

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

1. SOCIAL SECURITY.
2. PERSONNEL SYSTEM.
3. INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL POLICY.
4. TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT REGULATIONS.
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CHAPTER 1**SOCIAL SECURITY****SECTION**

- 4-101. Policy and purpose as to coverage.
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4-101. Policy and purpose as to coverage. It is hereby declared to be the policy and purpose of the Mayor and Board of Alderman of the Town of Nolensville, Tennessee, to extend as of the date hereinafter set forth, to the employees and officials thereof, not excluded by law or this chapter, and whether employed in connection with a governmental or proprietary function, the benefits of the Federal System of Old-Age and Survivors, Disability Health Insurance as authorized by the Social Security Act and amendments thereto, including Public Law 734, 81st Congress. In pursuance of said policy, and for that purpose, the Town of Nolensville shall take such action as may be required by applicable state and federal laws or regulations. (Ord. #00-08, Jan. 2001)

4-102. Necessary agreements to be executed.¹ The Mayor of the Town of Nolensville is hereby authorized and directed to execute all the necessary agreements and amendments thereto with the director of old age and survivors insurance agency, State of Tennessee, as agent or agency, to provide coverage of the employees and officials as provided in the preceding § 4-101, hereof. (Ord. #00-08, Jan. 2001)

¹For a copy of the agreement, see Ord. #00-08, Jan. 2001, available in the office of the town recorder.

4-103. Exclusions and limitation. There is hereby excluded from this chapter any authority to make any agreement with respect to any position or any employee not authorized to be covered under federal state laws or regulations.

There is hereby excluded from this chapter, the services of election officials and election workers if the remuneration paid for such services is less than \$1000 in a calendar year, subject to adjustment for calendar years after 1999 to reflect changes in the economy during such calendar year, in accordance with Section 218(c)(8)(B) of the Social Security Act.

The agreement does not apply to services performed after July 1, 1991, that were mandatorily covered under Section 210(7)(F) of the Social Security Act. (Ord. #00-08, Jan. 2001)

4-104. Records and reports to be made. The said Town of Nolensville shall keep such records and make such reports as may be required by applicable state or federal laws or regulations. (Ord. #00-08, Jan. 2001)

CHAPTER 2

PERSONNEL SYSTEM

SECTION

- 4-201. Purpose of personnel system.
- 4-202. Coverage.
- 4-203. Administration of personnel system.
- 4-204. Personnel rules and regulations.
- 4-205. Personnel records.
- 4-206. Right to contract for special services.
- 4-207. Discrimination.
- 4-208. Amendments.

4-201. Purpose of personnel system. The purpose of this chapter is to establish a system of personnel administration in the Town of Nolensville that is based upon merit and fitness. The system shall provide means to select, develop, and maintain an effective municipal work force through the impartial application of personnel policies and procedures free of personal and political considerations and regardless of race, sex, age, creed, national origin or handicapping condition. (Ord. #97-10, Aug. 1997)

4-202. Coverage. All offices and positions of the municipal government are divided into the classified service and the exempt service. The classified service shall include all regular full-time employees in the town's service unless specifically placed in the exempt service.

Offices and positions of the municipal government placed in the exempt service are as follows:

- (1) All elected officials.
- (2) Members of appointed boards and commissions.
- (3) Consultants, advisers, and legal counsel rendering temporary professional service.
- (4) Town attorney.
- (5) Independent contractors.
- (6) Persons employed not more than six (6) months during a fiscal year.
- (7) Part-time employees paid by the hour and not considered regular part-time.
- (8) Volunteer personnel appointed without compensation.
- (9) City judge.

All employment positions of the municipal government not expressly exempted from coverage by this section shall be subject to the provisions of the town charter. (Ord. #97-10, Aug. 1997)

4-203. Administration of the personnel system. The personnel system shall be administered by the mayor, with the following duties and responsibilities:

(1) Exercise leadership in developing an effective personnel administration system subject to provisions in this chapter, other ordinances, the town charter, and federal and state laws relating to personnel administration.

(2) Establish policies and procedures for the recruitment, appointment, and discipline of all employees of the municipality subject to those policies as set forth by ordinance, and the town charter.

(3) Establish the various municipal government departments and offices and determine the duties, authority, responsibility, and compensation in accordance with the policies as set forth in the town charter, and subject to any required approval of the board of mayor and aldermen and budget limitations.

(4) Foster and develop programs for the improvement of employee effectiveness, including training, safety and health.

(5) Maintain records of all employees subject to the provisions of this chapter which shall include each employee's class, title, pay rates, and other relevant data.

(6) Make periodic reports to the board of mayor and aldermen regarding the administration of the personnel system.

(7) Develop and administer such recruiting programs as may be necessary to obtain an adequate supply of competent applicants to meet the employment needs of the municipal government.

(8) Be responsible for certification of payrolls.

(9) Perform such other duties and exercise such other authority in personnel administration as may be prescribed by law and the board of mayor and aldermen. (Ord. #97-10, Aug. 1997)

4-204. Personnel rules and regulations. The mayor shall develop further rules and regulations necessary for the effective administration of the personnel system. The board of mayor and aldermen shall adopt via resolution the rules and regulations presented to them by the mayor, with any necessary amendments agreed to by the board. Amendments to the rules and regulations shall be made in accordance with the procedure below. (Ord. #97-10, Aug. 1997)

4-205. Personnel records. The town recorder shall maintain adequate records of the employment history of every employee as specified here. (Ord. #97-10, Aug. 1997)

4-206. Right to contract for special services. The board of mayor and aldermen may contract with any competent agency for the performance of such technical services in connection with the establishment of the personnel

system or with its operation as may be deemed necessary. (Ord. #97-10, Aug. 1997)

4-207. Discrimination. No person in the classified service or seeking admission thereto, shall be employed, promoted, demoted, or discharged, or in any way favored or discriminated against because of political opinions or affiliations, or because of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, ancestry, age, or religious belief. (Ord. #97-10, Aug. 1997)

4-208. Amendments. Amendments or revisions to the personnel rules and regulations may be recommended for adoption by the mayor. Such amendments or revisions of these rules shall become effective after adoption via resolution by the board of mayor and aldermen. (Ord. #97-10, Aug. 1997)

CHAPTER 3

INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL POLICY

SECTION

- 4-301. Purpose.
- 4-302. Coverage.
- 4-303. Administration.
- 4-304. Definitions.
- 4-305. Policy statement.
- 4-306. General guidelines.
- 4-307. Hepatitis B vaccinations.
- 4-308. Reporting potential exposure.
- 4-309. Hepatitis B virus post-exposure management.
- 4-310. Human immunodeficiency virus post-exposure management.
- 4-311. Disability benefits.
- 4-312. Training regular employees.
- 4-313. Training high risk employees.
- 4-314. Training new employees.
- 4-315. Reports.
- 4-316. Legal rights of victims of communicable diseases.
- 4-317. Amendments.

4-301. Purpose. It is the responsibility of the Town of Nolensville 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 Nolensville, 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). (Ord. #99-27, Oct. 1999)

4-302. 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 infectious material 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. (Ord. #99-27, Oct. 1999)

4-303. 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. (Ord. #99-27, Oct. 1999)

4-304. Definitions. (1) "Body fluids" - 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" - 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)" - 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)" - 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)" - an acute or chronic communicable disease that usually affects the respiratory system, but may involve any system in the body.

(6) "Universal precautions" - 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. (Ord. #99-27, Oct. 1999)

4-305. 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. (Ord. #99-27, Oct. 1999)

4-306. 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 manufacturers 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;
- (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 (1 part chlorine to 10 parts water) shall be applied to the contaminated surface as a disinfectant leaving it on for a least 30 seconds. A solution must be changed and re-mixed every 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 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 (5) feet 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. (Ord. #99-27, Oct. 1999)

4-307. Hepatitis B vaccinations. The Town of Nolensville 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. (Ord. #99-27, Oct. 1999)

4-308. 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 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. (Ord. #99-27, Oct. 1999)

4-309. 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 dose of vaccine and one dose of HBIG if the antibody level in the worker's blood sample is inadequate (ie., 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. (Ord. #99-27, Oct. 1999)

4-310. 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 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 6 weeks, 12 weeks, and 6 months after exposure to determine whether transmission has occurred. During this follow-up period (especially the first 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 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. The town should make serologic testing available to all workers who may be concerned they have been infected with HIV through an occupational exposure. (Ord. #99-27, Oct. 1999)

4-311. 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. (Ord. #99-27, Oct. 1999)

4-312. 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. (Ord. #99-27, Oct. 1999)

4-313. 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. (Ord. #99-27, Oct. 1999)

4-314. 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. (Ord. #99-27, Oct. 1999)

4-315. Reports. (1) Reports. The Infectious Disease Control Coordinator shall maintain occupational injury and illness reports. 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. (Ord. #99-27, Oct. 1999)

4-316. 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 city attorney when the incident involves an indictable or juvenile offense.

(7) Prior approval shall be obtained from the city 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 city 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. (Ord. #99-27, Oct. 1999)

4-317. Amendments. Amendments or revisions of these rules may be recommended for adoption by an elected official or by department heads. Such amendments or revisions of these rules shall be by ordinance and shall become effective after approval by the governing body. (Ord. #99-27, Oct. 1999)

CHAPTER 4

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT REGULATIONS

SECTION

- 4-401. Purpose.
- 4-402. Enforcement.
- 4-403. Travel policy.
- 4-404. Travel reimbursement rate schedule.
- 4-405. Administrative procedures.

4-401. Purpose. The purpose of this chapter and referenced regulations is to bring the town into compliance with Public Acts 1993, Chapter 433. This act requires Tennessee municipalities to adopt travel and expense regulations covering expenses incurred by "any mayor and any member of the local governing body and any board or committee member elected or appointed by the mayor or local governing body, and any official or employee of the municipality whose salary is set by charter or general law.

To provide consistent travel regulations and reimbursement, this chapter is expanded to cover regular town employees. It's the intent of this policy to assure fair and equitable treatment to all individuals traveling on town business at town expense. (Ord. #96-12, Jan. 1997)

4-402. Enforcement. The mayor or his or her designee shall be responsible for the enforcement of these travel regulations. (Ord. #96-12, Jan. 1997)

4-403. Travel policy. (1) In the interpretation and application of this chapter, the term "traveler" or "authorized traveler" 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 mayor. 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 mayor 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 mayor may make exceptions for unusual circumstances.

Expenses considered excessive won't be allowed.

(7) Claims of \$5 or more for travel expense reimbursement must be supported by the original paid receipt for lodging, vehicle rental, phone call, public carrier travel, conference fee, and other reimbursable costs.

(8) 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.

(9) Mileage and motel expenses incurred within the town aren't ordinarily considered eligible expenses for reimbursement. (Ord. #96-12, Jan. 1997)

4-404. 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. (Ord. #96-12, Jan. 1997)

4-405. 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. (Ord. #96-12, Jan. 1997)

CHAPTER 5
CODE OF ETHICS¹

SECTION

- 4-501. Preamble.
- 4-502. Applicability.
- 4-503. Definition of "personal interest."
- 4-504. Disclosure of personal interest by official with vote.
- 4-505. Disclosure of personal interest in non-voting matters.
- 4-506. Acceptance of gratuities, etc.
- 4-507. Use of information.
- 4-508. Use of municipal time, facilities, etc.
- 4-509. Use of position or authority.
- 4-510. Outside employment.
- 4-511. Ethics complaints.
- 4-512. Violations.

¹State statutes dictate many of the ethics provisions that apply to municipal officials and employees. For provisions relative to the following, see the Tennessee Code Annotated, sections indicated:

Campaign finance: Tennessee Code Annotated, title 2, chapter 10.

Conflict of interests: Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 6-54-107, 108; 12-4-101, 102.

Conflict of interests disclosure statements: Tennessee Code Annotated, § 8-50-501 and the following sections.

Consulting fee prohibition for elected municipal officials: Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 2-10-122, 124.

Crimes involving public officials (bribery, soliciting unlawful compensation, buying and selling in regard to office) - T.C.A. § 39-16-101 and the following sections.

Crimes of official misconduct, official oppression, misuse of official information: Tennessee Code Annotated, § 39-16-401 and the following sections.

Ouster law: Tennessee Code Annotated, § 8-47-101 and the following sections.

A brief synopsis of each of these laws appears in the appendix of the municipal code.

4-501. Preamble. The citizens of Nolensville are entitled to have fair, ethical and accountable local government that has earned the public's full confidence for integrity. Furthermore, the effective functioning of democratic government requires that public officials comply with both the letter and spirit of the laws and policies affecting the operations of government; public officials be independent, impartial and fair in their judgment and actions; public office be used for the public good, not for personal gain; and public deliberations and processes be conducted openly, unless legally confidential, in an atmosphere of respect and civility. To this end, the Town of Nolensville Board of Mayor and Aldermen adopts this code of ethics for the Town of Nolensville to assure public confidence in the integrity of local government and its effective and fair operation. (as added by Ord. #06-18, Sept. 2006)

4-502. Applicability. This chapter is the code of ethics for personnel of the municipality. It applies to all full-time and part-time elected or appointed officials and employees, whether compensated or not, including those of any separate board, commission, committee, authority, corporation, or other instrumentality appointed or created by the municipality. The words "municipal" and "municipality" include these separate entities. (as added by Ord. #06-18, Sept. 2006)

4-503. Definition of "personal interest." (10) For purposes of Sections 3 and 4, "personal interest" means:

(a) Any financial, ownership, or employment interest in the subject of a vote by a municipal board not otherwise regulated by state statutes on conflicts of interests; or

(b) Any financial, ownership, or employment interest in a matter to be regulated or supervised; or

(c) Any such financial, ownership, or employment interest of the official's or employee's spouse, parent(s), step parent(s), grandparent(s), sibling(s), child(ren), or step child(ren).

(11) The words "employment interest" include a situation in which an official or employee or a designated family member is negotiating possible employment with a person or organization that is the subject of the vote or that is to be regulated or supervised.

(12) In any situation in which a personal interest is also a conflict of interest under state law, the provisions of the state law take precedence over the provisions of this chapter. (as added by Ord. #06-18, Sept. 2006)

4-504. Disclosure of personal interest by official with vote. An official with the responsibility to vote on a measure shall disclose during the meeting at which the vote takes place, before the vote and so it appears in the minutes, any personal interest that affects or that would lead a reasonable person to infer that it affects the official's vote on the measure. In addition, the

official may recuse himself¹ from voting on the measure. (as added by Ord. #06-18, Sept. 2006)

4-505. Disclosure of personal interest in non-voting matters. An official or employee who must exercise discretion relative to any matter, other than casting a vote, and who has a personal interest in the matter that affects or that would lead a reasonable person to infer that it affects the exercise of the discretion shall disclose, before the exercise of the discretion when possible, the interest on a form provided by and filed with the recorder. In addition, the official or employee may, to the extent allowed by law, charter, ordinance, or policy, recuse himself from the exercise of discretion in the matter. (as added by Ord. #06-18, Sept. 2006)

4-506. Acceptance of gratuities, etc. An official or employee may not accept, directly or indirectly, any money, gift, gratuity, or other consideration or favor of any kind from anyone other than the municipality:

(1) For the performance of an act, or refraining from performance of an act, that he would be expected to perform, or refrain from performing, in the regular course of his duties; or

(2) That might reasonably be interpreted as an attempt to influence his action, or reward him for past action, in executing municipal business; or

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, an official or town employee may accept a gift and/or gratuity not to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per occasion as a sign of appreciation from the public. (as added by Ord. #06-18, Sept. 2006, and replaced by Ord. #19-03, March 2019 **Ch3_6-6-19**)

4-507. Use of information. (1) An official or employee may not disclose any information obtained in his official capacity or position of employment that is made confidential under state or federal law except as authorized by law.

(2) An official or employee may not use or disclose information obtained in his official capacity or position of employment with the intent to result in financial gain for himself or any other person or entity. (as added by Ord. #06-18, Sept. 2006)

4-508. Use of municipal time, facilities, etc. (1) An official or employee may not use or authorize the use of municipal time, facilities, equipment, or supplies for private gain or advantage to himself.

(2) An official or employee may not use or authorize the use of municipal time, facilities, equipment, or supplies for private gain or advantage to any private person or entity, except as authorized by legitimate contract or

¹Masculine pronouns include the feminine. Only masculine pronouns have been used for convenience and readability.

lease that is determined by the governing body to be in the best interests of the municipality. (as added by Ord. #06-18, Sept. 2006)

4-509. Use of position or authority. (1) An official or employee may not make or attempt to make private purchases, for cash or otherwise, in the name of the municipality.

(2) An official or employee may not use or attempt to use his position to secure any privilege or exemption for himself or others that is not authorized by the charter, general law, or ordinance or policy of the municipality. (as added by Ord. #06-18, Sept. 2006)

4-510. Outside employment. An official or employee may not accept or continue any outside employment if the work unreasonably inhibits the performance of any affirmative duty of the municipal position or conflicts with any provision of the municipality's charter or any ordinance or policy. (as added by Ord. #06-18, Sept. 2006)

4-511. Ethics complaints. (1) The city attorney is designated as the ethics officer of the municipality. Upon the written request of an official or employee potentially affected by a provision of this chapter, the city attorney may render an oral or written advisory ethics opinion based upon this chapter and other applicable law.

(2) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the city attorney shall investigate any credible complaint against an appointed official or employee charging any violation of this chapter, or may undertake an investigation on his own initiative when he acquires information indicating a possible violation, and make recommendations for action to end or seek retribution for any activity that, in the attorney's judgment, constitutes a violation of this code of ethics.

(b) The city attorney may request the governing body to hire another attorney, individual, or entity to act as ethics officer when he has or will have a conflict of interests in a particular matter.

(c) When a complaint of a violation of any provision of this chapter is lodged against a member of the municipality's governing body, the governing body shall either determine that the complaint has merit, determine that the complaint does not have merit, or determine that the complaint has sufficient merit to warrant further investigation. If the governing body determines that a complaint warrants further investigation, it shall authorize an investigation by the city attorney or another individual or entity chosen by the governing body.

(3) The interpretation that a reasonable person in the circumstances would apply shall be used in interpreting and enforcing this code of ethics.

(4) When a violation of this code of ethics also constitutes a violation of a personnel policy, rule, or regulation or a civil service policy, rule, or

regulation, the violation shall be dealt with as a violation of the personnel or civil service provisions rather than as a violation of this code of ethics. (as added by Ord. #06-18, Sept. 2006)

4-512. Violations. An elected official or appointed member of a separate municipal board, commission, committee, authority, corporation, or other instrumentality who violates any provision of this chapter is subject to punishment as provided by the municipality's charter or other applicable law, and in addition is subject to censure by the governing body. An appointed official or an employee who violates any provision of this chapter is subject to disciplinary action. (as added by Ord. #06-18, Sept. 2006)