

# ATTESTATION ENGAGEMENT

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Township of Aston  
Delaware County, Pennsylvania  
23-101  
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund  
For the Period  
January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024

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August 2025



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of the Auditor General

Timothy L. DeFoor • Auditor General



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of the Auditor General  
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TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR  
AUDITOR GENERAL

### Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Michael Carroll  
Secretary  
Department of Transportation  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

We have examined the accompanying Forms MS-965 With Adjustments for the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund of the Township of Aston, Delaware County, for the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024. 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 required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with ethical requirements relating to the engagement.

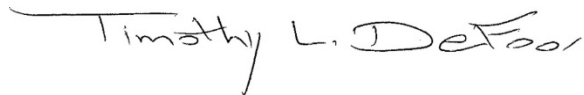
As described in the Auditor Description of Select Transactions section of this report, the adjustments included on the Forms MS-965 With Adjustments are made by the Department of the Auditor General.

Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

In our opinion, 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 Aston, Delaware County, for the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024, in accordance with the criteria described in the Background section of this report and the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9*.

The purpose of this report is to provide information related to the municipality's Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to assist the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in fulfilling its regulatory authority as described in the laws and regulations identified in the Background section of this report and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's *Publication 9*. This report is not suitable for any other purpose.

We appreciate the courtesy extended by the Township of Aston, Delaware 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 horizontal line extending to the left of the first name.

Timothy L. DeFoor  
Auditor General  
July 30, 2025

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TOWNSHIP OF ASTON  
DELAWARE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
BACKGROUND  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024

Background

The Liquid Fuels Tax Municipal Allocation Law<sup>1</sup> provides municipalities other than counties (i.e., 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 upon: (1) 50 percent on the municipality's proportion of local road mileage to the total local road mileage maintained by all political subdivisions making application in the county; and (2) 50 percent on the proportion of a municipality's population to the total population of all municipalities making application in the state.<sup>2</sup>

Section 9511 (relating to Allocation of proceeds) of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code provides municipalities with annual maintenance payments to be received from the Motor License Fund.<sup>3</sup>

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).

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<sup>1</sup> 72 P.S. § 2615.1 *et seq.*, Act 655 of 1956, as amended.

<sup>2</sup> 75 Pa.C.S. § 9010(c)(1)-(2) as last amended by Act 89 of 2013.

<sup>3</sup> 75 Pa.C.S. § 9511, as last amended by Act 89 of 2013 and Act 101 of 2016, *See also* 72 P.S. § 2615.4, as last amended by Act 42 of 2013.

TOWNSHIP OF ASTON  
DELAWARE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
BACKGROUND  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024

Background (Continued)

2. Make deposits and payments or expenditures in compliance with Act 655, 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 that can be placed into the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.
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:

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>\$11,500.00</u>	<u>\$11,800.00</u>	<u>\$12,200.00</u>	<u>\$12,600.00</u>

- 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:

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>\$11,500.00</u>	<u>\$11,800.00</u>	<u>\$12,200.00</u>	<u>\$12,600.00</u>

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

TOWNSHIP OF ASTON  
DELAWARE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
BACKGROUND  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024

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.

TOWNSHIP OF ASTON  
DELAWARE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
BACKGROUND  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024

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, 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's financial activities.

*Basis Of Accounting*

The accompanying Forms 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 ASTON  
DELAWARE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
2023 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 1  
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Expenditure Summary</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Minor equipment purchases	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Computer/Computer related training	-	-	-
Major equipment purchases	-	-	-
Agility projects	-	-	-
Cleaning streets and gutters	-	-	-
Winter maintenance services	-	-	-
Traffic control devices	-	-	-
Street lighting	44,534.05	14,964.14	59,498.19
Storm sewers and drains	-	-	-
Repairs of tools and machinery	-	-	-
Maintenance and repair of roads and bridges	-	-	-
Highway construction and rebuilding projects	422,839.37	-	422,839.37
Miscellaneous	-	15,066.00	15,066.00
	<u>-</u>	<u>15,066.00</u>	<u>15,066.00</u>
Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	<u>\$ 467,373.42</u>	<u>\$ 30,030.14</u>	<u>\$ 497,403.56</u>

TOWNSHIP OF ASTON  
DELAWARE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
2023 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 2  
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Fund Balance</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
1. Balance, January 1, 2023	\$ 4,801.05	\$ -	\$ 4,801.05
Receipts:			
2. State allocation	475,618.36	-	475,618.36
2a. Turnback allocation	-	-	-
2b. Interest on investments	4,564.37	-	4,564.37
2c. Miscellaneous	-	15,982.00	15,982.00
3. Total receipts	<u>480,182.73</u>	<u>15,982.00</u>	<u>496,164.73</u>
4. Total funds available	<u>484,983.78</u>	<u>15,982.00</u>	<u>500,965.78</u>
5. Expenditures (Section 1)	<u>467,373.42</u>	<u>30,030.14</u>	<u>497,403.56</u>
6. Balance, December 31, 2023	<u>\$ 17,610.36</u>	<u>\$ (14,048.14)</u>	<u>\$ 3,562.22</u>

TOWNSHIP OF ASTON  
DELAWARE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
2023 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 3  
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Equipment Balance</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
1. Prior year equipment balance	\$ 4,801.05	\$ -	\$ 4,801.05
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)	95,123.67	-	95,123.67
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition	99,924.72	-	99,924.72
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
6. Remainder	<u>99,924.72</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>99,924.72</u>
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	<u>\$ 17,610.36</u>	<u>\$ (14,048.14)</u>	<u>\$ 3,562.22</u>

TOWNSHIP OF ASTON  
DELAWARE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
2024 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 1  
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Expenditure Summary</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
Minor equipment purchases	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Computer/Computer related training	-	-	-
Major equipment purchases	-	-	-
Agility projects	-	-	-
Cleaning streets and gutters	-	-	-
Winter maintenance services	-	-	-
Traffic control devices	-	-	-
Street lighting	50,346.76	-	50,346.76
Storm sewers and drains	-	-	-
Repairs of tools and machinery	-	-	-
Maintenance and repair of roads and bridges	-	-	-
Highway construction and rebuilding projects	427,118.95	-	427,118.95
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	<u>\$ 477,465.71</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 477,465.71</u>

TOWNSHIP OF ASTON  
DELAWARE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
2024 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 2  
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Fund Balance</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
1. Balance, January 1, 2024	\$ 17,610.36	\$ (14,048.14)	\$ 3,562.22
Receipts:			
2. State allocation	472,451.35	-	472,451.35
2a. Turnback allocation	-	-	-
2b. Interest on investments	6,829.73	-	6,829.73
2c. Miscellaneous	-	-	-
3. Total receipts	<u>479,281.08</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>479,281.08</u>
4. Total funds available	<u>496,891.44</u>	<u>(14,048.14)</u>	<u>482,843.30</u>
5. Expenditures (Section 1)	<u>477,465.71</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>477,465.71</u>
6. Balance, December 31, 2024	<u>\$ 19,425.73</u>	<u>\$ (14,048.14)</u>	<u>\$ 5,377.59</u>

TOWNSHIP OF ASTON  
DELAWARE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
2024 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 3  
WITH ADJUSTMENTS

<u>Equipment Balance</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
1. Prior year equipment balance	\$ 17,610.36	\$ (14,048.14)	\$ 3,562.22
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)	94,490.27	-	94,490.27
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition	112,100.63	(14,048.14)	98,052.49
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
6. Remainder	<u>112,100.63</u>	<u>(14,048.14)</u>	<u>98,052.49</u>
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	<u>\$ 19,425.73</u>	<u>\$ (14,048.14)</u>	<u>\$ 5,377.59</u>

TOWNSHIP OF ASTON  
DELAWARE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
AUDITOR DESCRIPTION OF SELECT TRANSACTIONS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024

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

Adjustments

2023 - Section 1

An adjustment of \$14,964.14 was made to “Street lighting” because transfers to the General Fund were not reported.

An adjustment of \$15,066.00 was made to “Miscellaneous” because a correction of a transfer in error to the General Fund was not reported.

2023 - Section 2

An adjustment of \$15,982.00 was made to “Miscellaneous” because these receipts were not reported.

2024 - Section 2

An adjustment of \$14,048.14 was made to “Balance, January 1, 2024” to reflect the adjustment made to the fund balance in 2023 - Section 2.

2024 - Section 3

An adjustment of \$14,048.14 was made to “Prior year equipment balance” to reflect the adjustment made to the equipment balance in 2023 - Section 3.

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>2023</u>
General Fund	Transfer in error	\$15,066.00
General Fund	Reimbursement directed by the Department of Transportation	<u>916.00</u>
Total		<u>\$15,982.00</u>

TOWNSHIP OF ASTON  
DELAWARE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
AUDITOR DESCRIPTION OF SELECT TRANSACTIONS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024

Transfer In Error

On March 16, 2023, the municipality transferred \$15,066.00 from its General Fund to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund in error. On May 23, 2023, the municipality transferred this amount from its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to its General Fund to correct the transfer in error.



TOWNSHIP OF ASTON  
DELAWARE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
SUMMARY OF PRIOR EXAMINATION RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024

Summary Of Prior Examination Recommendations

In our prior report, we recommended that the Department of Transportation review our examination findings to determine if the municipality should reimburse \$131,062.50 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. This amount consists of \$112,229.50 for failure to obtain project approval and \$18,833.00 for liquid fuels money over expended on projects.

During our current examination, we reviewed a letter dated April 2, 2024, from the Department of Transportation directing the municipality to reimburse \$131,062.50 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. We noted that the municipality had already reimbursed this amount as part of a grant to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund on December 2, 2021.

In our prior report we also recommended that the municipality:

- Before expending money on a project, it applies for and obtains prior approval for the project, and when the project is completed, it obtains approval of the completed work.
- Expend only the approved amount of Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money on road construction projects.

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

TOWNSHIP OF ASTON  
DELAWARE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
SUMMARY OF ONSITE CLOSEOUT MEETING  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024

An onsite closeout meeting was held April 17, 2025. Those participating were:

TOWNSHIP OF ASTON

Ms. Christine Jackson, Finance Director

DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Mr. Vince Gillen, Auditor

TOWNSHIP OF ASTON  
DELAWARE COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024

This report was initially distributed to:

**The Honorable Michael Carroll**

Secretary  
Department of Transportation

**Township of Aston**

Delaware County  
2 New Road  
Suite 123  
Aston, PA 19014

**The Honorable Mike Higgins**

President of the Board of Commissioners

**Ms. Christine Jackson**

Finance Director

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at [www.PaAuditor.gov](http://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](mailto:news@PaAuditor.gov).