

Gay Hyman

12/8/22

Appendix D – General Recordkeeping Requirements for Town Clerks

Adequate accounting records and effective procedures should be in place to account for and report town clerk financial activities properly. Some basic and essential recordkeeping and reporting procedures include the following:

1. Maintain a cashbook, which chronologically identifies all receipts and disbursements.
2. Make all disbursements by check, except as otherwise authorized by law, such as authorized petty cash disbursements.
3. Maintain official bank accounts in designated depositories.
4. Deposit all moneys received to official bank account no later than the third business day after \$250 has been collected (Town Law Section 30 [1-a]).
5. Perform a monthly reconciliation of cash with amount in the bank and related liabilities.
6. Prepare monthly reports and remit collections to the supervisor and agencies on a timely basis:
 - To the Town Supervisor – for fees and other moneys collected belonging to the town no later than the fifteenth day of each month following receipt (Town Law Section 27[1]).
 - To the New York State Department of Health – for marriage license fees on or before the fifteenth day of each month (Domestic Relations Law Section 15[3]).
 - To the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets – Dog Licensing Unit and County Treasurer – for dog license fees on or before the fifth day of each month (Agriculture and Markets Law Section 111[1]).
 - To the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) – for conservation (hunting/fishing) license fees as applicable via the DEC's automated system (Environmental Conservation Law Section 11-0713; 6 NYCRR Section 177.4).

The town clerk of certain towns may also serve as the tax-collecting officer (see Town Law Section 36). As collecting officer, the town clerk generally would be responsible for collecting both town real property taxes and county real property taxes that are levied within the town. A portion of the taxes collected (the amount levied by the town) is remitted to the town supervisor, and any residual amount is paid to the county treasurer (see Town Law Section 35). Because of some unique or additional legal requirements pertaining to tax collecting officers, a separate audit checklist has been developed for this portion of the clerk's functions.

Appendix D – General Recordkeeping Requirements for Town Clerks continued

Checklist for Review of Town Clerk's Records

<u>Cash Receipts</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Is the cash receipts journal up-to-date?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the cash receipts journal maintained in a manner that identifies the date received, payer, purpose, and the amount either individually or totals referenced to subsidiary receipt records (e.g., water rents receipts register)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are un-deposited cash receipts safeguarded?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are duplicate deposit slips kept?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do deposit amounts agree with cash receipt amounts?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are deposits made timely (no later than the third business day after \$250 has been collected) and recorded up-to-date? Last Recorded Deposit: Date <u>12/7/22</u> Amount <u>\$ 30.00</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the cash receipts journal totaled and summarized monthly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Cash Disbursements</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Is the cash disbursements journal up-to-date?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the cash disbursements journal maintained in a manner to identify amounts disbursed either individually or totals referenced to abstracts or payrolls?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are pre-numbered checks used for all disbursements made by check?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all checks signed by the town clerk?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are canceled checks or check images returned with bank statements and maintained on file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all unused checks properly controlled (blank check stock)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are checks recorded up-to-date? Last Recorded Check: # 1703 ¹⁷⁰³ Date <u>12/1/22</u> Amount <u>51.00</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Appendix D – General Recordkeeping Requirements for Town Clerks continued

<u>Cash Reconciliations</u>			<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Are bank accounts reconciled? By Whom? <u>By Town Clerk</u> How Often? <u>Monthly</u> Who Reviews/Verifies Them? <u>Town Supervisor</u>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the bank reconciliation performed timely after the bank statement is received?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Last Bank Reconciliation for Each Bank Account</u>				
<u>Bank Account</u>	<u>Date Performed</u>	<u>Month Ending</u>		
Fax DEC	11/15	Oct. 31 st		
Town Clerk	11/15	Oct. 31 st		
Are reconciliations documented and available for review?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the reconciled bank balance agree with the cash balance recorded in the accounting records?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Deposit Protection</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Has the bank pledged adequate, eligible securities to protect town clerk deposits that exceed FDIC insurance, if applicable?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Accountability</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Is accountability (what the town clerk owes) determined at the end of each month?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the accountability amount agree with the bank reconciliation and supporting records?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are unissued licenses and permits (e.g., dog licenses) safeguarded?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are revenues from town clerk fees comparable with those of previous years?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Financial Reporting</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Are monthly reports and payments made timely to the supervisor?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are monthly reports and payments made timely to other agencies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do reported amounts on monthly reports agree with cash receipts and disbursements books?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Appendix D – General Recordkeeping Requirements for Town Clerks continued

Receivables <i>(if applicable, such as water rents)</i>	YES	NO
Are receivable control accounts maintained?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there indication that the receivable control accounts are reconciled to the detail subsidiary records?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments and Conclusions

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Are duplicate deposit slips kept?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do deposit amounts agree with cash receipt amounts?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are deposits made timely (no later than the third business day after \$250 has been collected) and recorded up-to-date? <i>Last Recorded Deposit: Date <u>12/7/22</u> Amount <u>\$30⁰⁰</u></i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the cash receipts journal totaled and summarized monthly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Cash Disbursements</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Is the cash disbursements journal up-to-date?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Are checks recorded up-to-date? <i>Last Recorded Check: # <u>1203</u> Date <u>12/1/22</u> Amount <u>\$51⁰⁰</u></i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Appendix D – General Recordkeeping Requirements for Town Clerks continued

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<u>Last Bank Reconciliation for Each Bank Account</u>		
<u>Bank Account</u>	<u>Date Performed</u>	<u>Month Ending</u>
<u>DEC</u>	<u>11/15/22</u>	<u>10/31/22</u>
<u>Town Clerk</u>	<u>11/15/22</u>	<u>10/31/22</u>
Are reconciliations documented and available for review?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the reconciled bank balance agree with the cash balance recorded in the accounting records?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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