



**Justin P. Wilson, Comptroller**

April 19, 2017

## **Former Gallatin Employee Charged with Theft**

An investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller has found that former Gallatin administrative assistant Jennifer Morris stole at least \$1,173 from the city recorder's office.

Investigators determined that Morris stole the money between June 2016 and December 2016 by withholding cash that she collected and by taking funds from her cash drawer.

Morris concealed her actions by manipulating the city's accounting system. Also, in at least one instance, she removed an entire page of duplicate receipts from the city's manual receipt book. One of the missing receipts documented her collection of a cash property tax payment that she stole.

Because of the nature of her scheme, it is possible additional money may be missing which has not been detected.

Morris admitted to Comptroller investigators that she took city funds for her personal use. She said she took the money to pay personal bills and expenses. She was terminated from her position on December 5, 2016.

In April 2017, Jennifer Morris was indicted by the Sumner County Grand Jury on one count of theft over \$1,000 and one count of official misconduct.

"The City of Gallatin has taken steps to provide checks and balances within its financial operations; however, weaknesses still exist," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "The same person responsible for collecting money should not be in charge of preparing and reviewing the summary collection reports at the end of the day."

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

If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse of public money in Tennessee, call the Comptroller's toll-free hotline at (800) 232-5454, or file a report online at: [www.comptroller.tn.gov/hotline](http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/hotline). Follow us on twitter: [@TNCOT](https://twitter.com/TNCOT)

Media contact: John Dunn, Public Information Officer, (615) 401-7755 or [john.dunn@cot.tn.gov](mailto:john.dunn@cot.tn.gov)

