



**BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
64-402**

**LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
EXAMINATION REPORT**

**FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011**

Released May 2013

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE - AUDITOR GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL





BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
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BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

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.



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EUGENE A. DePASQUALE
AUDITOR GENERAL

Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Barry J. Schoch, P.E.
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 Arona, Westmoreland County, for the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011. 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 Arona, Westmoreland County's Forms MS-965 for the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011 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 Finding No. 1, the borough did not maintain invoices to support expenditures for \$11,163.41 during 2009 and \$3,543.82 during 2010. Additionally, as discussed in Finding No. 3, the municipality expended \$5,360.00 during 2009 and \$4,645.00 during 2010 for snow and ice removal. However, documentation for price quotations was not maintained. The expenditures of \$5,360.00 during 2009 were also included in Finding No. 1. Furthermore, as discussed in the Comment section of the report, during our prior examination we recommended that the borough reimburse \$8,085.00 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for failing to maintain documentation for price quotations. As of the date of this report, the municipality had not reimbursed this amount to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

In our opinion, except for the matters 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 Arona, Westmoreland County, for the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011, in conformity with the criteria set forth in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we are required to report findings of significant deficiencies in internal control, violations of provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and abuse that are material to the Forms MS-965 and any fraud and illegal acts that are more than inconsequential that come to our attention during our examination. We are also required to obtain the views of management on those matters. 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.

A control deficiency 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 misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the Borough of Arona, Westmoreland County's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report data reliably in accordance with the applicable criteria such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the Borough of Arona, Westmoreland County's Forms MS-965 that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the Borough of Arona, Westmoreland County's internal

Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

control. We consider the deficiency described in the finding below to be a significant deficiency in internal control over reporting on the Forms MS-965:

- Documentation Supporting Expenditures Was Not Available For Examination.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency or combination of significant deficiencies that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the Forms MS-965 will not be prevented or detected by the Borough of Arona, Westmoreland County's internal control. Our consideration of the internal control over reporting on the Forms MS-965 would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also considered to be material weaknesses. We consider the significant deficiency described above to be a material weakness.

The results of our tests disclosed the following instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*:

- Failure To File 2010 And 2011 Forms MS-965.
- Documentation For Price Quotations Was Not Available For Examination.
- Late Receipt Of Allocation.

We are concerned in light of the municipality's failure to correct a previously reported finding regarding the failure to maintain documentation for price quotations. During our current examination, the municipality expended Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money without maintaining supporting documentation, failed to file Forms MS-965, failed to maintain documentation for price quotations, and did not receive its 2011 allocation. The municipality should strive to implement the recommendations and corrective actions noted in this report.

Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

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

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

September 7, 2012

EUGENE A. DEPASQUALE
Auditor General

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
2009 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	5,360.00	-	5,360.00
Traffic control devices	-	-	-
Street lighting	5,803.43	-	5,803.43
Storm sewers and drains	-	-	-
Repairs of tools and machinery	-	-	-
Maintenance and repair of roads and bridges	-	-	-
Highway construction and rebuilding projects	-	-	-
Miscellaneous (Bank service charges)	-	50.12	50.12
 Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	 <u>\$ 11,163.43</u>	 <u>\$ 50.12</u>	 <u>\$ 11,213.55</u>

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

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
2009 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 2
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Fund Balance</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments (Note 4)</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
1. Balance, January 1, 2009	\$ 8,276.18	\$ 66.97	\$ 8,343.15
Receipts:			
2. State allocation	8,101.03	-	8,101.03
2a. Turnback allocation	-	-	-
2b. Interest on investments (Note 3)	100.26	(65.70)	34.56
2c. Miscellaneous (Refund for bank service charges)	-	25.00	25.00
3. Total receipts	<u>8,201.29</u>	<u>(40.70)</u>	<u>8,160.59</u>
4. Total funds available	<u>16,477.47</u>	<u>26.27</u>	<u>16,503.74</u>
5. Expenditures (Section 1)	<u>11,163.43</u>	<u>50.12</u>	<u>11,213.55</u>
6. Balance, December 31, 2009	<u>\$ 5,314.04</u>	<u>\$ (23.85)</u>	<u>\$ 5,290.19</u>

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

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
2009 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 3
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Equipment Balance</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments (Note 4)</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
1. Prior year equipment balance	\$ 8,194.96	\$ 148.19	\$ 8,343.15
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)	1,620.20	-	1,620.20
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments	-	-	-
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition	9,815.16	148.19	9,963.35
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures	-	-	-
6. Remainder	<u>9,815.16</u>	<u>148.19</u>	<u>9,963.35</u>
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	<u>\$ 5,314.04</u>	<u>\$ (23.85)</u>	<u>\$ 5,290.19</u>

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

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
2010 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	-	8,188.82	8,188.82
Traffic control devices	-	-	-
Street lighting	-	1,618.06	1,618.06
Storm sewers and drains	-	-	-
Repairs of tools and machinery	-	-	-
Maintenance and repair of roads and bridges	-	-	-
Highway construction and rebuilding projects	-	-	-
Miscellaneous (Bank service charges)	-	.12	.12
 Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	 <u>\$ -</u>	 <u>\$ 9,807.00</u>	 <u>\$ 9,807.00</u>

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

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
2010 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 2
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Fund Balance</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments (Note 4)</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
1. Balance, January 1, 2010	\$ -	\$ 5,290.19	\$ 5,290.19
Receipts:			
2. State allocation	-	7,786.79	7,786.79
2a. Turnback allocation	-	-	-
2b. Interest on investments (Note 3)	-	6.12	6.12
2c. Miscellaneous	-	-	-
3. Total receipts	-	7,792.91	7,792.91
4. Total funds available	-	13,083.10	13,083.10
5. Expenditures (Section 1)	-	9,807.00	9,807.00
6. Balance, December 31, 2010	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,276.10</u>	<u>\$ 3,276.10</u>

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

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
2010 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 3
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Equipment Balance</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments (Note 4)</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
1. Prior year equipment balance	\$ -	\$ 5,290.19	\$ 5,290.19
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)	-	1,557.36	1,557.36
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments	-	-	-
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition	-	6,847.55	6,847.55
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures	-	-	-
6. Remainder	-	6,847.55	6,847.55
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	\$ -	\$ 3,276.10	\$ 3,276.10

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

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
2011 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	-	-	-
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)	 <u>\$ -</u>	 <u>\$ -</u>	 <u>\$ -</u>

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

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
2011 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 2
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Fund Balance</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments (Note 4)</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
1. Balance, January 1, 2011	\$ -	\$ 3,276.10	\$ 3,276.10
Receipts:			
2. State allocation	-	-	-
2a. Turnback allocation	-	-	-
2b. Interest on investments (Note 3)	-	1.46	1.46
2c. Miscellaneous	-	-	-
3. Total receipts	-	1.46	1.46
4. Total funds available	-	3,277.56	3,277.56
5. Expenditures (Section 1)	-	-	-
6. Balance, December 31, 2011	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,277.56</u>	<u>\$ 3,277.56</u>

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

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
2011 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 3
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Equipment Balance</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments (Note 4)</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
1. Prior year equipment balance	\$ -	\$ 3,276.10	\$ 3,276.10
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)	-	-	-
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments	-	-	-
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition	-	3,276.10	3,276.10
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures	-	-	-
6. Remainder	-	3,276.10	3,276.10
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	\$ -	\$ 3,276.10	\$ 3,276.10

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

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
NOTES TO FORMS MS-965 WITH ADJUSTMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

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 that cost in excess of \$4,000.00.
- Minor equipment purchases are purchases of road machinery and road equipment that cost \$4,000.00 or less.
- Agility projects are exchanges of services with the Department of Transportation.

Section 2

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

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

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
NOTES TO FORMS MS-965 WITH ADJUSTMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

1. Criteria (Continued)

Section 3 (Continued)

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.

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.

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
NOTES TO FORMS MS-965 WITH ADJUSTMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

1. Criteria (Continued)

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's or savings bank's assets minus liabilities.

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

There were no deposits exposed to custodial credit risk as of December 31, 2011. Custodial credit risk, as defined by GASB No. 40, includes deposits that are not covered by depository insurance and the deposits are uncollateralized, collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution, or collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent but not in the municipality's name.

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
NOTES TO FORMS MS-965 WITH ADJUSTMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

2. Deposits (Continued)

Fund Balance

The fund balance as of December 31, 2011 consists of the following:

Cash	<u>\$3,277.56</u>
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3. Interest On Investments

Our examination disclosed that the municipality deposited idle liquid fuels tax money in interest-bearing accounts which earned \$34.56 during 2009, \$ 6.12 during 2010, and \$1.46 during 2011, thus providing additional funds for road maintenance and repairs.

4. Adjustments

2009 - Section 1

An adjustment of \$50.12 was made to “Miscellaneous” because bank service charges were not reported.

2009 - Section 2

An adjustment of \$66.97 was made to “Balance, January 1, 2009” because of prior report adjustments that were not carried forward in the fund balance.

An adjustment of \$(65.70) was made to “Interest on investments” because interest earnings were overstated.

An adjustment of \$25.00 was made to “Miscellaneous” because a refund for bank service charges was not reported.

2009 - Section 3

An adjustment of \$148.19 was made to “Prior year equipment balance” because an incorrect equipment balance was carried forward.

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
NOTES TO FORMS MS-965 WITH ADJUSTMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

4. Adjustments (Continued)

2010 - Section 1

Adjustments were made to this section because the borough failed to file its 2010 Form MS-965.

2010 - Section 2

Adjustments were made to this section because the borough failed to file its 2010 Form MS-965.

2010 - Section 3

Adjustments were made to this section because the borough failed to file its 2010 Form MS-965.

2011 - Section 2

Adjustments were made to this section because the borough failed to file its 2011 Form MS-965.

2011 - Section 3

Adjustments were made to this section because the borough failed to file its 2011 Form MS-965.

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

Finding No. 1 - Documentation Supporting Expenditures Was Not Available For Examination

Our examination disclosed that the borough did not maintain invoices to support expenditures of \$11,163.41 during 2009 and \$3,543.82 during 2010.

Good internal control procedures ensure that there is documentation to support all expenditures.

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 expenditures made without supporting documentation, are outside the scope of permissible expenditures.

Without adequate documentation, we could not determine if the expenditures were permissible according to the Liquid Fuels Tax Municipal Allocation Law and the Department of Transportation's Regulations.

The failure to maintain documentation to support expenditures could result in the borough having to reimburse \$14,707.23 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

Recommendations

We recommend that the borough reimburse \$14,707.23 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund upon official notification by the Department of Transportation.

We further recommend that the borough ensure good internal control over expenditures by maintaining adequate documentation to support all expenditures.

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

Finding No. 1 - Documentation Supporting Expenditures Was Not Available For Examination
(Continued)

Management's Response

The treasurer stated:

Records were not kept properly. They have been misplaced.

Auditor's Conclusion

The borough officials should ensure that documentation is maintained to support all expenditures. During our next examination we will determine if the municipality complied with our recommendations.

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

Finding No. 2 - Failure To File 2010 And 2011 Forms MS-965

Our examination disclosed that the borough did not file its 2010 and 2011 Forms MS-965 with the Department of Transportation. The Department of Transportation's *Publication 9* requires municipalities to file a Form MS-965 by January 31 each year for the preceding year.

Additionally, a borough is not eligible to receive its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocation until the Form MS-965 for the prior year is filed. Because the borough did not file its 2010 and 2011 Forms MS-965, it received its 2011 Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocation late (see Finding No. 4).

Recommendation

We recommend that the municipality ensure that its Forms MS-965 are complete and accurate and are filed by January 31 each year.

Management's Response

The treasurer stated:

I didn't become a treasurer till January 2011. I was never told to fill out the reports.

Auditor's Conclusion

The borough officials should ensure that its Forms MS-965 are filed with the Department of Transportation annually. During our next examination we will determine if the municipality complied with our recommendation.

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

Finding No. 3 - Documentation For Price Quotations Was Not Available For Examination

Our examination disclosed that the borough expended \$5,360.00 during 2009 and \$4,645.00 during 2010 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for snow and ice removal. The borough was required to obtain three written or telephonic price quotations for these expenditures. However, documentation for price quotations was not available for examination.

The above expenditures were not made in compliance with the contract requirements of *The Borough Code*, 53 P.S. § 46402(a.1), (also found at § 1402(a.1) of *The Borough Code* as published by the Local Government Commission), which states, in part:

Written or telephonic price quotations from at least three qualified and responsible contractors shall be requested for all contracts that exceed four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) but are less than the amount [in excess of \$10,000.00] requiring advertisement and competitive bidding or, in lieu of price quotations, a memorandum shall be kept on file showing that fewer than three qualified contractors exist in the market area within which it is practicable to obtain quotations. A written record of telephonic price quotations shall be made and shall contain at least the date of the quotation, the name of the contractor and the contractor's representative, the construction, reconstruction, repair, maintenance or work which was the subject of the quotation and the price. Written price quotations, written records of telephonic price quotations and memoranda shall be retained for a period of three years.

The failure to comply with *The Borough Code* could result in the borough having to reimburse \$10,005.00 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

A similar finding was also written in our prior report.

The expenditures of \$5,360.00 made during 2009 were also included in Finding No. 1.

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
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JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

Finding No. 3 - Documentation For Price Quotations Was Not Available For Examination
(Continued)

Recommendations

If the Department of Transportation does not require reimbursement for Finding No. 1, we recommend that the borough reimburse \$10,005.00 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund upon official notification by the Department of Transportation. If the Department of Transportation does require reimbursement for Finding No. 1, we recommend that the borough reimburse \$4,645.00 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund upon official notification by the Department of Transportation.

We further recommend that, in the future, the borough comply with *The Borough Code* as noted in this finding.

Management's Response

The borough officials offered no formal response at this time.

Auditor's Conclusion

This is a recurring finding. We strongly recommend the borough comply with our recommendations.

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

Finding No. 4 - Late Receipt Of Allocation

Our examination disclosed that the 2011 Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocation of \$7,973.93, which should have been distributed from the Department of Transportation to the municipality during the first week of April of that year, was not received until May 1, 2013, which was subsequent to our examination period, 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 31st and the Survey of Financial Condition by March 15th.
- 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 2011 allocation for more than two years. 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.

Recommendation

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

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
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Finding No. 4 - Late Receipt Of Allocation (Continued)

Management's Response

The borough officials offered no formal response at this time.

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
COMMENT
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

Comment - Summary Of Prior Examination Recommendation

In our prior report we recommended that the Department of Transportation review our examination finding to determine if the municipality should reimburse \$8,085.00 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for failing to maintain documentation for price quotations. A similar finding was also written in our current report (see Finding No. 3).

During our current examination we reviewed a letter dated March 19, 2010, from the Department of Transportation informing the municipality to reimburse \$8,085.00 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. As of the date of this report, the municipality had not reimbursed this amount to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
SUMMARY OF EXIT CONFERENCE
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

An exit conference was held September 7, 2012. Those participating were:

BOROUGH OF ARONA

Ms. Jane Kopaczynski, Treasurer

DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Mr. Brian Delaney, Auditor

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

BOROUGH OF ARONA
WESTMORELAND COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
REPORT DISTRIBUTION
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

This report was initially distributed to:

The Honorable Barry J. Schoch, P.E.
Secretary
Department of Transportation

Borough of Arona
Westmoreland County
P.O. Box 200
Arona, PA 15617

The Honorable Kathy L. Sikora

President of Council

Ms. Jane Kopaczynski

Treasurer

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at <http://www.auditorgen.state.pa.us>. Media questions about the report can be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 231 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: news@auditorgen.state.pa.us.