### ATTESTATION ENGAGEMENT

### Township of Pavia

Bedford County, Pennsylvania 05-222

Liquid Fuels Tax Fund
For the Period
January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019

July 2021



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General

Timothy L. DeFoor • Auditor General



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
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TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR AUDITOR GENERAL

Independent Auditor's Report

Yassmin Gramian, P.E. 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 Pavia, Bedford County, for the period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019. The municipality's management is responsible for presenting the Forms MS-965 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 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. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Forms MS-965 are presented in accordance with the criteria described above, in all material respects. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the Forms MS-965. 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 MS-965, 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 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*.

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

As described in the Auditor Description Of Select Transactions section of this report, the adjustments included on the Forms MS-965 With Adjustments are made by the Department of the Auditor General.

As discussed in Finding No. 2, during 2019 the municipality expended \$28,765.00 for snow plowing. However, the bid for the snow plowing was a lump sum bid accepted without the approval of the Department of Transportation.

In our opinion, except for the matter discussed 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 Pavia, Bedford County, for the period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019, 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 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.

Our consideration of 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. However, as described below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses and other deficiencies that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

### **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 a 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. We consider the deficiency below to be a material weakness:

• No Signature On Liquid Fuels Tax Fund Check.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Forms MS-965 are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of the Township of Pavia, Bedford 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 instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*:

• Lump Sum Bidding Without Approval Of The Department Of Transportation.

We also noted a matter that, while not required to be included in this report by *Government Auditing Standards*, has been included in the finding below:

• Late Receipt Of Allocation.

The purpose of this report is to determine whether the municipality's Liquid Fuels 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 the Township of Pavia, Bedford 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.

June 22, 2021

Timothy L. DeFoor
Auditor General

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### Background

The Liquid Fuels Tax Municipal Allocation Law, Act 655 of 1956, as amended, (72 P.S. § 2615.5 et sec.), 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 allocation of Liquid Fuels Tax funds and annual maintenance payments that it receives into a special fund called either 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 such a 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. Department of Transportation's *Publication 9* includes the policies and procedures for the administration of Act 655, as amended, and the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money. However, if there is a difference between *Publication 9* and any legislation, the legislation shall govern.

To qualify for the annual allocation of Liquid Fuels Tax funds, *Publication 9* indicates that each municipality shall:

- 1. Submit annual reports (MS-965, Actual Use Report, MS-965P, Project and Miscellaneous Receipts, and MS-965S, Record of Checks).
- 2. Make deposits and payments or expenditures in compliance with Act 655 of 1956, as amended. Failure to do so may result in not receiving allocations from PennDOT until all discrepancies are resolved. *Publication 9*, Section 2.6, includes information about investing Liquid Fuels Tax monies, using loan or bond proceeds, and types of receipts into the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

### Background (Continued)

- 3. 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>.
- 4. Ensure resolution of all Contractor Responsibility Program (CRP) holds and blocks imposed by the Department of Revenue and the Department of Labor and Industry.
- 5. Ensure resolution of all reimbursements required as a result of audits performed by the Department of the Auditor General or monitoring reviews performed by the Department of Transportation's Financial Consultants.

### Criteria

The criteria for the Form MS-965 With Adjustment are described below.

Section 1 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:

2017	2018	2019	2020
¢10.700.00	¢10,000,00	¢11 100 00	¢11 200 00
\$10,700.00	\$10,900.00	\$11,100.00	\$11,300.00

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

 2017	2018	2019	2020
 \$10,700.00	\$10,900.00	\$11,100.00	\$11,300.00

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

### Background (Continued)

Section 2 of Form MS-965 With Adjustments provides information on the fund balance. Categories requiring explanation include:

- The state allocation is available from the Department of Transportation in March of each year. The amount the municipality receives is based half on its population and half on its road mileage.
- Municipalities that transferred roads from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the municipality through the Highway Transfer Program receive annual turnback allocations in March of each year from the Department of Transportation. Turnback allocations are based on the mileage of the roads transferred.
- Expenditures include the total transferred from Section 1.

Section 3 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.

### Background (Continued)

### 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 Form MS-965 has 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 Form MS-965 With Adjustments is restricted to the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund, which represents a segment of the entity.

### Basis Of Accounting

The accompanying Form MS-965 With Adjustments is 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.

### TOWNSHIP OF PAVIA BEDFORD COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2018 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 1 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Expenditure Summary	Reported		Adjustments		Adjusted Amount	
Minor equipment purchases	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Computer/Computer related training		-		-		-
Major equipment purchases		-		-		-
Agility projects		-		-		-
Cleaning streets and gutters		-		-		-
Winter maintenance services		-		-		-
Traffic control devices		-		-		-
Street lighting		-		-		-
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)	\$		\$	-	\$	

### TOWNSHIP OF PAVIA BEDFORD COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2018 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 2 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Fund Balance		Reported	Adjustments		Adjusted Amount	
1. Balance, January 1, 2018	\$	\$ 57,330.39		-	\$	57,330.39
Receipts: 2. State allocation 2a. Turnback allocation		34,006.79		-		34,006.79
2b. Interest on investments 2c. Miscellaneous		1,258.85		- -		1,258.85
3. Total receipts		35,265.64				35,265.64
4. Total funds available		92,596.03				92,596.03
5. Expenditures (Section 1)				-		
6. Balance, December 31, 2018	\$	92,596.03	\$		\$	92,596.03

### TOWNSHIP OF PAVIA BEDFORD COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2018 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 3 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Equipment Balance	Reported		Reported		Reported Adjustments		Adjusted Amount	
1. Prior year equipment balance	\$	40,830.41	\$	(.01)	\$	40,830.40		
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)		6,801.36		-		6,801.36		
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments						<del>-</del>		
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition		47,631.77		(.01)		47,631.76		
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures		<del>-</del>						
6. Remainder		47,631.77		(.01)		47,631.76		
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	\$	47,631.77	\$	(.01)	\$	47,631.76		

### TOWNSHIP OF PAVIA BEDFORD COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2019 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 1 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Expenditure Summary	Reported		Adjustments		Adjusted Amount	
Minor equipment purchases	\$	_	\$	_	\$	_
Computer/Computer related training	Ψ	_	Ψ	_	Ψ	_
Major equipment purchases		_		_		_
Agility projects		_		_		_
Cleaning streets and gutters		-		-		_
Winter maintenance services		28,765.00		_		28,765.00
Traffic control devices		-		-		- -
Street lighting		-		-		-
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)	\$	28,765.00	\$	-	\$	28,765.00

### TOWNSHIP OF PAVIA BEDFORD COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2019 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 2 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Fund Balance	Reported	Adjustments	Adjusted Amount	
1. Balance, January 1, 2019	\$ 92,596.03	\$ -	\$ 92,596.03	
Receipts: 2. State allocation 2a. Turnback allocation 2b. Interest on investments	34,799.13 - 1,974.05	- - -	34,799.13 - 1,974.05	
<ul><li>2c. Miscellaneous</li><li>3. Total receipts</li></ul>	36,773.18	<u> </u>	36,773.18	
4. Total funds available	129,369.21		129,369.21	
5. Expenditures (Section 1)	28,765.00		28,765.00	
6. Balance, December 31, 2019	\$ 100,604.21	\$ -	\$ 100,604.21	

### TOWNSHIP OF PAVIA BEDFORD COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2019 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 3 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Equipment Balance	Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Adjus	stments	Adjusted Amount
1. Prior year equipment balance	\$	47,631.77	\$	(.01)	\$ 47,631.76								
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)		6,959.83		-	6,959.83								
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments					 								
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition		54,591.60		(.01)	54,591.59								
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures													
6. Remainder		54,591.60		(.01)	54,591.59								
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	\$	54,591.60	\$	(.01)	\$ 54,591.59								

### TOWNSHIP OF PAVIA BEDFORD COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND AUDITOR DESCRIPTION OF SELECT TRANSACTIONS FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019

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

### Adjustments

### 2018 - Section 3

An adjustment of \$(.01) was made to "Prior year equipment balance" because an incorrect equipment balance was carried forward.

### 2019 - Section 3

An adjustment of \$(.01) was made to "Prior year equipment balance" to reflect the adjustment made to the equipment balance in 2018 - Section 3.

### Finding No. 1 - No Signature On Liquid Fuels Tax Fund Check

Our examination disclosed that the municipality issued two checks during the examination period. Check No. 1152 drawn on the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund was unsigned but still honored by the bank. The other check was signed by two authorized check signers per borough policy.

When checks are not signed, there is a significant risk of unauthorized disbursements, errors, or misappropriations occurring and remaining undetected. To decrease this risk, the municipal officials should ensure that the policy requiring two authorized signatures to authorized checks drawn on the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund is followed.

### Recommendation

We recommend that the municipality should ensure that it follows its policy of requiring two signatures on all disbursements from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund account.

### Management's Response

The Secretary/Treasurer stated:

No signature was an oversight. The financial institution accepted and cashed the check.

### Auditor's Conclusion

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

### Finding No. 2 - Lump Sum Bidding Without Approval Of The Department Of Transportation

Our examination disclosed that on February 15, 2019 and May 7, 2019, the township expended a total of \$28,765.00 for snow plowing various township roads. Although the township advertised for bids for this service, the only proposal received for the services was for a lump sum bid of \$48,763.00. The municipality paid the balance of \$19,998.00 from the General Fund. Lump sum bids are not permitted unless approved by the Department of Transportation. The municipality did not obtain the approval of the Department of Transportation to use a lump sum bid for the snow plowing.

In addition, we noted that the municipality did not receive invoices from the vendor. The expenditures were paid directly from the bid sheet.

Because lump sum bidding was not approved by the Department of Transportation these expenditures did not comply with the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9*, Appendix D, § 449.9(c), which states:

### (c) Proposal

The proposal shall contain the approximate number of tons or square yards of materials for metric equivalents required, as reasonably estimated by the municipality. The bidder shall insert:

- (1) The unit price for each item (type of equipment x hourly rate)
- (2) The total price for each item (anti-skid quantity x price per ton)
- (3) The total price for any group of items, as to which the proposal requires a total or subtotal.

### (d) Lump sum bids.

In special cases, the Director of the Bureau of Municipal Services of the Department may approve lump sum bids in lieu of the procedure set forth in subsection (c).

The failure to comply with the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9* could result in the township having to reimburse \$28,765.00 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

### Finding No. 2 - Lump Sum Bidding Without Approval Of The Department Of Transportation (Continued)

### Recommendations

We recommend that the township reimburse \$28,765.00 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund upon official notification by the Department of Transportation.

We further recommend that, in the future, the township complies with The Department of Transportation's *Publication 9* as noted in this finding.

### Management's Response

The Secretary/Treasurer stated:

The township followed the directions of the township legal counsel, PA State Association of Townships (PSATS), and PA Dot recommendations.

### Auditor's Conclusion

The township did not comply with the Department of Transportation's *Publication* 9. The Department of Transportation will determine if the municipality should reimburse \$28,765.00 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. During our next examination, we will determine if the municipality complied with our recommendations.

### Finding No. 3 - Late Receipt Of Allocation

Our examination disclosed that the 2018 Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocation of \$34,006.79, which should have been distributed from the Department of Transportation to the municipality during the first week of March of that year, was not received until June 29, 2018, 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.
- Ensure resolution of all reimbursements required as a result of audits performed by the Department of the Auditor General or monitoring reviews performed by the Department of Transportation's Financial Consultants.

Because the municipality failed to file documents and information timely as noted above, the municipality did not have use of the 2018 allocation for more almost four months. Furthermore, had the allocation 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.

The current administration could not tell us the reason that forms filed by the prior administration were not filed timely.

We noted that the 2019 Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocation was received on time.

### Finding No. 3 - Late Receipt Of Allocation (Continued)

### Recommendation

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

### Management's Response

The Secretary/Treasurer stated:

The time period for submitted the MS-965 for in 2018 was under a previous administration. The current administration does not know why the previous administration did not submit the form in a timely manner.

### Auditor's Conclusion

During our next examination, we will determine if the municipality continued to comply with our recommendation.

# TOWNSHIP OF PAVIA BEDFORD COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND SUMMARY OF EXIT CONFERENCE FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019

An exit conference was held February 3, 2021. Those participating were:

### TOWNSHIP OF PAVIA

Ms. Sherry Hofecker, Secretary/Treasurer

### **DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL**

Ms. Michele Garman, CFE, Audit Supervisor

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

This report was initially distributed to:

Yassmin Gramian, P.E.

Acting Secretary
Department of Transportation

**Township of Pavia** 

Bedford County 237 Pavia Road Imler, PA 16655

The Honorable Cregg Dibert

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

Ms. Sherry Hofecker

Secretary/Treasurer

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at <a href="www.PaAuditor.gov">www.PaAuditor.gov</a>. 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: <a href="mailto:news@PaAuditor.gov">news@PaAuditor.gov</a>.