

BURLINGTON HOUSING BOARD OF REVIEW

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

6:00 p.m.

****REMOTE ONLY****

Remotely via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/94849965142>

Minutes

Board Members present: Betsy McGavisk, Evan Litwin, Olivia Taylor, Josh Wronski

Staff present: Lisa Jones, Hayley McClenahan

1. Sisters & Brothers Investment Group (property owner) (suspension of rental certificate) re: 184 Church Street (continued from 9/25/23)

Present were: Bill Ward, Patti Wehman, Kim Sturtevant, Brian Hehir. The parties were sworn in.

Kim Sturtevant informed the Board that the parties had a settlement agreement in place; Sturtevant described the provisions of the settlement which still needed to be signed by the parties. The parties are still working on the management plan which is part of the agreement.

Bill Ward testified in support of the agreement.

Board members posed questions about tenants at the property. Brian Hehir outlined the status of some tenant eviction proceedings.

Evan Litwin asked about when the management plan would be finalized.

Kim Sturtevant stated the parties have agreed on the points covered by the plan so she expected a quick turnaround for the final form.

Olivia Taylor asked for information about relocation fees for tenants. Kim Sturtevant stated her understanding is that the property owner is trying to relocate tenants to other apartments owned by them. Bill Ward confirmed Sturtevant's understanding.

Evan Litwin asked Bill Ward to respond to the concerns raised in a letter submitted by Vt Legal Aid and Legal Services of VT. Bill Ward testified that relocation costs were addressed in the management plan; in addition, DPI will ensure that relocations are proper.

Evan Litwin asked about the status of BHA tenants. Bill Ward testified that his understanding is that BHA is working on the issue and looking to relocate those tenants. Litwin emphasized his concern that BHA tenants be covered under the agreement.

Josh Wronski asked about the current status of tenants in the building. Bill Ward testified it would be appropriate to add an addendum to the management plan or settlement agreement to show the status of the units in the building.

Betsy McGavisk asked what the relocation process is. Patti Wehman described the process under the ordinance.

The Board discusses how to move forward. Evan Litwin believes settlement is the best path forward but would like to continue hearing in case additional questions come up after he reviews the management plan. Betsy McGavisk agrees but feels a continuance of 2 weeks seems long; McGavisk would also like to hear from Matt Handy about the management plan. The Board discusses timing of a continuance and when they'll receive the final management plan.

Kim Sturtevant thought Thursday was doable.

Evan Litwin moves that the parties get documents (management plan, addendum and settlement agreement) in final form to the Board by Friday at noon and that this case be continued to Oct. 23, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Olivia Taylor seconds the motion.

The Board votes unanimously that the parties must provide all the documents in final form to them by noon on Friday (Oct. 13) and that the case be continued to Oct. 23, 2023 at 6:30pm.

2. Danielle Mund, Adolfo Alonso-Lopez (tenant); North Hill Capital Partners (landlord) (security deposit case) re: 25 Elmwood Avenue, #6

Present were Danielle Mund, Adolfo Alonso-Lopez, Susan Mund and John Borch. All parties were sworn in. Both parties presented their evidence and testimony. The hearing was closed.

3. Jared Grigas (tenant); Diamond Apartments LLC (landlord) (security deposit case) re: 305 So. Union Street, Apt. 7

Present were Jared Grigas and Elmira Shea. Both parties were sworn in. Both parties presented their evidence and testimony. The hearing was closed.

4. Ben Sarle (tenant); Tracy Howard (landlord) (security deposit case) re: 233 North St, Apt. 3

Present were Ben Sarle, Tracy Howard and Douglas Yaremchuk. All parties were sworn in. Both parties presented their evidence and testimony. The hearing was closed.

Meeting was adjourned.

The Board deliberated in private.