

ATTESTATION ENGAGEMENT

Township of Lower Chichester

Delaware County, Pennsylvania

23-104

Liquid Fuels Tax Fund

For the Period

January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018

December 2020



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General

Eugene A. DePasquale • Auditor General



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EUGENE A. DePASQUALE
AUDITOR GENERAL

Independent Auditor's Report

Yassmin Gramian, P.E.
Acting Secretary
Department of Transportation
Harrisburg, PA 17120

We examined the accompanying Forms MS-965 With Adjustments for the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund of the Township of Lower Chichester, Delaware County, for the period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018. The municipality's management is responsible for presenting the Forms MS-965 in accordance with the criteria described in the Background section of this report and the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9*. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Forms MS-965 With Adjustments based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Forms MS-965 are presented in accordance with the criteria described above, in all material respects. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the Forms MS-965. The nature, timing and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgement, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Forms MS-965, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are mandated by Section 403 of *The Fiscal Code*, 72 P.S. § 403, to audit each municipality's Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to ensure that funds received are expended in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States include attestation engagements as a separate type of audit. An attestation engagement performed pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards* involves additional standards that exceed the standards provided by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Accordingly, this attestation engagement complies with both *Government Auditing Standards* and Section 403 of *The Fiscal Code*.

Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

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.

As discussed in the Finding No. 1, the municipality did not maintain invoices to support expenditures of \$8,127.84 during 2016, \$21,007.11 during 2017, and \$7,483.00 during 2018. Additionally, the municipality did not maintain documentation, invoices or payroll records, to support transfers of \$72,037.84 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to reimburse Liquid Fuels-related expenditures from the General Fund during 2016, which is also discussed in Finding No. 1.

In our opinion, except for the matters described 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 Township of Lower Chichester, Delaware County, for the period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018, in accordance with the criteria described in the Background section of this report and the Department of Transportation's *Publication 9*.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we are required to report all deficiencies that are considered to be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control; fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws or regulations that have a material effect on the Forms MS-965; and any other instances that warrant the attention of those charged with governance; noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and abuse that has a material effect on the Forms MS-965. We are also required to obtain and report the views of responsible officials concerning the findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as any planned corrective actions. We performed our examination to express an opinion on whether the Forms MS-965 are presented in accordance with the criteria described above and not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the 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.

Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

Our consideration of internal control 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 was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. 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. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the finding listed below, that we consider to be significant deficiencies in internal control:

- Documentation Supporting Expenditures And Transfers To The General Fund Was Not Available for Examination.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Forms MS-965 are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of the Township of Lower Chichester, Delaware 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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*. However, we did note a matter that, while not required to be included in this report by *Government Auditing Standards*, has been included in the finding below:

- Late Receipt Of Allocations - Recurring.

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 Lower Chichester, 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.



Eugene A. DePasquale
Auditor General

December 7, 2020

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TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER
DELAWARE COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2016 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

Background

The Liquid Fuels Tax Municipal Allocation Law, Act 655 of 1956, as amended, (72 P.S. § 2615.5 et seq.), provides municipalities other than counties (townships, boroughs, cities, towns, home rule, and optional plan governments) with an annual allocation of liquid fuels taxes from the state's Motor License Fund to be used for the maintenance and repair of streets, roads, and bridges for which the municipality is responsible. The allocation of these funds to municipalities is based: (1) 50 percent on the municipality's proportion of local road mileage to the total local road mileage in the state, and (2) 50 percent on the proportion of a municipality's population to the total population in the state.

The Vehicle Code, Title 75 P.S. § 9511, provides municipalities with annual maintenance payments to be received from the Motor License Fund for functionally local highways that were transferred to a municipality from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Each municipality must deposit the allocation of Liquid Fuels Tax funds and annual maintenance payments that it receives into a special fund called either the Municipal Liquid Fuels Tax Fund or State Fund. A municipality may not deposit any other monies into this fund except when the municipality does not have enough money in the special fund to meet the payments called for by its current annual budget for road and bridge purposes. In such a case, the municipality may borrow money or transfer money from its General Fund to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

The Department of Transportation has been given the regulatory authority for the administration of these funds. Department of Transportation's *Publication 9* includes the policies and procedures for the administration of Act 655, as amended, and the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money. However, if there is a difference between *Publication 9* and any legislation, the legislation shall govern.

To qualify for the annual allocation of Liquid Fuels Tax funds, *Publication 9* indicates that each municipality shall:

1. Submit annual reports (MS-965, Actual Use Report, MS-965P, Project and Miscellaneous Receipts, and MS-965S, Record of Checks).
2. Make deposits and payments or expenditures in compliance with Act 655 of 1956, as amended. Failure to do so may result in not receiving allocations from PennDOT until all discrepancies are resolved. *Publication 9*, Section 2.6, includes information about investing Liquid Fuels Tax monies, using loan or bond proceeds, and types of receipts into the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER
 DELAWARE COUNTY
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
 BACKGROUND
 FOR THE PERIOD
 JANUARY 1, 2016 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

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:

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

- Minor equipment purchases are purchases of road machinery and road equipment with varying yearly costs that are less than or equal to the amounts indicated below:

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

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

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER
DELAWARE COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2016 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

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 LOWER CHICHESTER
DELAWARE COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
BACKGROUND
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2016 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

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 LOWER CHICHESTER
 DELAWARE COUNTY
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
 2016 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	39,100.84	-	39,100.84
Traffic control devices	15,402.65	-	15,402.65
Street lighting	40,910.81	-	40,910.81
Storm sewers and drains	-	-	-
Repairs of tools and machinery	-	-	-
Maintenance and repair of roads and bridges	-	-	-
Highway construction and rebuilding projects	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	<u>\$ 95,414.30</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 95,414.30</u>

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER
 DELAWARE COUNTY
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
 2016 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, 2016	\$ 155,782.57	\$ -	\$ 155,782.57
Receipts:			
2. State allocation	76,654.80	-	76,654.80
2a. Turnback allocation	-	-	-
2b. Interest on investments	302.45	-	302.45
2c. Miscellaneous	43,858.89	-	43,858.89
3. Total receipts	<u>120,816.14</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>120,816.14</u>
4. Total funds available	<u>276,598.71</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>276,598.71</u>
5. Expenditures (Section 1)	<u>95,414.30</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,414.30</u>
6. Balance, December 31, 2016	<u><u>\$ 181,184.41</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 181,184.41</u></u>

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER
 DELAWARE COUNTY
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
 2016 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	\$ 64,055.87	\$ -	\$ 64,055.87
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)	15,330.96	-	15,330.96
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments	-	-	-
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition	79,386.83	-	79,386.83
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures	-	-	-
6. Remainder	<u>79,386.83</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>79,386.83</u>
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	<u>\$ 79,386.83</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 79,386.83</u>

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER
 DELAWARE COUNTY
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
 2017 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	15,420.20	-	15,420.20
Traffic control devices	15,885.07	-	15,885.07
Street lighting	55,222.77	-	55,222.77
Storm sewers and drains	-	-	-
Repairs of tools and machinery	-	-	-
Maintenance and repair of roads and bridges	-	-	-
Highway construction and rebuilding projects	-	73,123.07	73,123.07
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	<u>\$ 86,528.04</u>	<u>\$ 73,123.07</u>	<u>\$ 159,651.11</u>

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER
 DELAWARE COUNTY
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
 2017 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, 2017	\$ 181,184.41	\$ -	\$ 181,184.41
Receipts:			
2. State allocation	81,031.01	-	81,031.01
2a. Turnback allocation	-	-	-
2b. Interest on investments	821.55	97.40	918.95
2c. Miscellaneous	-	-	-
3. Total receipts	<u>81,852.56</u>	<u>97.40</u>	<u>81,949.96</u>
4. Total funds available	<u>263,036.97</u>	<u>97.40</u>	<u>263,134.37</u>
5. Expenditures (Section 1)	<u>86,528.04</u>	<u>73,123.07</u>	<u>159,651.11</u>
6. Balance, December 31, 2017	<u><u>\$ 176,508.93</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (73,025.67)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 103,483.26</u></u>

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER
 DELAWARE COUNTY
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
 2017 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	\$ 79,386.83	\$ -	\$ 79,386.83
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)	16,206.20	-	16,206.20
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments	-	-	-
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition	95,593.03	-	95,593.03
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures	-	-	-
6. Remainder	<u>95,593.03</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,593.03</u>
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	<u>\$ 95,593.03</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 95,593.03</u>

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER
 DELAWARE COUNTY
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
 2018 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	25,404.80	-	25,404.80
Traffic control devices	14,350.14	-	14,350.14
Street lighting	34,054.08	-	34,054.08
Storm sewers and drains	-	-	-
Repairs of tools and machinery	-	-	-
Maintenance and repair of roads and bridges	-	-	-
Highway construction and rebuilding projects	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total (To Section 2, Line 5)	<u>\$ 73,809.02</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 73,809.02</u>

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER
 DELAWARE COUNTY
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
 2018 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, 2018	\$ 176,508.93	\$ (73,025.67)	\$ 103,483.26
Receipts:			
2. State allocation	84,977.89	-	84,977.89
2a. Turnback allocation	-	-	-
2b. Interest on investments	-	949.51	949.51
2c. Miscellaneous	-	-	-
3. Total receipts	<u>84,977.89</u>	<u>949.51</u>	<u>85,927.40</u>
4. Total funds available	<u>261,486.82</u>	<u>(72,076.16)</u>	<u>189,410.66</u>
5. Expenditures (Section 1)	<u>73,809.02</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>73,809.02</u>
6. Balance, December 31, 2018	<u><u>\$ 187,677.80</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (72,076.16)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 115,601.64</u></u>

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER
 DELAWARE COUNTY
 LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
 2018 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	\$ 95,593.03	\$ -	\$ 95,593.03
2. Add: Current year equipment allocation (20% of Lines 2 + 2a, Section 2)	16,995.58	-	16,995.58
3. PENNDOT approved adjustments	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
4. Total funds available for equipment acquisition	112,588.61	-	112,588.61
5. Less: Major equipment expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
6. Remainder	<u>112,588.61</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>112,588.61</u>
7. Equipment balance available for subsequent year (Lesser of Line 6 or Section 2 balance, but not less than zero)	<u>\$ 112,588.61</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 112,588.61</u>

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER
DELAWARE COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
AUDITOR DESCRIPTION OF SELECT TRANSACTIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2016 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

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

Adjustments

2017 - Section 1

An adjustment of \$73,123.07 was made to “Highway construction and rebuilding projects” because these expenditures were not reported.

2017 - Section 2

An adjustment of \$97.40 was made to “Interest on investments” because interest earnings were understated.

2018 - Section 2

An adjustment of \$(73,025.67) was made to “Balance, January 1, 2018” because an incorrect fund balance was reported.

An adjustment of \$949.51 was made to “Interest on investments” because interest earnings not reported.

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER
DELAWARE COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2016 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

Finding No. 1 - Documentation Supporting Expenditures And Transfers To The General Fund Were Not Available For Examination

Our examination disclosed that the municipality did not maintain invoices to support expenditures of \$8,127.84 during 2016, \$21,007.11 during 2017, and \$7,483.00 during 2018. Additionally, the municipality did not maintain documentation, invoices or payroll records, to support transfers of \$72,037.84 from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund to reimburse Liquid Fuels-related expenditures from the General Fund during 2016.

Good internal control procedures ensure that there is documentation to support all expenditures. Additionally, good internal accounting controls ensure that transfers are made from the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund only for Liquid Fuels-related expenditures. When Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money is commingled with the General Fund, or other funds, the potential for Liquid Fuels Tax Fund money to be used for unauthorized purposes increases significantly.

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 or transfers 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 and transfers could result in the municipality having to reimburse \$108,655.79 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund.

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER
DELAWARE COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2016 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

Finding No. 1 - Documentation Supporting Expenditures And Transfers To The General Fund Were Not Available For Examination (Continued)

Recommendations

We recommend that the municipality reimburse \$108,655.79 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund upon official notification by the Department of Transportation.

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

Management's Response

The Township Administrator/Secretary stated:

Due to the Township Building renovations, we are trying to locate Liquid Fuels files in storage.

Auditor's Conclusion

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

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER
DELAWARE COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2016 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

Finding No. 2 - Late Receipt Of Allocations - Recurring

Our examination disclosed that the 2016 and 2018 Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocations of \$76,654.80 and \$84,977.89, respectively, which should have been distributed from the Department of Transportation to the municipality during the first week of March of each year, were not received until June 16, 2016, and October 23, 2018, respectively, 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.
- 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.

Because the municipality failed to file documents and information timely as noted above, the municipality did not have use of the 2016 allocation for three months and the 2018 allocation for seven months. Furthermore, had the allocations 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.

A similar finding was written in our prior two reports. However, the municipality received its 2020 Liquid Fuels Tax Fund allocation on time.

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER
DELAWARE COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2016 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

Finding No. 2 - Late Receipt Of Allocations - Recurring (Continued)

Recommendation

We recommend that, in the future, the municipality continues to 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.

Management's Response

The Township Administrator/Secretary stated:

Agree. Correction has been made. Allocation has been received on time in 2020.

Auditor's Conclusion

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

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER
DELAWARE COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
SUMMARY OF PRIOR EXAMINATIONS' RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2016 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

Summary Of Prior Examinations' Recommendations

In our 2011-2013 report, we recommended that the Department of Transportation review our examination finding to determine if the municipality should reimburse \$43,858.89 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for a failure to timely submit a Final Completion Report.

During our 2014-2015 examination, we reviewed a letter dated April 29, 2015, from the Department of Transportation informing the municipality to reimburse \$43,858.89 to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. We noted that the municipality reimbursed this amount to its Liquid Fuels Tax Fund on April 22, 2016.

In our 2011-2013 and 2014-2015 reports, we recommended 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. During our current examination, we noted that the municipality did not comply with this recommendation until 2020 (see Finding No. 2).

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER
DELAWARE COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
SUMMARY OF EXIT CONFERENCE
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2016 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

An exit conference was held November 12, 2020. Those participating were:

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER

Mr. Joseph P. Possenti, Jr., Township Administrator/Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Mrs. Judith Dumorney-McDaniel, Auditor

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

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER CHICHESTER
DELAWARE COUNTY
LIQUID FUELS TAX FUND
REPORT DISTRIBUTION
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2016 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018

This report was initially distributed to:

Yassmin Gramian, P.E.
Acting Secretary
Department of Transportation

Township of Lower Chichester
Delaware County
1410 Market Street
P.O. Box 1255
Linwood, PA 19061

The Honorable Rocco Gaspari, Jr.
President of the Board of Commissioners

The Honorable Raymond Baldwin
Vice-President of the Board of Supervisors

Mr. Joseph P. Possenti, Jr.
Township Administrator/Secretary

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.