

**TITLE 4****MUNICIPAL PERSONNEL****CHAPTER**

1. SOCIAL SECURITY.
2. PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS.
3. OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM.
4. INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL POLICY.
5. TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT REGULATIONS.

**CHAPTER 1****SOCIAL SECURITY****SECTION**

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- 4-102. Necessary agreements to be executed.
- 4-103. Withholdings from salaries or wages.
- 4-104. Appropriations for employer's contributions.
- 4-105. Records and reports.
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**4-101. Policy and purpose as to coverage.** It is hereby declared to be the policy and purpose of this town to provide for all eligible employees and officials of the town, whether employed in connection with a governmental or proprietary function, the benefits of the system of federal old age and survivors insurance. In pursuance of said policy, and for that purpose, the town shall take such action as may be required by applicable state and federal laws or regulations. (1997 Code, § 4-101)

**4-102. Necessary agreements to be executed.** The mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute all the necessary agreements and amendments thereto with the state executive director of old age insurance, as agent or agency, to secure coverage of employees and officials as provided in the preceding section. (1997 Code, § 4-102)

**4-103. Withholdings from salaries or wages.** Withholdings from the salaries or wages of employees and officials for the purpose provided in the first section of this chapter are hereby authorized to be made in the amounts and at such times as may be required by applicable state or federal laws or regulations, and shall be paid over to the state or federal agency designated by said laws or regulations. (1997 Code, § 4-103)

**4-104. Appropriations for employer's contributions.** There shall be appropriated from available funds such amounts at such times as may be required by applicable state or federal laws or regulations for employer's contributions, and the same shall be paid over to the state or federal agency designated by said laws or regulations. (1997 Code, § 4-104)

**4-105. Records and reports.** The recorder shall keep such records and make such reports as may be required by applicable state and federal laws or regulations. (1997 Code, § 4-105)

**4-106. Exemption from coverage.** There is hereby exempted from this chapter any authority to make any agreement with respect to any position, any employee or official not authorized to be covered by applicable state and federal laws or regulations. (1997 Code, § 4-106)

**CHAPTER 2****PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS****SECTION**

4-201. Personnel rules and regulations.

**4-201. Personnel rules and regulations.**<sup>1</sup> The personnel rules and regulations for the Town of Vonore are adopted herein as if set out verbatim. (1997 Code, § 4-201)

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<sup>1</sup>The personnel rules and regulations (Ord. #19-14, Jan. 2020) for the Town of Vonore, and all amending ordinances, are available in the office of the recorder.

## CHAPTER 3

### OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM

#### SECTION

4-301. Title.

4-302. Mayor designated program director.

4-303. Program standards.

4-304. Effective date of plan.

**4-301. Title.** This chapter shall be known as the "Occupational Safety and Health Program for the Employees of the Town of Vonore." (1997 Code, § 4-401)

**4-302. Mayor designated program director.** The Town of Vonore hereby designates the mayor, hereinafter referred to as the "director," to establish a safety and health program in compliance with the requirements of the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1972 and he is hereby given the authority to implement a plan which shall encompass the issues and standards which have been promulgated by applicable state standards. (1997 Code, § 4-402)

**4-303. Program standards.** This plan shall be at least as effective as the federal or state standards on the same issues and shall include the following:

(1) The director, or his authorized representatives, shall have the right to enter at any reasonable time any establishment, construction site, plant or other area, workplace or environment where work is performed in the Town of Vonore; and to inspect and investigate any such place of employment and all pertinent conditions, processes, machines, devices, equipment and materials therein, and to question privately any supervisor or employee.

(2) The director may issue subpoenas to require the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of evidence under oath for the purpose of confirming or supplementing his findings.

(3) The director shall provide for education and training of personnel for the administration of the program, and he shall provide for the education and training of all employees of the town to the extent that same is necessary for said employees to recognize and report "safety and health problems," as defined in the applicable standards.

(4) All employees shall be informed of the policies and the standards set forth by the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Act.

(5) All employees of the town shall be informed of safety hazards, exposure to toxic or harmful materials and imminent danger situations that may occur in their jobs.

(6) The director, or his authorized representative, shall, upon any allegation of imminent danger, immediately ascertain whether there is a reasonable basis for the complaint. He shall make a preliminary determination of whether or not the complaint appears to have merit. If such is the case, he or his authorized representative shall report same to board of mayor and aldermen.

(7) Any employee shall be given the right to participate in an investigation or inspection which involves a safety and/or health situation which concerns his work area.

(8) The director shall establish a safety and health training program designed to instruct each employee in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations applicable to his work environment.

(9) The director shall contact the Commissioner of Labor of the State of Tennessee by telephone in the event of the death of an employee involved in a work-related accident. This notification will be done as soon after the fatality as possible, but not to exceed forty-eight (48) hours.

(10) The director shall set up a procedure for requesting a variance from the Tennessee Department of Labor in the event an operation within the town does not meet the standards set by the Occupational Safety and Health Act and immediate action to alleviate the discrepancy is not possible.

(11) The director shall establish and maintain a system for collecting and reporting safety and health data required under the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Act.

(12) The director shall apply this program to employees of each administrative department, commission, board, division or other agency of the Town of Vonore.

(13) The director shall make an annual report to the Commissioner of Labor for the State of Tennessee showing the accomplishments and progress of the Town of Vonore in its occupational safety and health program.

(14) The director shall provide a means whereby any employee may submit a report of what he feels is a safety and/or health hazard to his immediate supervisor and the director without fear of jeopardizing his job or chances for future promotion. Such reports shall be preserved and the action thereon shall be noted on said reports and signed by the director, or his designees.

(15) In implementing the plan, the director shall adopt therein all the words and phrases designated as "definitions" in the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Act, promulgated regulations and standards thereunder.

(16) The director shall submit said plan to the Tennessee Department of Labor for approval on or before Jan. 1, 1998. ((1997 Code, § 4-403)

**4-304. Effective date of plan.** The plan, upon its approval by the Tennessee Department of Labor, shall become effective to the Town of Vonore

and at this time shall become a part of this chapter as fully and completely as if set out herein. (1997 Code, § 4-404)

## CHAPTER 4

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL POLICY

#### SECTION

- 4-401. Purpose.
- 4-402. Coverage.
- 4-403. Administration.
- 4-404. Definitions.
- 4-405. Policy statement.
- 4-406. General guidelines.
- 4-407. Hepatitis B vaccinations.
- 4-408. Reporting potential exposure.
- 4-409. Hepatitis B virus post-exposure management.
- 4-410. Human immunodeficiency virus post-exposure management.
- 4-411. Disability benefits.
- 4-412. Training regular employees.
- 4-413. Training high risk employees.
- 4-414. Training new employees.
- 4-415. Records and reports.
- 4-416. Legal rights of victims of communicable diseases.

**4-401. Purpose.** It is the responsibility of the Town of Vonore to provide employees a place of employment which is free from recognized hazards that may cause death or serious physical harm. In providing services to the citizens of the Town of Vonore, employees may come in contact with life-threatening infectious diseases which can be transmitted through job related activities. It is important that both citizens and employees are protected from the transmission of diseases just as it is equally important that neither is discriminated against because of basic misconceptions about various diseases and illnesses.

The purpose of this policy is to establish a comprehensive set of rules and regulations governing the prevention of discrimination and potential occupational exposure to Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and Tuberculosis (TB). (1997 Code, § 4-501)

**4-402. Coverage.** Occupational exposures may occur in many ways, including needle sticks, cut injuries or blood spills. Several classes of employees are assumed to be at high risk for blood borne infections due to their routinely increased exposure to body fluids from potentially infected individuals. Those high risk occupations include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Paramedics and emergency medical technicians;
- (2) Occupational nurses;
- (3) Housekeeping and laundry workers;

- (4) Police and security personnel;
- (5) Firefighters;
- (6) Sanitation and landfill workers; and
- (7) Any other employee deemed to be at high risk per this policy and an exposure determination. (1997 Code, § 4-502)

**4-403. Administration.** This infection control policy shall be administered by the mayor, or his/her designated representative, who shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- (1) Exercise leadership in implementation and maintenance of an effective infection control policy subject to the provisions of this chapter, other ordinances, the town charter, and federal and state law relating to OSHA regulations;
- (2) Make an exposure determination for all employee positions to determine a possible exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials;
- (3) Maintain records of all employees and incidents subject to the provisions of this chapter;
- (4) Conduct periodic inspections to determine compliance with the infection control policy by municipal employees;
- (5) Coordinate and document all relevant training activities in support of the infection control policy;
- (6) Prepare and recommend to the board of mayor and aldermen any amendments or changes to the infection control policy;
- (7) Identify any and all housekeeping operations involving substantial risk of direct exposure to potentially infectious materials, and shall address the proper precautions to be taken while cleaning rooms and blood spills; and
- (8) Perform such other duties and exercise such other authority as may be prescribed by the board of mayor and aldermen. (1997 Code, § 4-503)

**4-404. Definitions.** (1) "Body fluids" means fluids that have been recognized by the Center for Disease Control as directly linked to the transmission of HIV and/or HBV, and/or to which universal precautions apply: blood, semen, blood products, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pericardial fluid, amniotic fluid, and concentrated HIV or HBV viruses.

(2) "Exposure" means the contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials to which universal precautions apply through contact with open wounds, non-intact skin, or mucous membranes during the performance of an individual's normal job duties.

(3) "Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)" means a serious blood-borne virus with potential for life-threatening complications. Possible complications include: massive hepatic necrosis, cirrhosis of the liver, chronic active hepatitis, and hepatocellular carcinoma.

(4) "Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)" means the virus that causes Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). "HIV" is transmitted

through sexual contact and exposure to infected blood or blood components and perinatally from mother to neonate.

(5) "Tuberculosis (TB)" means an acute or chronic communicable disease that usually affects the respiratory system, but may involve any system in the body.

(6) "Universal precautions" means and refers to a system of infectious disease control which assumes that every direct contact with body fluid is infectious and requires every employee exposed to direct contact with potentially infectious materials to be protected as though such body fluid were HBV or HIV infected. (1997 Code, § 4-504)

**4-405. Policy statement.** All blood and other potentially infectious materials are infectious for several blood-borne pathogens. Some body fluids can also transmit infections. For this reason, the Center for Disease Control developed the strategy that everyone should always take particular care when there is a potential exposure. These precautions have been termed "universal precautions."

Universal precautions stress that all persons should be assumed to be infectious for HIV and/or other blood-borne pathogens. Universal precautions apply to blood, tissues, and other potentially infectious materials. Universal precautions also apply to semen (although occupational risk or exposure is quite limited), vaginal secretions, and to cerebrospinal, synovial, pleural, peritoneal, pericardial and amniotic fluids. Universal precautions do not apply to feces, nasal secretions, human breast milk, sputum, saliva, sweat, tears, urine, and vomitus unless these substances contain visible blood. (1997 Code, § 4-505)

**4-406. General guidelines.** General guidelines which shall be used by everyone include:

(1) Think when responding to emergency calls and exercise common sense when there is potential exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials which require universal precautions.

(2) Keep all open cuts and abrasions covered with adhesive bandages which repel liquids.

(3) Soap and water kill many bacteria and viruses on contact. If hands are contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials to which universal precautions apply, then wash immediately and thoroughly. Hands shall also be washed after gloves are removed even if the gloves appear to be intact. When soap and water or handwashing facilities are not available, then use a waterless antiseptic hand cleaner according to the manufacturer's recommendation for the product.

(4) All workers shall take precautions to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpel blades, and other sharp instruments. To prevent needle stick injuries, needles shall not be recapped, purposely bent or broken by hand, removed from disposable syringes, or otherwise manipulated by hand. After

they are used, disposable syringes and needles, scalpel blades and other sharp items shall be placed in puncture resistant containers for disposal. The puncture resistant container shall be located as close as practical to the use area.

(5) The town will provide gloves of appropriate material, quality and size for each affected employee. The gloves are to be worn when there is contact (or when there is a potential contact) with blood or other potentially infectious materials to which universal precautions apply:

- (a) While handling an individual where exposure is possible;
- (b) While cleaning or handling contaminated items or equipment; or
- (c) While cleaning up an area that has been contaminated with one of the above.

Gloves shall not be used if they are peeling, cracked, or discolored, or if they have punctures, tears, or other evidence of deterioration. Employees shall not wash or disinfect surgical or examination gloves for reuse.

(6) Resuscitation equipment shall be used when necessary (no transmission of HBV or HIV infection during mouth-to-mouth resuscitation has been documented). However, because of the risk of salivary transmission of other infectious diseases and the theoretical risk of HIV or HBV transmission during artificial resuscitation, bags shall be used. Pocket mouth-to-mouth resuscitation masks designed to isolate emergency response personnel from contact with a victims' blood and blood contaminated saliva, respiratory secretion, and vomitus, are available to all personnel to provide or potentially provide emergency treatment.

(7) Masks or protective eyewear or face shields shall be worn during procedures that are likely to generate droplets of blood or other potentially infectious materials to prevent exposure to mucous membranes of the mouth, nose, and eyes. They are not required for routine care.

(8) Gowns, aprons, or lab coats shall be worn during procedures that are likely to generate splashes of blood or other potentially infectious materials.

(9) Areas and equipment contaminated with blood shall be cleaned as soon as possible. A household (chlorine) bleach solution (one (1) part chlorine to ten (10) parts water) shall be applied to the contaminated surface as a disinfectant, leaving it on for a least thirty (30) seconds. A solution must be changed and re-mixed every twenty-four (24) hours to be effective.

(10) Contaminated clothing (or other articles) shall be handled carefully and washed as soon as possible. Laundry and dish washing cycles at one hundred twenty degrees (120°) are adequate for decontamination.

(11) Place all disposable equipment (gloves, masks, gowns, etc.) in a clearly marked plastic bag. Place the bag in a second clearly marked bag (double bag). Seal and dispose of by placing in a designated "hazardous" dumpster. Note: Sharp objects must be placed in an impervious container and shall be properly disposed of.

(12) Tags shall be used as a means of preventing accidental injury or illness to employees who are exposed to hazardous or potentially hazardous conditions, equipment or operations which are out of the ordinary, unexpected or not readily apparent. Tags shall be used until such time as the identified hazard is eliminated or the hazardous operation is completed.

All required tags shall meet the following criteria:

(a) Tags shall contain a signal word and a major message. The signal word shall be "BIOHAZARD," or the biological hazard symbol. The major message shall indicate the specific hazardous condition or the instruction to be communicated to employees.

(b) The signal word shall be readable at a minimum distance of five feet (5') or such greater distance as warranted by the hazard.

(c) All employees shall be informed of the meaning of the various tags used throughout the workplace and what special precautions are necessary.

(13) Linen soiled with blood or other potentially infectious materials shall be handled as little as possible and with minimum agitation to prevent contamination of the person handling the linen. All soiled linen shall be bagged at the location where it was used. It shall not be sorted or rinsed in the area. Soiled linen shall be placed and transported in bags that prevent leakage.

The employee responsible for transported soiled linen should always wear protective gloves to prevent possible contamination. After removing the gloves, hands or other skin surfaces shall be washed thoroughly and immediately after contact with potentially infectious materials.

(14) Whenever possible, disposable equipment shall be used to minimize and contain clean-up. (1997 Code, § 4-506)

**4-407. Hepatitis B vaccinations.** The Town of Vonore shall offer the appropriate hepatitis B vaccination to employees at risk of exposure free of charge and in amounts and at times prescribed by standard medical practices. The vaccination shall be voluntarily administered. High risk employees who wish to take the HBV vaccination should notify their department head who shall make the appropriate arrangements through the infectious disease control coordinator. (1997 Code, § 4-507)

**4-408. Reporting potential exposure.** Town employees shall observe the following procedures for reporting a job exposure incident that may put them at risk for HIV or HBV infections (i.e., needle sticks, blood contact on broken skin, body fluid contact with eyes or mouth, etc.):

(1) Notify the infectious disease control coordinator of the contact incident and details thereof.

(2) Complete the appropriate accident reports and any other specific form required.

(3) Arrangements will be made for the person to be seen by a physician as with any job-related injury.

Once an exposure has occurred, a blood sample should be drawn after consent is obtained from the individual from whom exposure occurred and tested for Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and/or antibody to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV antibody). Testing of the source individual should be done at a location where appropriate pretest counseling is available. Post-test counseling and referral for treatment should also be provided. (1997 Code, § 4-508)

**4-409. Hepatitis B virus post-exposure management.** For an exposure to a source individual found to be positive for HBsAg, the worker who has not previously been given the hepatitis B vaccine should receive the vaccine series. A single dose of Hepatitis B Immune Globulin (HBIG) is also recommended, if it can be given within seven (7) days of exposure.

For exposure from an HBsAg-positive source to workers who have previously received the vaccine, the exposed worker should be tested for antibodies to Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (anti-HBs), and given one (1) dose of vaccine and one (1) dose of HBIG if the antibody level in the worker's blood sample is inadequate (i.e., 10 SRU by RIA, negative by EIA).

If the source individual is negative for HBsAg and the worker has not been vaccinated, this opportunity should be taken to provide the hepatitis B vaccine series. HBIG administration should be considered on an individual basis when the source individual is known or suspected to be at high risk of HBV infection. Management and treatment, if any, of previously vaccinated workers who receive an exposure from a source who refuses testing or is not identifiable should be individualized. (1997 Code, § 4-509)

**4-410. Human immunodeficiency virus post-exposure management.** For any exposure to a source individual who has AIDS, who is found to be positive for HIV infection, or who refuses testing, the worker should be counseled regarding the risk of infection and evaluated clinically and serologically for evidence of HIV infection as soon as possible after the exposure. The worker should be advised to report and seek medical evaluation for any acute febrile illness that occurs within twelve (12) weeks after the exposure. Such an illness, particularly one characterized by fever, rash, or lymphadenopathy, may be indicative of recent HIV infection.

Following the initial test at the time of exposure, seronegative workers should be retested six (6) weeks, twelve (12) weeks, and six (6) months after exposure to determine whether transmission has occurred. During this follow-up period (especially the first six to twelve (6 - 12) weeks after exposure) exposed workers should follow the U.S. Public Health service recommendation for preventing transmission of HIV. These include refraining from blood

donations and using appropriate protection during sexual intercourse. During all phases of follow-up, it is vital that worker confidentiality be protected.

If the source individual was tested and found to be seronegative, baseline testing of the exposed worker with follow-up testing twelve (12) weeks later may be performed if desired by the worker or recommended by the health care provider. If the source individual cannot be identified, decisions regarding appropriate follow-up should be individualized. Serologic testing should be made available by the town to all workers who may be concerned they have been infected with HIV through an occupational exposure. (1997 Code, § 4-510)

**4-411. Disability benefits.** Entitlement to disability benefits and any other benefits available for employees who suffer from on-the-job injuries will be determined by the Tennessee Worker's Compensations Bureau in accordance with the provisions of *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 50-6-303. (1997 Code, § 4-511)

**4-412. Training regular employees.** On an annual basis, all employees shall receive training and education on precautionary measures, epidemiology, modes of transmission and prevention of HIV/HBV infection and procedures to be used if they are exposed to needle sticks or potentially infectious materials. They shall also be counseled regarding possible risks to the fetus from HIV/HBV and other associated infectious agents. (1997 Code, § 4-512)

**4-413. Training high risk employees.** In addition to the above, high risk employees shall also receive training regarding the location and proper use of personal protective equipment. They shall be trained concerning proper work practices and understand the concept of "universal precautions" as it applies to their work situation. They shall also be trained about the meaning of color coding and other methods used to designate contaminated material. Where tags are used, training shall cover precautions to be used in handling contaminated material as per this policy. (1997 Code, § 4-513)

**4-414. Training new employees.** During the new employee's orientation to his/her job, all new employee will be trained on the effects of infectious disease prior to putting them to work. (1997 Code, § 4-514)

**4-415. Records and reports.** (1) Reports. Occupational injury and illness records shall be maintained by the infectious disease control coordinator. Statistics shall be maintained on the OSHA-200 report. Only those work-related injuries that involve loss of consciousness, transfer to another job, restriction of work or motion, or medical treatment are required to be put on the OSHA-200.

(2) Needle sticks. Needle sticks, like any other puncture wound, are considered injuries for recordkeeping purposes due to the instantaneous nature

of the event. Therefore, any needle stick requiring medical treatment (i.e., gamma globulin, hepatitis B immune globulin, hepatitis B vaccine, etc.) shall be recorded.

(3) Prescription medication. Likewise, the use of prescription medication (beyond a single dose for minor injury or discomfort) is considered medical treatment. Since these types of treatment are considered necessary, and must be administered by physician or licensed medical personnel, such injuries cannot be considered minor and must be reported.

(4) Employee interviews. Should the town be inspected by the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Health Compliance, the compliance safety and health officer may wish to interview employees. Employees are expected to cooperate fully with the compliance officers. (1997 Code, § 4-515)

**4-416. Legal rights of victims of communicable diseases.** Victims of communicable diseases have the legal right to expect, and municipal employees, including police and emergency service officers, are duty bound to provide the same level of service and enforcement as any other individual would receive.

(1) Officers assume that a certain degree of risk exists in law enforcement and emergency service work, and accept those risks with their individual appointments. This holds true with any potential risks of contacting a communicable disease as surely as it does with the risks of confronting an armed criminal.

(2) Any officer who refuses to take proper action in regard to victims of a communicable disease, when appropriate protective equipment is available, shall be subject to disciplinary measures along with civil and/or criminal prosecution.

(3) Whenever an officer mentions in a report that an individual has or may have a communicable disease, he shall write "contains confidential medical information" across the top margin of the first page of the report.

(4) The officer's supervisor shall ensure that the above statement is on all reports requiring that statement at the time the report is reviewed and initiated by the supervisor.

(5) The supervisor disseminating newspaper releases shall make certain the confidential information is not given out to the news media.

(6) All requests (including subpoenas) for copies of reports marked "contains confidential medical information" shall be referred to the town attorney when the incident involves an indictable or juvenile offense.

(7) Prior approval shall be obtained from the town attorney before advising a victim of sexual assault that the suspect has, or is suspected of having, a communicable disease.

(8) All circumstance, not covered in this policy, that may arise concerning releasing confidential information regarding a victim, or suspected

victim, of a communicable disease shall be referred directly to the appropriate department head or town attorney.

(9) Victims of a communicable disease and their families have a right to conduct their lives without fear of discrimination. An employee shall not make public, directly or indirectly, the identity of a victim or suspected victim of a communicable disease.

(10) Whenever an employee finds it necessary to notify another employee, police officer, firefighter, emergency service officer, or health care provider that a victim has, or is suspected of having, a communicable disease, that information shall be conveyed in a dignified, discrete and confidential manner. The person to whom the information is being conveyed should be reminded that the information is confidential and that it should not be treated as public information.

(11) Any employee who disseminates confidential information in regard to a victim, or suspected victim, of a communicable disease in violation of this policy shall be subject to serious disciplinary action and/or civil and/or criminal prosecution. (1997 Code, § 4-516)

## CHAPTER 5

### TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT REGULATIONS

#### SECTION

- 4-501. Enforcement.
- 4-502. Travel policy.
- 4-503. Travel reimbursement rate schedules.
- 4-504. Administrative procedures.

**4-501. Enforcement.** The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the town, or his designee, shall be responsible for the enforcement of these regulations. (1997 Code, § 4-601, modified)

**4-502. Travel policy.** (1) In the interpretation and application of this chapter, the term "traveler" or "authorized travel" means any elected or appointed municipal officer or employee, including members of municipal boards and committees appointed by the mayor or the municipal governing body, and the employees of such boards and committees who are traveling on official municipal business and whose travel was authorized in accordance with this chapter. "Authorized traveler" shall not include the spouse, children, other relatives, friends, or companions accompanying the authorized traveler on town business, unless the person(s) otherwise qualifies as an authorized traveler under this chapter.

(2) Authorized travelers are entitled to reimbursement of certain expenditures incurred while traveling on official business for the town. Reimbursable expenses shall include expenses for transportation; lodging; meals; registration fees for conferences, conventions, and seminars; and other actual and necessary expenses related to official business as determined by the CAO. Under certain conditions, entertainment expenses may be eligible for reimbursement.

(3) Authorized travelers can request either a travel advance for the projected cost of authorized travel, or advance billing directly to the town for registration fees, air fares, meals, lodging, conferences, and similar expenses.

Travel advance requests aren't considered documentation of travel expenses. If travel advances exceed documented expenses, the traveler must immediately reimburse the town. It will be the responsibility of the CAO to initiate action to recover any undocumented travel advances.

(4) Travel advances are available only for special travel, and only after completion and approval of the travel authorization form.

(5) The travel expense reimbursement form will be used to document all expense claims.

(6) To qualify for reimbursement, travel expenses must be:

(a) Directly related to the conduct of the town business for which travel was authorized; and

(b) Actual, reasonable, and necessary under the circumstances. The CAO may make exceptions for unusual circumstances.

Expenses considered excessive won't be allowed.

(7) Any person attempting to defraud the town or misuse town travel funds is subject to legal action for recovery of fraudulent travel claims and/or advances.

(8) Motel expenses incurred within the town aren't ordinarily considered eligible expenses for reimbursement. (1997 Code, § 4-602, modified)

**4-503. Travel reimbursement rate schedules.** Authorized travelers shall be reimbursed according to the state travel regulation rates. The town's travel reimbursement rates will automatically change when the state rates are adjusted.

The municipality may pay directly to the provider for expenses such as meals, lodging, and registration fees for conferences, conventions, seminars, and other education programs. (1997 Code, § 4-603)

**4-504. Administrative procedures.** The town adopts and incorporates by reference—as if fully set out herein—the administrative procedures submitted by MTAS to, and approved by letter by, the Comptroller of the Treasury, State of Tennessee, in June 1993. A copy of the administrative procedures is on file in the office of the town recorder.

This chapter shall take effect upon its final reading by the municipal governing body. It shall cover all travel and expenses occurring on or after July 1, 1993. (1997 Code, § 4-604)