

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE STAFF REVIEW
OF THE TAFFE (NANCY) FOR HOUSE COMMITTEE**

ORDER OF DISMISSAL

Nancy Taffe ran for office in 2014 and lost in the primary election. The Taffe (Nancy) for House committee's pre-primary-election report did not disclose any unpaid obligations. The committee was not required to file a pre-general-election report because Ms. Taffe's name was not on the general election ballot. The committee's year-end report disclosed that the committee had used all of its remaining funds to pay mileage and staff compensation expenses in December 2014, four months after the candidate had stopped running for office.

Because candidates typically do not incur mileage or staff compensation expenses during months when the candidate is not running for office, the presence of these expenditures on the committee's report suggested that the committee might have improperly used campaign funds for personal purposes. See Minn. Stat. § 211B.12 (listing permitted uses of money collected for political purposes). Alternatively, the committee might have inaccurately reported its expenditures. See Minn. Stat. §§ 10A.01, subd. 9 (expenditure considered made on date when obligation to pay expense is incurred); 10A.20, subd. 3 (reports must disclose all expenditures).

On February 3, 2015, the Board authorized a staff review of the committee. During the staff review, Ms. Taffe provided a written response, mileage logs, and an informal oral statement. Board staff also informally interviewed a committee staff person.

Based on the information gathered during the staff inquiry, the Board concludes that the Taffe (Nancy) for House committee did not improperly use campaign funds for personal purposes because the mileage and staff compensation expenditures disclosed on the committee's year-end report were for campaign-related activities. The committee is not required to amend its pre-primary-election and year-end reports to correct the date of the expenditures because the amounts are correct and because Ms. Taffe intends to terminate the committee's registration after this matter is resolved.

Order

The staff review of this matter is dismissed and hereby made a part of the public records of the Board pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.02, subdivision 11.

/s/ George A. Beck
George A. Beck, Chair

4/14/15
Date