



State of Tennessee

Justin P. Wilson, State Comptroller

For Immediate Release: June 6, 2012

Nearly \$6,000 Taken from Millard Oakley Public Library in Overton County

A former employee of Millard Oakley Public Library in Overton County stole \$5,999.53 in funds intended for the library, an investigation by the Comptroller's Division of Local Government Audit has found. The investigation involved the review of library receipts, deposits and disbursements over an almost four-year period dating back to July 1, 2008.

The former employee used electronic withdrawals from the library's checking account to pay for personal expenses such as satellite television, wireless telephone service and credit card bills.

Cash and checks collected on behalf of Friends of the Library, a nonprofit group, were deposited by the former employee into the library's checking account to conceal the theft of funds resulting from the improper electronic disbursements.

The Comptroller's report, which was released today, also identified other deficiencies in the way money was handled. For example, the library only issued receipts when they were requested by customers, meaning financial records were incomplete. Also, the former employee was given sole responsibility for making bank deposits, preparing monthly collection reports and issuing monthly checks, which meant no one was double checking that work.

In response to the auditors' findings, the library director noted that a number of steps have been taken to reduce the likelihood of similar problems in the future.

"There are simple steps in accounting and bookkeeping that can be taken to avoid the types of problems our auditors discovered at Millard Oakley Public Library," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "I am glad that the library's director has taken corrective action."

To view the full report online, go to: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/la/SpecialReports.asp>

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