



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY**

Justin P. Wilson
Comptroller of the Treasury

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March 27, 2014

County Executive and Members of
the Board of Commissioners
Putnam County
300 East Spring Street
Cookeville, TN 38501

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury performed a special investigation of selected records of the Putnam County Property Assessor's Office. This investigation was limited to a review of certain office equipment and supplies purchases and focused on the period January 1, 2013, through March 15, 2014. When necessary, this scope was expanded.

The special investigation revealed that the Putnam County Property Assessor, Travis Roberts, used county funds totaling at least \$2,355 to purchase computers and accessories, which he traded or sold for his personal benefit. During the period April 1, 2013, through March 15, 2014, Putnam County Property Assessor Travis Roberts used a county credit card to purchase at least eight computers and related accessories at a cost of \$2,355. He then either sold these computers for cash, keeping the cash for his own use, or traded the computers to pay off his personal debts. Mr. Roberts acknowledged to Comptroller investigators that he had sold or traded these computers for his personal benefit.

This matter was referred to the local district attorney general. On March 25, 2014, the Putnam County Grand Jury indicted Travis Roberts on one count of theft over \$1,000 and one count of official misconduct.

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County records also revealed that during the period January 1, 2013, through March 15, 2014, Putnam County Property Assessor Travis Roberts spent county funds totaling \$754 to purchase at least 31 premium ink pens and mechanical pencils, averaging over \$24 each. Mr. Roberts showed Comptroller investigators two soft cases, one of which is pictured, that contained more than 40 premium pens and mechanical pencils. He disclosed that he really liked nice ink pens and took pride in his penmanship, although he acknowledged he knew using county money to buy those ink pens and mechanical pencils was wrong.



If you have any questions concerning the above, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin P. Wilson'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Justin P. Wilson
Comptroller of the Treasury

JPW/RAD