

**BERWICK AREA  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**REAL ESTATE TAX  
COLLECTIONS SETTLEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
DECEMBER 31, 2018**

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**MEMBERS**

AMERICAN AND PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTES OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF**

 **PrimeGlobal**

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Members of the Board  
Berwick Area School District  
Berwick, Pennsylvania

We have audited the accompanying Schedules of Settlement of Real Estate Taxes levied for the year ended December 31, 2018 for each of the municipalities of Berwick Area School District as listed in the accompanying table of contents, and the related notes.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Schedules of Settlement*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these schedules in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Local Tax Collection Law. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of these schedules that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these Schedules of Settlement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the schedules are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the schedules. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the schedules, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the schedules in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the schedules.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### *Opinion*

In our opinion, the schedules referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the Schedules of Settlement of Real Estate Taxes levied for the year ended December 31, 2018 for each of the municipalities of Berwick Area School District listed in the accompanying table of contents, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Local Tax Collection Law.

**MAILING ADDRESS**

***Basis of Accounting***

We draw attention to Note 1 to the schedules, which describes the basis of accounting. The Schedules of Settlement of Real Estate Taxes are prepared on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Local Tax Collection Law, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

***Restriction on Use***

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Members of the Board and management of Berwick Area School District and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*McKouly & Asbury, LLP*

Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania  
November 8, 2019

**BERWICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SCHEDULE OF SETTLEMENT OF REAL ESTATE TAXES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

MUNICIPALITY: BERWICK BOROUGH  
TAX COLLECTOR: CONNIE GINGHER

	<u>REAL ESTATE</u>	<u>INTERIM REAL ESTATE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF DUPLICATES:</b>			
Face amount of taxes on tax duplicates	\$ 4,980,149	\$ 10,029	\$ 4,990,178
Changes to duplicates:			
Additions	9	-	9
Exonerations / Changes	<u>(32,971)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(32,971)</u>
Tax to be collected	4,947,187	10,029	4,957,216
Face amount of taxes collected	<u>4,562,231</u>	<u>9,821</u>	<u>4,572,052</u>
Face amount to delinquent collection	<u>\$ 384,956</u>	<u>\$ 208</u>	<u>\$ 385,164</u>
 <b>RECONCILIATION TO CASH REMITTED TO SCHOOL DISTRICT:</b>			
Face amount of taxes collected	\$ 4,562,231	\$ 9,821	\$ 4,572,052
Less discounts taken	(78,138)	(181)	(78,319)
Add penalties assessed	<u>19,064</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>19,105</u>
Cash collected by School District	<u>\$ 4,503,157</u>	<u>\$ 9,681</u>	<u>\$ 4,512,838</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these schedules.

**BERWICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SCHEDULE OF SETTLEMENT OF REAL ESTATE TAXES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

MUNICIPALITY: BRIAR CREEK BOROUGH  
TAX COLLECTOR: SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICE

	<u>REAL ESTATE</u>	<u>INTERIM REAL ESTATE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF DUPLICATES:</b>			
Face amount of taxes on tax duplicates	\$ 954,955	\$ 1,031	\$ 955,986
Changes to duplicates:			
Additions	-	-	-
Exonerations / Changes	<u>(532)</u>	<u>(798)</u>	<u>(1,330)</u>
Tax to be collected	954,423	233	954,656
Face amount of taxes collected	<u>919,523</u>	<u>233</u>	<u>919,756</u>
Face amount to delinquent collection	<u>\$ 34,900</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 34,900</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION TO CASH REMITTED TO SCHOOL DISTRICT:</b>			
Face amount of taxes collected	\$ 919,523	\$ 233	\$ 919,756
Less discounts taken	(16,342)	(5)	(16,347)
Add penalties assessed	<u>1,411</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,411</u>
Cash collected by School District	<u>\$ 904,592</u>	<u>\$ 228</u>	<u>\$ 904,820</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these schedules.

**BERWICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SCHEDULE OF SETTLEMENT OF REAL ESTATE TAXES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

MUNICIPALITY: BRIAR CREEK TOWNSHIP  
TAX COLLECTOR: SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICE

	<u>REAL ESTATE</u>	<u>INTERIM REAL ESTATE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF DUPLICATES:</b>			
Face amount of taxes on tax duplicates	\$ 2,103,674	\$ 8,631	\$ 2,112,305
Changes to duplicates:			
Additions	-	-	-
Exonerations / Changes	-	-	-
Tax to be collected	<u>2,103,674</u>	<u>8,631</u>	<u>2,112,305</u>
Face amount of taxes collected	<u>1,998,454</u>	<u>7,312</u>	<u>2,005,766</u>
Face amount to delinquent collection	<u>\$ 105,220</u>	<u>\$ 1,319</u>	<u>\$ 106,539</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION TO CASH REMITTED TO SCHOOL DISTRICT:</b>			
Face amount of taxes collected	\$ 1,998,454	\$ 7,312	\$ 2,005,766
Less discounts taken	(32,669)	(66)	(32,735)
Add penalties assessed	<u>9,518</u>	<u>207</u>	<u>9,725</u>
Cash collected by School District	<u>\$ 1,975,303</u>	<u>\$ 7,453</u>	<u>\$ 1,982,756</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these schedules.

**BERWICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SCHEDULE OF SETTLEMENT OF REAL ESTATE TAXES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

MUNICIPALITY:           HOLLENBACK TOWNSHIP  
TAX COLLECTOR:        JULIE HART

	<u>REAL ESTATE</u>	<u>INTERIM REAL ESTATE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF DUPLICATES:</b>			
Face amount of taxes on tax duplicates	\$ 728,507	\$ 4,032	\$ 732,539
Changes to duplicates:			
Additions	-	-	-
Exonerations / Changes	<u>(1,547)</u>	<u>(147)</u>	<u>(1,694)</u>
Tax to be collected	726,960	3,885	730,845
Face amount of taxes collected	<u>684,714</u>	<u>3,394</u>	<u>688,108</u>
Face amount to delinquent collection	<u>\$ 42,246</u>	<u>\$ 491</u>	<u>\$ 42,737</u>
 <b>RECONCILIATION TO CASH REMITTED TO SCHOOL DISTRICT:</b>			
Face amount of taxes collected	\$ 684,714	\$ 3,394	\$ 688,108
Less discounts taken	(11,749)	(68)	(11,817)
Add penalties assessed	<u>2,485</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,485</u>
Cash collected by School District	<u>\$ 675,450</u>	<u>\$ 3,326</u>	<u>\$ 678,776</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these schedules.



**BERWICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SCHEDULE OF SETTLEMENT OF REAL ESTATE TAXES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

MUNICIPALITY: NESCOPECK BOROUGH  
TAX COLLECTOR: DONNA SHOEMAKER

	<u>REAL ESTATE</u>	<u>INTERIM REAL ESTATE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF DUPLICATES:</b>			
Face amount of taxes on tax duplicates	\$ 583,760	\$ 475	\$ 584,235
Changes to duplicates:			
Additions	-	-	-
Exonerations / Changes	<u>(509)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(509)</u>
Tax to be collected	583,251	475	583,726
Face amount of taxes collected	<u>551,793</u>	<u>475</u>	<u>552,268</u>
Face amount to delinquent collection	<u>\$ 31,458</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 31,458</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION TO CASH REMITTED TO SCHOOL DISTRICT:</b>			
Face amount of taxes collected	\$ 551,793	\$ 475	\$ 552,268
Less discounts taken	(8,753)	(8)	(8,761)
Add penalties assessed	<u>2,826</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,826</u>
Cash collected by School District	<u>\$ 545,866</u>	<u>\$ 467</u>	<u>\$ 546,333</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these schedules.

**BERWICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SCHEDULE OF SETTLEMENT OF REAL ESTATE TAXES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

MUNICIPALITY: NESCOPECK TOWNSHIP  
TAX COLLECTOR: CAROLYN SUPERKO

	<u>REAL ESTATE</u>	<u>INTERIM REAL ESTATE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF DUPLICATES:</b>			
Face amount of taxes on tax duplicates	\$ 795,744	\$ 1,951	\$ 797,695
Changes to duplicates:			
Additions	987	-	987
Exonerations / Changes	<u>(2,363)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,363)</u>
Tax to be collected	794,368	1,951	796,319
Face amount of taxes collected	<u>749,789</u>	<u>1,951</u>	<u>751,740</u>
Face amount to delinquent collection	<u>\$ 44,579</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 44,579</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION TO CASH REMITTED TO SCHOOL DISTRICT:</b>			
Face amount of taxes collected	\$ 749,789	\$ 1,951	\$ 751,740
Less discounts taken	(12,551)	(39)	(12,590)
Add penalties assessed	<u>2,951</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,951</u>
Cash collected by School District	<u>\$ 740,189</u>	<u>\$ 1,912</u>	<u>\$ 742,101</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these schedules.

**BERWICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SCHEDULE OF SETTLEMENT OF REAL ESTATE TAXES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

MUNICIPALITY: SALEM TOWNSHIP  
TAX COLLECTOR: TINA GRAY

	<u>REAL ESTATE</u>	<u>INTERIM REAL ESTATE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF DUPLICATES:</b>			
Face amount of taxes on tax duplicates	\$ 5,310,211	\$ 9,904	\$ 5,320,115
Changes to duplicates:			
Additions	2,880	-	2,880
Exonerations / Changes	<u>(3,521)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,521)</u>
Tax to be collected	5,309,570	9,904	5,319,474
Face amount of taxes collected	<u>5,132,278</u>	<u>9,619</u>	<u>5,141,897</u>
Face amount to delinquent collection	<u>\$ 177,292</u>	<u>\$ 285</u>	<u>\$ 177,577</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION TO CASH REMITTED TO SCHOOL DISTRICT:</b>			
Face amount of taxes collected	\$ 5,132,278	\$ 9,619	\$ 5,141,897
Less discounts taken	(94,306)	(84)	(94,390)
Add penalties assessed	<u>12,825</u>	<u>466</u>	<u>13,291</u>
Cash collected by School District	<u>\$ 5,050,797</u>	<u>\$ 10,001</u>	<u>\$ 5,060,798</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these schedules.

## BERWICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

### NOTES TO SCHEDULES OF SETTLEMENT OF REAL ESTATE TAXES

#### 1. SUMMARY OF TAX COLLECTION PROCESS AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### TAX COLLECTION PROCESS

Each of the local tax collectors of Berwick Area School District (the "School District") collects Real Estate taxes levied by the School District based upon valuations provided by Columbia County or Luzerne County, as applicable. The calendar for taxes levied is as follows:

July 1	Original Levy Date
July 1 – August 31	2% Discount
September 1 – October 31	Face Period
November 1 – December 31	10% Penalty
January 1 (subsequent year)	Lien Date

Tax duplicates and copies of the tax bills are delivered to each of the School District's local tax collectors. A third-party printing company is responsible for mailing the original tax bills to taxpayers. The tax collectors are responsible for collection of the July 1 levy from July 1 through December 31.

On at least a monthly basis, each of the tax collectors deposits taxes collected into their municipality's bank account and reconciles such collections to the duplicates remaining uncollected. The School District business office reviews each of the local tax collector's reports and reconciles each report to the cash deposited in their respective bank accounts.

The local tax collectors "settle" with the School District by January 15 of the subsequent year. Taxes not collected by the local tax collectors are turned over to the School District's delinquent tax collectors, thereby ending the local tax collectors' responsibility for collection.

##### INTERIM REAL ESTATE TAXES

Columbia County provides the School District assessed valuations for new properties and improvements that occurred subsequent to July 1 of the tax year. The School District issues "interim" real estate tax bills usually in March on such properties based upon the portion of the School District's tax year (July 1 to June 30) that the new property or improvement was occupied.

Luzerne County provides the School District with notices of assessed valuation changes for new or existing properties that occurred subsequent to July 1 of the tax year. Twice a year, usually in September and May, Luzerne County will issue the "interim" real estate tax bills on such properties based upon the portion of the School District's tax year (July 1 to June 30) that the assessment change was in effect.

The "interim" real estate taxes are subject to a 2% discount if paid within two months of the original levy date. The taxes are subject to a 10% penalty if paid four months after the original levy date up until December 31.

The tax collectors deposit the interim real estate taxes on a monthly basis and turn the uncollected interim taxes over to the School District's delinquent tax collector consistent with the process used on the annual taxes.

BERWICK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTES TO SCHEDULES OF SETTLEMENT

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The accompanying schedules of settlement of real estate taxes represent the reconciliation of the tax duplicates delivered to each of the School District's tax collectors for collection on behalf of the School District to the amounts remitted to and recorded as current revenue by the School District and taxes turned over to the School District's delinquent tax collectors. Such settlements represent the final accounts for each of the tax collectors as of January 15, 2019 for the settlement of taxes for the calendar year 2018 as required by the Pennsylvania Local Tax Collection Law (P.L. 1050, No. 394).

The Pennsylvania Local Tax Collection Law requires, in part, each local tax collector to remit taxes collected monthly and to reconcile such amounts to the amount of taxes remaining to be collected. Additionally, by January fifteenth each local tax collector is required to make a complete settlement with the School District of all taxes for the prior calendar year. The law also requires that each tax collector's final accounts and records as well as monthly returns and payments be audited annually.

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Tax collections remitted to the School District on the accompanying schedules are recognized at the time received by the School District.