DATE FILED
APR 18 2025
COMMISSION ON ETHICS

BEFORE THE
STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS

CONFIDENTIAL

In re TONYA SCHUMACHER,
Respondent.

Complaint No. 25-101

DETERMINATION OF INVESTIGATIVE JURISDICTION
AND ORDER TO INVESTIGATE

UPON REVIEW of this complaint, I find as follows:

1. This complaint was filed by Jessica Dakin of Okeechobee, Florida.

2. The Respondent, Tonya Schumacher, serves as a Board Member of the Coquina Water Control District in Okeechobee, Florida.

3. The complaint alleges Respondent has a business relationship with a company called "Colonial Consultants," which allegedly provides her private security. The complaint alleges Respondent solicited a bid from Colonial Consultants to be the firm hired to conduct a forensic audit at the Coquina Water Control District. The complaint alleges that although Respondent asked to be excluded from the motion to hire Colonial Consultants, Respondent ultimately signed the contract to hire Colonial Consultants and signed a check with another Board Member to pay Colonial Consultants $18,000. This indicates a possible violation of Section 112.313(7)(a), Florida Statutes.[1]

[1] This complaint appears to be made based on Complainant's personal knowledge, as part of the basis of the complaint is conduct that allegedly occurred at public Board meetings. Regarding the allegation that Respondent has a business relationship with Colonial Consultants, it appears this allegation is based on Complainant's personal knowledge, as Complainant attached a cease and desist letter sent to herself by Colonial Consultants on behalf of Respondent. Regarding the

WHEREFORE staff of the Commission on Ethics shall conduct a preliminary investigation of this complaint for a probable cause determination of whether Respondent has violated Section 112.313(7)(a), Florida Statutes, as set forth above.[2]

April 18, 2025
Date

Kerrie J. Stillman
Executive Director

KJS/aln

contract and check that are referenced in the complaint, although hearsay, these records would likely be admissible under the records of regularly conducted business activity hearsay exception found under Section 90.803(6), Florida Statutes.

[2] The complaint also alleges Respondent failed to file a Form 8B after recusing herself from a vote regarding this matter. However, the facts alleged in the Complaint do not indicate there was a voting conflict pursuant to Section 112.3143(3)(a), Florida Statutes, and the Commission on Ethics does not have jurisdiction over recusals from votes pursuant to Section 286.012, Florida Statutes.