ATTESTATION ENGAGEMENT

Township of Derry

Dauphin County, Pennsylvania 22-202

Liquid Fuels Tax Fund
For the Period
January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

July 2025



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

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

We examined the accompanying Form MS-965 With Adjustments for the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund of the Township of Derry, Dauphin County, for the period January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. The municipality's management is responsible for presenting the Form 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 Form 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 Form MS-965 is presented in accordance with the criteria described above, in all material respects. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the Form 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 Form 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 qualified opinion.

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

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

As discussed in the Findings And Recommendations section of this report:

- The township expended an extra \$2,163.25 for purchases of 9.5MM Superpave and 19 MM Superpave from a vendor that was not the Capital Area Regional Council of Governments (CAPCOG) vendor and lowest bidder. (see Finding No. 1).
- The township expended \$13,380.76 during 2024 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for the purchases of sign caps, posts, and hardware without maintaining documentation for price quotations (see Finding No. 2).
- The municipality expended \$2,436.88 during 2024 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for paint used in municipal parking lots, which is a non-permissible expenditure (see Finding No. 3).

In our opinion, except for the bulleted matters discussed above, the Form MS-965 With Adjustments presents, in all material respects, the information required by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund of the Township of Derry, Dauphin County, for the period January 1, 2024 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*.

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 Form MS-965; 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 Form 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 Form MS-965 is presented in accordance with the criteria described above and not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on internal control over reporting on the Form 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 Form 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.

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

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

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

- Purchases For Superpave Were Not Made From The Vendor Awarded The Contract.
- Documentation For Price Quotations Was Not Available For Examination.
- Non-permissible Expenditures.

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 Derry, Dauphin 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.

Timothy L. DeFoor Auditor General

June 18, 2025

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Background

The Liquid Fuels Tax Municipal Allocation Law, Act 655 of 1956, as amended, see also 72 P.S. § 2615.5, et sec., 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 in the state; and (2) 50 percent on the proportion of a municipality's population to the total population in the state.

Title 75 Pa.C.S. § 9511 of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code 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 31st and the Survey of Financial Condition By March 15th.
- 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:

2021	2022	2023	2024
\$11,500.00	\$11,800.00	\$12,200.00	\$12,600.00

• 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:

2021	2022	2023	2024
\$11,500.00	\$11,800.00	\$12,200.00	\$12,600.00

• 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 DERRY DAUPHIN COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND 2024 FORM MS-965 – SECTION 1 WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Expenditure Summary	Reported		Adjustments		Adjusted Amount	
Minor equipment purchases	\$	-	\$	_	\$	-
Computer/Computer related training		-		-		-
Major equipment purchases	:	23,650.00		-		23,650.00
Agility projects		-		-		-
Cleaning streets and gutters		-		-		_
Winter maintenance services		69,835.22		-		69,835.22
Traffic control devices	82,189.22 -		-		82,189.22	
Street lighting		-		-		-
Storm sewers and drains		-		-		_
Repairs of tools and machinery		-		-		-
Maintenance and repair of						
roads and bridges	1,081.18 -			1,081.18		
Highway construction and						
rebuilding projects	1,371,836.27 -		1,3	71,836.27		
Miscellaneous						
Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	\$ 1,5	48,591.89	\$		\$ 1,5	48,591.89

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

Fund Balance	Reported	Adjustments	Adjusted Amount
1. Balance, January 1, 2024	\$ 1,181,966.26	\$ -	\$ 1,181,966.26
Receipts:			
2. State allocation	783,014.49	-	783,014.49
2a. Turnback allocation	1,840.00	-	1,840.00
2b. Interest on investments	66,859.01	-	66,859.01
2c. Miscellaneous	23,329.60		23,329.60
3. Total receipts	875,043.10		875,043.10
4. Total funds available	2,057,009.36		2,057,009.36
5. Expenditures (Section 1)	1,548,591.89		1,548,591.89
6. Balance, December 31, 2024	\$ 508,417.47	\$ -	\$ 508,417.47

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

Equipment Balance	Reported	Adjustments	Adjusted Amount
1. Prior year equipment balance	\$ 1,181,966.26	\$ -	\$ 1,181,966.26
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)	156,970.90	-	156,970.90
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments			
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition	1,338,937.16	-	1,338,937.16
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures	23,650.00		23,650.00
6. Remainder	1,315,287.16		1,315,287.16
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	\$ 508,417.47	\$ -	\$ 508,417.47

TOWNSHIP OF DERRY DAUPHIN COUNTY LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND AUDITOR DESCRIPTION OF SELECT TRANSACTIONS FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2024 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.

Miscellaneous Receipts

On September 23, 2024, the municipality deposited \$23,329.60 into its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund which was received from Londonderry Township for their portion of construction project No. 24-22202-002.

Lease-Purchase Agreement

On April 5, 2022, the municipality entered into a lease-purchase agreement with Santander Bank to purchase a 2022 JCB Model 3TS-8T teleskid with JCB cold planer 332/L7272 for \$108,404.00. The agreement was for a term of five years at an interest rate of 4.37 percent. Principal and interest payments of \$23,650.00 are due annually. Prior years' principal and interest payments from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund were \$43,235.77 and \$4,064.23, respectively.

During the current examination period, the municipality paid principal of \$20,771.90 and interest of \$2,878.10 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. These amounts are reflected in major equipment purchases on the 2024 Form MS-965 - Section 1. The outstanding balance of the lease-purchase agreement as of December 31, 2024, was \$44,396.33, plus interest.

Finding No. 1 - Purchases For Superpave Were Not Made From The Vendor Awarded The Contract

Our examination disclosed that the township expended \$33,145.66 during 2024 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for various purchases of Superpave paving material. Although the township had an agreement with the Capital Area Regional Council of Governments (CAPCOG) to purchase Superpave through CAPCOG's vendor that was awarded a contract as the lowest bidder, the township used a different vendor. These expenditures were as follows:

	Invoice	Invoice	Check	Check	
<u>Product</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	Amount
9.5mm Superpave	BQ00020808	07/16/24	34140	07/24/24	\$ 458.98
9.5mm Superpave	BQ00020869	07/18/24	34140	07/24/24	3,662.71
9.5mm Superpave	BQ00020916	07/22/24	34143	07/31/24	764.46
9.5mm Superpave	BQ00020945	07/23/24	34145	07/31/24	16,954.89
19mm Superpave	BQ00020785	07/15/24	34140	07/24/24	7,154.44
19mm Superpave	BQ00020840	07/17/24	34140	07/24/24	2,861.92
19mm Superpave	BQ00020894	07/19/24	34143	07/31/24	1,288.26
Total					\$33,145.66

By purchasing Superpave from a vendor that was not awarded the CAPCOG contract, the township expended \$2,163.25 more than necessary, as follows:

Product	Contract Price/Ton	Invoice Price/Ton	Difference/Ton	Tons Purchased	Total Price Difference
9.5MM 19MM	\$72.00 65.75	\$76.37 71.53	\$4.37 5.78	285.99 158.04	\$1,249.78 913.47
Total					\$2,163.25

<u>Finding No. 1 - Purchases For Superpave Were Not Made From The Vendor Awarded The Contract (Continued)</u>

The Second Class Township Code 53 P.S. § 68102(a), states:

All contracts or purchases in excess of the required advertising base amount of eighteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$18,500.00)...shall not be made except with and from the lowest responsible bidder...

The bidding threshold increased to purchases over \$23,200.00 for 2024, and \$23,800.00 for 2025.

The failure to comply with *The Second Class Township Code* could result in the township having to reimburse \$ 2,163.25 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

The municipality stated that the condition occurred because the lowest bidder either refused to take their order since it was too large, the plant was broken down, or the plant was dedicated to a different mix that day. The municipality also stated that the lowest bidder was too far away, which would make the material unusable, and that the vendor they used is only a fifteen-minute drive from the township.

Recommendations

We recommend that the township reimburse \$2,163.25 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund upon official notification by the Department of Transportation.

We further recommend that, in the future, the township comply with *The Second Class Township Code* as noted in this finding.

Management's Response

The municipal officials offered no formal response at this time.

Auditor's Conclusion

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

Finding No. 2 - Documentation For Price Quotations Was Not Available For Examination

Our examination disclosed that the township expended \$13,380.76 during 2024 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for the purchase of sign caps, posts, and hardware. The township was required to obtain three written or telephonic price quotations for these expenditures. However, documentation for price quotations was not available for examination. These expenditures were as follows:

Invoice	Invoice	Check	Check	Amount
<u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	
117586	02/21/24	34122	03/12/24	\$ 2,155.76
312733	03/21/24	34126	04/09/24	453.00
29700	04/15/24	34129	05/14/24	10,772.00
Total				\$13,380.76

The above expenditures were not made in compliance with the contract requirements of *The Second Class Township Code*, 53 P.S. § 68102(b), (also found at § 3102(b) of *The Second Class Township 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 [during 2012] that exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) but are less than the amount [in excess of \$18,500.00] 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.

<u>Finding No. 2 - Documentation For Price Quotations Was Not Available For Examination</u> (Continued)

The thresholds for obtaining price quotations increased to purchases between \$12,600.00 and \$23,200.00 for 2024, and \$12,900.00 and \$23,800.00 for 2025.

We were unable to determine the cause of this condition.

The failure to comply with *The Second Class Township Code* could result in the township having to reimburse \$13,380.76 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

Recommendations

We recommend that the township reimburse \$13,380.76 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund upon official notification by the Department of Transportation.

We further recommend that the township comply with *The Second Class Township Code* as noted in this finding.

Management's Response

The municipal officials offered no formal response at this time.

Auditor's Conclusion

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

Finding No. 3 - Non-permissible Expenditures

Our examination disclosed that the municipality expended \$2,436.88 during 2024 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for paint used in municipal parking lots, which are non-permissible 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 paint used in municipal parking lots, are outside the scope of permissible expenditures.

The municipality stated that the condition occurred because the invoices were miscoded.

The failure to follow the Liquid Fuels Tax Municipal Allocation Law and the Department of Transportation's Regulations as noted above could result in the municipality having to reimburse \$2,436.88 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

Recommendations

We recommend that the municipality reimburse \$2,436.88 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund upon official notification by the Department of Transportation.

We further recommend that the municipality comply with the Liquid Fuels Tax Municipal Allocation Law and the Department of Transportation's Regulations regarding permissible expenditures.

Management's Response

The municipal officials offered no formal response at this time.

Auditor's Conclusion

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

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

An onsite closeout meeting was held May 28, 2025. Those participating were:

TOWNSHIP OF DERRY

Ms. Jena Ginder, Manager of Accounts Payable/Receivable

Mr. Thomas Clark, Director of Public Works

Mr. Gregory Watts, Assistant Director of Public Works

DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Ms. Tammy Fleisher, Audit Supervisor

This report was initially distributed to:

The Honorable Michael Carroll

Secretary
Department of Transportation

Township of Derry
Dauphin County
600 Clearwater Road
Hershey, PA 17033

The Honorable Natalie L. Nutt Chairwoman of the Board of Supervisors

Ms. Jena GinderManager of Accounts Payable/Receivable

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at www.PaAuditor.gov. Media questions about the report can be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 229 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: news@PaAuditor.gov.