

February 15, 2005

Ms. Tammy Dunn, Senior Staff Attorney  
City of Oak Ridge  
P.O. Box 1  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Re: Travel Expenses; Payment Directly to Provider

Dear Ms. Dunn

You are absolutely correct in your interpretation of TCA 6-54-906. It states “In addition to the authority to **reimburse** expenses provided in the preceding sections of this part, municipalities may pay directly for travel expenses, including meals and lodging, and registration fees for conferences, conventions, seminars, and other education programs on behalf of the 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 whose salary is set by charter or general law, provided payment is made directly to the provider and not to the official or employee”.

MTAS recommends that your city travel policies be consistent with this statute.

Sincerely

Ron Darden  
Municipal Management Consultant

Cc. MTAS Legal Consultant Melissa Ashburn