# ATTESTATION ENGAGEMENT

# Borough of Troy

Bradford County, Pennsylvania 08-413

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

September 2020



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** 

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 Borough of Troy, Bradford 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 discussed in the Finding and Recommendations section of this report, the borough expended \$7,506.67 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for the repayment of a loan for road project No. 18-08431-001 without obtaining project approval from 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 Borough of Troy, Bradford 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 internal control over reporting on the Forms MS-965 or on compliance and other matters; accordingly, we express no such opinions.

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

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

### Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Forms MS-965 are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of the Borough of Troy, Bradford 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*:

• Failure To Obtain Project Approval For Loan Repayment.

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 Borough of Troy, Bradford 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.

August 27, 2020

Eugene A. DePasquale 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:

2015/2016	2017	2018	2019
\$10,500.00	\$10,700.00	\$10,900.00	\$11,100.00

• 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:

2015/2016	2017	2018	2019
\$10,500.00	\$10,700.00	\$10,900.00	\$11,100.00

• 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.

# BOROUGH OF TROY BRADFORD COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2018 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 1 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Expenditure Summary	Reported		Reported Adjustments		Adjusted Amount	
Minor equipment purchases	\$	1,600.00	\$	_	\$	1,600.00
	Ψ	1,000.00	Ψ	_	Ψ	1,000.00
Computer/Computer related training		-		-		-
Major equipment purchases		-		-		-
Agility projects		-		-		-
Cleaning streets and gutters		1,040.00		-		1,040.00
Winter maintenance services		16,139.08		-		16,139.08
Traffic control devices		-		-		-
Street lighting		-		-		-
Storm sewers and drains		-		-		-
Repairs of tools and machinery		-		-		-
Maintenance and repair of						
roads and bridges		5,553.15		-		5,553.15
Highway construction and						
rebuilding projects		25,000.00		-		25,000.00
Miscellaneous						
Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	\$	49,332.23	\$		\$	49,332.23

# BOROUGH OF TROY BRADFORD COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2018 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 2 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Fund Balance	Reported	Adjustments	Adjusted Amount
1. Balance, January 1, 2018	\$ 86,791.82	\$ -	\$ 86,791.82
Receipts: 2. State allocation	44,501.43	-	44,501.43
<ul><li>2a. Turnback allocation</li><li>2b. Interest on investments</li><li>2c. Miscellaneous</li></ul>	318.64	- - 	318.64
3. Total receipts	44,820.07	<u> </u>	44,820.07
4. Total funds available	131,611.89	<del>-</del>	131,611.89
5. Expenditures (Section 1)	49,332.23	<del>-</del>	49,332.23
6. Balance, December 31, 2018	\$ 82,279.66	\$ -	\$ 82,279.66

# BOROUGH OF TROY BRADFORD COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2018 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 3 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Equipment Balance	Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Adjus	stments	Adjusted Amount
1. Prior year equipment balance	\$	52,339.01	\$	-	\$ 52,339.01																																																				
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)		8,900.29		-	8,900.29																																																				
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments					 																																																				
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition		61,239.30		-	61,239.30																																																				
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures					 <u>-</u>																																																				
6. Remainder		61,239.30			 61,239.30																																																				
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	\$	61,239.30	\$		\$ 61,239.30																																																				

# BOROUGH OF TROY BRADFORD COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2019 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 1 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Expenditure Summary	Reported		Reported Adjustments		Adjusted Amount	
Minor equipment purchases	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Computer/Computer related training		-		-		-
Major equipment purchases		29,367.79		-		29,367.79
Agility projects		-		-		-
Cleaning streets and gutters		1,319.50		-		1,319.50
Winter maintenance services		16,867.17		-		16,867.17
Traffic control devices		-		-		-
Street lighting		-		-		-
Storm sewers and drains		-		-		-
Repairs of tools and machinery		-		-		-
Maintenance and repair of						
roads and bridges		2,876.40		-		2,876.40
Highway construction and						
rebuilding projects		7,506.67		-		7,506.67
Miscellaneous				-		
Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	\$	57,937.53	\$		\$	57,937.53

# BOROUGH OF TROY BRADFORD COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2019 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 2 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Fund Balance		Reported	Adjustments		Adjusted Amount	
1. Balance, January 1, 2019	\$	82,279.66	\$	-	\$	82,279.66
Receipts: 2. State allocation 2a. Turnback allocation		43,354.13		-		43,354.13
2b. Interest on investments 2c. Miscellaneous		368.75		- - -		368.75
3. Total receipts		43,722.88				43,722.88
4. Total funds available		126,002.54				126,002.54
5. Expenditures (Section 1)		57,937.53				57,937.53
6. Balance, December 31, 2019	\$	68,065.01	\$		\$	68,065.01

# BOROUGH OF TROY BRADFORD COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2019 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 3 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Equipment Balance	Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Reported		Adju	stments	 Adjusted Amount
1. Prior year equipment balance	\$	61,239.30	\$	-	\$ 61,239.30																																																				
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)		8,670.83		-	8,670.83																																																				
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments					-																																																				
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition		69,910.13		-	69,910.13																																																				
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures		29,367.79			 29,367.79																																																				
6. Remainder		40,542.34		_	 40,542.34																																																				
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	\$	40,542.34	\$		\$ 40,542.34																																																				

# BOROUGH OF TROY BRADFORD 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.

#### Bank Loan

On August 22, 2019, the municipality borrowed \$101,425.00 from Fulton Bank to purchase a 2019 Ford F550 dump truck. The term of the loan was for five years at an interest rate of 4.42 percent. Principal and interest payments of \$22,584.46 are due annually.

During the current examination period, the municipality paid principal of \$22,047.10, interest of \$37.36, and a fee of \$500.00 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. These amounts are reflected in major equipment purchases on the 2019 Form MS-965 - Section 1. The outstanding balance of the loan as of December 31, 2019, was \$79,377.90, plus interest.

#### Loan

On November 30, 2017, the municipality borrowed \$100,000.000 from the Troy Municipal Authority for a paving project. The term of the loan was for five years at an interest rate of 3.15 percent. Principal and interest payments of \$20,000.00 are due annually.

During the current examination period, the municipality paid principal of \$7,506.67 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund (see Finding). This amount is reflected in highway construction and rebuilding projects on the 2019 Form MS-965 - Section 1. Additionally, the municipality paid principal of \$32,493.33 and interest of \$5,670.00 from the General Fund. The outstanding balance of the loan as of December 31, 2019, was \$60,000.00, plus interest.

# BOROUGH OF TROY BRADFORD COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019

### Finding - Failure To Obtain Project Approval For Loan Repayment

Our examination disclosed that at the borough council meeting on November 30, 2017, borough council approved obtaining a \$100,000.00 loan from the municipal authority for road repairs on East Main Street. On December 11, 2019, the borough expended \$7,506.67 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for a payment on the loan.

While the borough did file a Form MS-329 Project Approval dated August 6, 2018, for Project No. 18-08431-001 on East Main Street, the submitted form indicated the project did not have loan financing. Additionally, the borough obtained a signed Project Completion Report dated February 13, 2019, for Project No. 18-08431-001. However, the borough did not report on the completion report that the repayment of the loan was made to the municipal authority using Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money. Therefore, Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money should not have been used to repay the loan.

The Department of Transportation's *Publication 9* contains the policies and procedures for the administration of the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. *Publication 9*, Chapter Two, Section 2.6.2, Use of Loan or Bond Issue Proceeds, states in part:

All proceeds of any loan or bond issue made for road or street improvement purposes must be used exclusively for road or street improvement purposes. A loan or bond issue shall not be made for both a road or street improvement purpose and an unrelated purpose. Approval by the District Municipal Services Representative is required to verify that is a liquid fuels eligible expense.

Additionally, *Publication 9*, Chapter Two, Section 2.7.3.1 Bank Loans, states:

In addition to repaying bond issues, Act 174, enacted August, 1965, permits the use of Liquid Fuels Tax funds to repay bank loans as well as bond issues which have been incurred by municipalities for road and bridge purposes. Three requirements must be met:

3. All proposed projects must have PennDOT's prior approval.

All such projects must be reported on the MS-329, Project Approval form, and/or MS-339, Application for County Aid form, showing items such as the location, type of work, and estimated cost. In addition, if the job is to be financed wholly or in part by borrowing, it must be clearly stated in the remarks portion of the forms.

# BOROUGH OF TROY BRADFORD COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019

### Finding - Failure To Obtain Project Approval For Loan Repayment (Continued)

... In subsequent years, two copies of Form MS-999, Project Completion Report, must be submitted to cover repayments. This procedure should continue until the final repayment has been made.

The failure to comply with the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9* could result in the borough having to reimburse \$7,506.67 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

#### Recommendations

We recommend that the borough reimburse \$7,506.67 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund upon official notification by the Department of Transportation.

We further recommend that before the borough expends money for the repayment of a loan, it applies for and obtains prior approval for the loan financing, and for each year loan repayments are made, a project completion report is submitted clearly referencing the loan repayments.

### Management's Response

The Borough Manager/Secretary/Treasurer stated:

We will have the Department of Transportation review the project.

### Auditor's Conclusion

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

# BOROUGH OF TROY BRADFORD COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND SUMMARY OF EXIT CONFERENCE FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019

An exit conference was held July 29, 2020. Those participating were:

# **BOROUGH OF TROY**

Mr. Daniel Close, Borough Manager/Secretary/Treasurer

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

Ms. Vicki Baker, Auditor

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

Borough of Troy Bradford County 49 Elmira Street Troy, PA 16947

The Honorable Jason Hodlofski

President of Council

Mr. Daniel Close

Borough Manager/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>.