



## State of Tennessee

Justin P. Wilson, State Comptroller

For Immediate Release: February 20, 2014

### **Former Town Clerk in Obion County Took At Least \$2,000 for Personal Use**

The tiny West Tennessee town of Kenton is known for its large population of albino squirrels, but it's also a place where the former town clerk was squirreling away public money for her own personal use.

Kelly Ann Greer, the former clerk, misappropriated at least \$2,000 of utility payments made in cash, an audit released today by the state Comptroller's office shows. She concealed what she was doing by making unauthorized adjustments to the town's computerized billing system.

Greer admitted to the Comptroller's investigators that she used the money to buy groceries.

The Obion County Grand Jury indicted Greer on one count of theft over \$1,000 earlier this month.

The audit noted that town officials had insufficient safeguards in place to discover what Greer had been doing. Greer was able to handle all aspects of utility payment transactions, from accepting and receipting payments to making bank deposits.

Good accounting practices call for multiple people to be involved in financial transactions so they can check each other's work.

"It's very important to have proper controls in place to reduce the likelihood of fraud, waste and abuse," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "These problems can be found in small towns as well as large cities. I commend our investigators for their work on this case."

To view the audit online, go to: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/>.

If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse of public money in Tennessee, you may call the Comptroller's hot line at 1-800-232-5454 or fill out a report online at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/shared/safwa.asp>.

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