

# ATTESTATION ENGAGEMENT

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Borough of Tremont  
Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania  
53-430

Liquid Fuels Tax Fund  
For the Period  
January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024

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June 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 examined the accompanying Forms MS-965 With Adjustments for the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund of the Borough of Tremont, Schuylkill County, for the period January 1, 2021 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 qualified 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)

As discussed in Finding No. 1, we noted the municipality's 2024 Liquid Fuels allocation of \$46,161.84 was deposited into the General Fund on April 4, 2024, but was not transferred to the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund until February 19, 2025, which was subsequent to our examination period. Additionally, as discussed in Finding No. 2, the municipality made retroactive expenditures of \$13,896.88 during our examination period, for invoices incurred from the prior calendar years.

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 Tremont, Schuylkill County, for the period January 1, 2021 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 Forms 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 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.

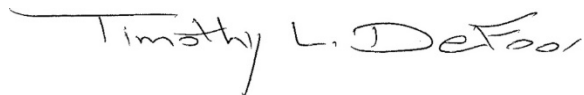
### Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Forms MS-965 are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of the Borough of Tremont, Schuylkill 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 instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*:

- Late Receipt Of Allocations And Allocation Deposited Into General Fund - Recurring.
- Retroactive 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 Borough of Tremont, Schuylkill 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  
May 30, 2025

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BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
BACKGROUND  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024

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.

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
BACKGROUND  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024

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:

<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.

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
BACKGROUND  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2021 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.



BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
BACKGROUND  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2021 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, 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 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.

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
2021 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	1,174.25	-	1,174.25
Traffic control devices	-	116.80	116.80
Street lighting	116.80	(116.80)	-
Storm sewers and drains	-	-	-
Repairs of tools and machinery	1,447.10	-	1,447.10
Maintenance and repair of roads and bridges	285.03	-	285.03
Highway construction and rebuilding projects	21,456.35	-	21,456.35
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	<u>\$ 24,479.53</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 24,479.53</u>

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
2021 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, 2021	\$ 2,528.25	\$ -	\$ 2,528.25
Receipts:			
2. State allocation	47,262.81	-	47,262.81
2a. Turnback allocation	-	-	-
2b. Interest on investments	2.23	-	2.23
2c. Miscellaneous	-	-	-
3. Total receipts	<u>47,265.04</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,265.04</u>
4. Total funds available	<u>49,793.29</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49,793.29</u>
5. Expenditures (Section 1)	<u>24,479.53</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,479.53</u>
6. Balance, December 31, 2021	<u>\$ 25,313.76</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 25,313.76</u>

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
2021 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	\$ 2,528.25	\$ -	\$ 2,528.25
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)	9,452.56	-	9,452.56
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition	11,980.81	-	11,980.81
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
6. Remainder	<u>11,980.81</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,980.81</u>
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	<u>\$ 11,980.81</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 11,980.81</u>

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
2022 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	3,303.04	-	3,303.04
Traffic control devices	727.17	690.20	1,417.37
Street lighting	-	-	-
Storm sewers and drains	1,542.95	-	1,542.95
Repairs of tools and machinery	-	-	-
Maintenance and repair of roads and bridges	43,277.12	(690.20)	42,586.92
Highway construction and rebuilding projects	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	<u>\$ 48,850.28</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 48,850.28</u>

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
2022 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, 2022	\$ 25,313.76	\$ -	\$ 25,313.76
Receipts:			
2. State allocation	45,375.64	-	45,375.64
2a. Turnback allocation	-	-	-
2b. Interest on investments	363.90	-	363.90
2c. Miscellaneous	-	-	-
3. Total receipts	<u>45,739.54</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,739.54</u>
4. Total funds available	<u>71,053.30</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>71,053.30</u>
5. Expenditures (Section 1)	<u>48,850.28</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,850.28</u>
6. Balance, December 31, 2022	<u>\$ 22,203.02</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 22,203.02</u>

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
2022 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	\$ 11,980.81	\$ -	\$ 11,980.81
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)	9,075.13	-	9,075.13
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition	21,055.94	-	21,055.94
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
6. Remainder	<u>21,055.94</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,055.94</u>
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	<u>\$ 21,055.94</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 21,055.94</u>

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL 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	3,633.15	-	3,633.15
Traffic control devices	795.95	6,500.00	7,295.95
Street lighting	-	-	-
Storm sewers and drains	-	714.25	714.25
Repairs of tools and machinery	1,213.38	-	1,213.38
Maintenance and repair of roads and bridges	21,787.77	(7,214.25)	14,573.52
Highway construction and rebuilding projects	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	<u>\$ 27,430.25</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 27,430.25</u>



BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL 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	\$ 22,203.02	\$ -	\$ 22,203.02
Receipts:			
2. State allocation	46,280.97	-	46,280.97
2a. Turnback allocation	-	-	-
2b. Interest on investments	1,853.45	-	1,853.45
2c. Miscellaneous	-	-	-
3. Total receipts	<u>48,134.42</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,134.42</u>
4. Total funds available	<u>70,337.44</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>70,337.44</u>
5. Expenditures (Section 1)	<u>27,430.25</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,430.25</u>
6. Balance, December 31, 2023	<u><u>\$ 42,907.19</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 42,907.19</u></u>

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL 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	\$ 21,055.94	\$ -	\$ 21,055.94
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)	9,256.19	-	9,256.19
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition	30,312.13	-	30,312.13
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
6. Remainder	<u>30,312.13</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,312.13</u>
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	<u>\$ 30,312.13</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 30,312.13</u>

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL 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	5,286.75	-	5,286.75
Traffic control devices	-	-	-
Street lighting	-	-	-
Storm sewers and drains	544.80	-	544.80
Repairs of tools and machinery	4,640.43	-	4,640.43
Maintenance and repair of roads and bridges	17,577.11	-	17,577.11
Highway construction and rebuilding projects	12,600.00	-	12,600.00
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	<u>\$ 40,649.09</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 40,649.09</u>

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL 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	\$ 42,907.19	\$ -	\$ 42,907.19
Receipts:			
2. State allocation	46,161.84	(46,161.84)	-
2a. Turnback allocation	-	-	-
2b. Interest on investments	1,030.54	-	1,030.54
2c. Miscellaneous	-	-	-
3. Total receipts	<u>47,192.38</u>	<u>(46,161.84)</u>	<u>1,030.54</u>
4. Total funds available	<u>90,099.57</u>	<u>(46,161.84)</u>	<u>43,937.73</u>
5. Expenditures (Section 1)	<u>40,649.09</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40,649.09</u>
6. Balance, December 31, 2024	<u>\$ 49,450.48</u>	<u>\$ (46,161.84)</u>	<u>\$ 3,288.64</u>

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL 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	\$ 30,312.13	\$ -	\$ 30,312.13
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)	9,232.37	(9,232.37)	-
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition	39,544.50	(9,232.37)	30,312.13
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
6. Remainder	<u>39,544.50</u>	<u>(9,232.37)</u>	<u>30,312.13</u>
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	<u>\$ 39,544.50</u>	<u>\$ (36,255.86)</u>	<u>\$ 3,288.64</u>

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
AUDITOR DESCRIPTION OF SELECT TRANSACTIONS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2021 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

2021 - Section 1

Adjustments were made to “Traffic control devices” and “Street lighting” because expenditures of \$116.80 were misclassified.

2022 - Section 1

Adjustments were made to “Maintenance and repair of roads and bridges” and “Traffic control devices” because expenditures of \$690.20 were misclassified.

2023 - Section 1

Adjustments were made to “Maintenance and repair of roads and bridges,” “Traffic control devices,” and “Storm sewers and drains” because expenditures of \$7,214.25 were misclassified.

2024 - Section 2

An adjustment of \$(46,161.84) was made to “State allocation” because the 2024 allocation was received in the General Fund and not transferred to the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund until February 19, 2025, subsequent to our examination period.

2024 - Section 3

An adjustment of \$(9,232.37) was made to “Current year equipment allocation” to reflect the adjustment made to the state allocation balance in 2024 – Section 2

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
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**Finding No. 1 - Late Receipt Of Allocations And Allocation Deposited Into General Fund -  
Recurring**

We cited the municipality for late receipt of allocation and allocations deposited into the General Fund in our prior two reports with the most recent being for the period January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020. Our current examination disclosed that the municipality received and deposited its 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocations late as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date Deposited Into General Fund</u>	<u>Date Transferred To Liquid Fuels Tax Fund</u>
2021	\$47,262.81	06/07/21	07/16/21
2022	45,375.64	06/22/22	07/18/22
2023	46,280.97	07/07/23	07/20/23
2024	46,161.84	04/04/24	02/19/25

The municipality should have received and deposited its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocations during the first week in March each year. However, the allocations were received late because the municipality failed to comply with the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9*, Chapter Two, Section 2.4, which states:

To qualify for the annual liquid fuels tax allocation, a municipality shall:

- Submit annual reports (MS-965, Actual Use Report, MS-965P, Project and Miscellaneous Receipts, and MS-965S, Record of Checks).
- Make deposits and payments or expenditures in compliance with the Act 655. Failure to do so may result in not receiving allocations from PENNDOT until all discrepancies are resolved.
- Submit the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) Report of Elected and Appointed Officials by January 31<sup>st</sup> and the Survey of Financial Condition by March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Ensure resolution of all Contractor Responsibility Program (CRP) holds and blocks imposed by the Department of Revenue and the Department of Labor and Industry.

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
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**Finding No. 1 - Late Receipt Of Allocations And Allocation Deposited Into General Fund -  
Recurring (Continued)**

- 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.

Additionally, the practice of depositing liquid fuels money into any account other than the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund account is contrary to the Act of June 1, 1956, P.L. (1955) 1944, 72 P.S. § 2615.5, known as the Liquid Fuels Tax Municipal Allocation Law, which states:

. . .each city, borough, town and township, shall . . . Establish and maintain a special fund into which the moneys [liquid fuels tax funds] . . . shall be deposited and into which no other moneys may be deposited or commingled . . .

The municipality should ensure that it has the proper direct deposit information on file with the Department of Transportation to ensure that future Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocations are electronically deposited into the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

Because the municipality failed to file documents and information timely and deposited its allocations into the General Fund, the municipality did not have use of the 2021, 2022, and 2023 allocations for more than four months and the 2024 allocation for nearly one year. Furthermore, had the allocations been received and deposited directly into the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund timely, money may have been available for investment purposes, potentially earning interest income which could have been used for road maintenance and repairs. Also, the risk that Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money may be used for unauthorized purposes increases when liquid fuels money is comingled with other funds.

**Recommendations**

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

We again recommend that the municipality has the proper direct deposit information on file with the Department of Transportation to ensure that future Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocations are electronically deposited into the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.



BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
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LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
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**Finding No. 1 - Late Receipt Of Allocations And Allocation Deposited Into General Fund -  
Recurring (Continued)**

Management's Response

The municipal officials offered no formal response at this time.

Auditor's Conclusion

This is a recurring finding. We strongly recommend that the municipality comply with our recommendations. During our next examination, we will determine if the municipality complied with our recommendations.

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024

**Finding No. 2 - Retroactive Expenditures**

We tested 43 expenditures totaling \$135,273.13 and found that the municipality expended \$13,896.88 from its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund during the examination period for retroactive expenditures as follows:

<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Check Date</u>	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
896	07/16/21	01/10/20	\$ 81.41
907	04/14/22	12/08/21	445.50
918	09/27/22	12/11/19	563.50
942	01/03/24	05/24/23	1,170.00
947	02/02/24	09/07/23	8,930.94
960	07/03/24	09/27/23	2,705.53
Total			<u>\$13,896.88</u>

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 2.7.2, states, in relevant part:

Examples of what Liquid Fuels Tax Fund monies may not be expended for are:

16. Retroactive expenditures or repayment of other funds for prior period expenditures.

Because these expenditures were incurred before the calendar year in which they were paid, the expenditures incurred were not paid in a reasonable period of time. Therefore, the municipality did not comply with the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9*.

We were unable to determine the cause of this condition.

The failure to follow the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9* as noted above could result in the municipality having to reimburse \$13,896.88 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
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LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
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**Finding No. 2 - Retroactive Expenditures (Continued)**

Recommendations

We recommend that the municipality reimburse \$13,896.88 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund upon official notification by the Department of Transportation.

We further recommend that the municipality comply with the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9* as noted above.

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.

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
SUMMARY OF PRIOR EXAMINATION RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024

Summary Of Prior Examination Recommendations

In our prior report, we recommended that the municipality:

- Continue to comply with the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9* to ensure that the allocations are received during the first week of March.
- Ensures that it has proper direct deposit information on file with the Department of Transportation to ensure that future Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocations are electronically deposited into the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

During our current examination, we noted that the municipality did not comply with our recommendations (see Finding No. 1).

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
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LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
SUMMARY OF ONSITE CLOSEOUT MEETING  
FOR THE PERIOD  
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An onsite closeout meeting was held February 26, 2025. Those participating were:

BOROUGH OF TREMONT

Ms. Shea Lucas, Secretary/Treasurer

DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Mr. Brian P. Dries, Auditor

BOROUGH OF TREMONT  
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY  
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024

This report was initially distributed to:

**The Honorable Michael Carroll**  
Secretary  
Department of Transportation

**Borough of Tremont**  
Schuylkill County  
139 Clay Street Suite 1  
Tremont, PA 17981

**The Honorable William Ochs**  
President of Council

**Ms. Shea Lucas**  
Secretary/Treasurer

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