbursable agreements	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	64,497.25	-	64,497.25
Total receipts	<u>129,113.78</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>129,113.78</u>
Total funds available	<u>553,082.26</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>553,082.26</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Construction	-	-	-
Maintenance and repair	53,105.33	-	53,105.33
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>53,105.33</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,105.33</u>
Balance, December 31, 2020	<u><u>\$ 499,976.93</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 499,976.93</u></u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY
2019 REPORT OF ACT 89 TAX FUND
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Balance, January 1, 2019	\$ 513,692.50	\$ -	\$ 513,692.50
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Act 89 Funds	119,871.07	-	119,871.07
Interest	142.71	-	142.71
Reimbursable agreements	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total receipts	<u>120,013.78</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>120,013.78</u>
Total funds available	<u>633,706.28</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>633,706.28</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Construction	352,337.40	-	352,337.40
Maintenance and repair	15,898.01	-	15,898.01
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>368,235.41</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>368,235.41</u>
Balance, December 31, 2019	<u><u>\$ 265,470.87</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 265,470.87</u></u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY
2020 REPORT OF ACT 89 TAX FUND
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Balance, January 1, 2020	\$ 265,470.87	\$ -	\$ 265,470.87
<u>Receipts:</u>			
Act 89 Funds	114,501.03	-	114,501.03
Interest	61.76	-	61.76
Reimbursable agreements	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	58,015.27	-	58,015.27
Total receipts	<u>172,578.06</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>172,578.06</u>
Total funds available	<u>438,048.93</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>438,048.93</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Construction	106,370.83	-	106,370.83
Maintenance and repair	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>106,370.83</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>106,370.83</u>
Balance, December 31, 2020	<u><u>\$ 331,678.10</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 331,678.10</u></u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS
AUDITOR DESCRIPTION OF SELECT TRANSACTIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

The following information relates to certain types of transactions for which the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation requested that we provide additional detail:

Adjustments

2019 Form MS-991

An adjustment of \$70,000.00 was made to “Unpaid encumbrances” because of the following reporting errors:

<u>Encumbrance No.</u>	<u>Actual Amount</u>	<u>Reported Amount</u>	<u>Adjustment</u>
Bridge No. 29	\$70,000.00	\$-	\$70,000.00

An adjustment of \$(105,000.00) was made to “Unpaid county aid grants” because of the following reporting errors:

<u>Project No.</u>	<u>Actual Amount</u>	<u>Reported Amount</u>	<u>Adjustment</u>
16-19212-01	\$-	\$ 31,000.00	\$ (31,000.00)
16-19218-01	-	25,000.00	(25,000.00)
16-19222-01	-	26,000.00	(26,000.00)
16-19211-01	-	23,000.00	(23,000.00)
Totals	\$-	\$105,000.00	\$(105,000.00)

COLUMBIA COUNTY
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Adjustments (Continued)

2020 Form MS-991

Adjustments were made to “Reimbursable agreements” and “Miscellaneous” because receipts of \$411,456.85 for reimbursable agreements were misclassified.

An adjustment of \$(424,000.00) was made to “Unpaid encumbrances” because of the following reporting errors:

<u>Encumbrance No.</u>	<u>Actual Amount</u>	<u>Reported Amount</u>	<u>Adjustment</u>
Bridge No. 29	\$70,000.00	\$ -	\$ 70,000.00
Bridge Nos. 24, 49, and 116	-	280,000.00	(280,000.00)
Bridge No. 27	-	214,000.00	(214,000.00)
Totals	<u>\$70,000.00</u>	<u>\$(494,000.00)</u>	<u>\$(424,000.00)</u>

An adjustment of \$(152,192.00) was made to “Unpaid county aid grants” because of the following reporting errors:

<u>Project No.</u>	<u>Actual Amount</u>	<u>Reported Amount</u>	<u>Adjustment</u>
14-19211-001	\$-	\$ 10,692.00	\$ (10,692.00)
15-19216-001	-	26,500.00	(26,500.00)
16-19212-001	-	31,000.00	(31,000.00)
16-19218-001	-	25,000.00	(25,000.00)
16-19222-001	-	26,000.00	(26,000.00)
16-19211-001	-	23,000.00	(23,000.00)
17-19204-001	-	10,000.00	(10,000.00)
Totals	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$152,192.00</u>	<u>\$(152,192.00)</u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS
AUDITOR DESCRIPTION OF SELECT TRANSACTIONS
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Reimbursable Agreement

During our examination, we noted that the county entered into a reimbursable agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for bridge construction and bridge inspections. During our current examination period, the county received \$797,322.85 for 2019 and \$411,456.85 for 2020 as a result of these agreements and deposited these funds into its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

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>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	Severe weather assistance	\$3,317.25	\$ -
Various	Deposits in error	11,471.26	230,557.24
Act 89 Fund	Transfer to cover expenditures	98,829.32	100,000.00
General Fund	Reimbursement for expenditures	-	3,600.44
Act 44 Fund	Transfer to cover expenditures	-	53,105.33
Vendor	Reimbursement for engineering	-	21,996.88
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	Flood damage	-	162,985.65
Totals		<u>\$113,617.83</u>	<u>\$572,245.54</u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS
AUDITOR DESCRIPTION OF SELECT TRANSACTIONS
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Miscellaneous Receipts (Continued)

The following miscellaneous receipts were deposited into the Act 44 Tax Fund during 2020:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund	Deposit in error	<u>\$64,497.25</u>

The following miscellaneous receipts were deposited into the Act 89 Tax Fund during 2020:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund	Deposit in error	<u>\$58,015.27</u>

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>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Capital One	Purchases	\$2,747.58	\$ -
Columbia County General Fund	Reimburse deposits in error	-	117,136.42
Act 89 Fund	Transfer of 2020 December Act 89 allocation	-	58,015.27
Act 44 Fund	Transfer of 2020 Act 44 allocation	-	<u>64,497.25</u>
Totals		<u>\$2,747.58</u>	<u>\$239,648.94</u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS
AUDITOR DESCRIPTION OF SELECT TRANSACTIONS
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Encumbrances

As of December 31, 2020, \$70,000.00 was encumbered for county projects.

Liquid Fuels Tax Fund Deposits In Error

During our examination, there were multiple deposits made in error into the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. They totaled \$11,471.26 in 2019 and \$230,557.24 in 2020. These deposits were all transferred to the correct funds as listed below:

<u>Received From</u>	<u>Transferred To</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Date Reimbursed To Correct Fund</u>
Commonwealth of PA	General Fund	\$ 11,471.26	12/09/19	01/07/20
General Fund	General Fund	81,073.76	09/14/20	10/16/20
General Fund	General Fund	1,545.40	11/14/20	12/07/20
General Fund	General Fund	23,046.06	11/23/20	12/08/20
Commonwealth of PA	General Fund	2,379.56	12/31/20	01/14/21
Commonwealth of PA	Act 44 Tax Fund	64,497.25	12/07/20	12/07/20
Commonwealth of PA	Act 89 Tax Fund	58,015.27	12/07/20	12/07/20
	Total	<u>\$242,028.56</u>		

COLUMBIA COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

Finding - Liquid Fuels Money Over Expended On Project

Our examination disclosed that the county expended \$286,081.63 of Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money on construction project No. 18-19000-001. However, the amount of Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money approved by the Department of Transportation to be expended from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for the project was \$262,735.74. The difference of \$23,345.89 should have been paid directly from the General Fund.

The Department of Transportation's Regulations do not permit a county to expend Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money in excess of the amount approved on Municipal Services Completion Report Form MS-999.

The county failed to list all expenditures pertaining to project No. 18-19000-001 on the Form MS-999 final completion report.

The failure to comply with the Department of Transportation's Regulations could result in the county having to reimburse \$23,345.89 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

Recommendations

We recommend that the county reimburse \$23,345.89 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund upon official notification by the Department of Transportation.

We further recommend that, in the future, the county expend only the approved amount of Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money on road construction projects.

Management's Response

The county officials stated:

The County does not agree with the finding. The item can be corrected by amending the project MS-999 report to reflect the paperwork error by not recording the approved payments for the project correctly. Expenditures were an approved liquid fuels expense; it was just not recorded on the completion report.

Auditor's Conclusion

The Department of Transportation will determine whether the county will be required to reimburse the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. We are required to report non-compliance with regulations, which includes expending more than the approved amount of Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money. During our next examination, we will determine if the county complied with our recommendations.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS
SUMMARY OF EXIT CONFERENCE
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

An exit conference was held November 22, 2022. Those participating were:

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Mr. Eric Stahley, Resiliency Director

Mr. David Witchey, Chief Clerk

DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Mr. Brian P. Dries, Auditor

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

COLUMBIA COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS, ACT 44, AND ACT 89 TAX FUNDS
REPORT DISTRIBUTION
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

This report was initially distributed to:

Michael Carroll
Acting Secretary
Department of Transportation

Columbia County
P.O. Box 380
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

The Honorable Chris Young
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

Mr. Eric Stahley
Resiliency Director

Mr. David Witchey
Chief Clerk

Mr. Luther Black
Chairman of Auditors

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.