



John Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MINUTES FAIR RENT COMMISSION

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

March 16, 2015
6:30 P.M.
Conference Room L-100

- I. CALL TO ORDER – AT 6:45 PM BY HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR KAREN FUTOMA

- II. ROLL CALL-IN ATTENDANCE: Cathleen Hall, Alt., Audra Ekstrom, Karen Faust, Alt., Mark Hollis, Alt. Also in attendance: Carol LaBrecque, Human Services Coordinator, Karen Futoma, Human Services Director and Attorney Ronald Denault, representing Attorney Peter Boorman.

- III. ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIRPERSON, VICE CHAIRPERSON & SECRETARY: Due to the fact that there was only one full member and three alternates, only one member could be nominated for any or all positions. Mark Hollis nominated Audra Ekstrom and Cathy Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried. Karen Futoma took minutes as there was no secretary appointed at this meeting.

- IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA: None, as there was no public present

- V. DISCUSSION: FAIR RENT COMMISSION: Attorney Denault distributed memo from Attorney Boorman, citing the pertinent state statutes for the Fair Rent Commission and a copy of the Fair Rent complaint against Centrix Management Company, LLC. filed by Attorney Ralph S. Keen III for Cathleen Pace DiPierdomenico and Brandon DiPierdomenico of 1437 Willard Avenue, Unit 2, Newington, CT 06111. He then reviewed statutes, function of Commission, complaint and meeting procedures and advised that we schedule a hearing for complaint received January 20, 2015. Attorney Denault also advised that members cannot discuss or meet to review complaint outside of the public meeting at the scheduled hearing. Please note complaint date stamped received January 20, 2014 in error. Actually received January 20, 2015.
 1. Function of Commission
 2. Complaint and Meeting Procedure

3. Other Business Pertinent to the Commission

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA: None, as there was no public present

VII. REMARKS BY COMMISSIONERS: The question was raised as to who/where escrow would be held if tenant made rent payments as ordered by the Commission. Attorney Denault stated he would ask Attorney Boorman to provide that information to the commission. Karen Futoma also asked about written meeting protocol for a fair rent hearing. Attorney Denault stated the most current protocol he had was written in 1989 as a general protocol for Boards and Commissions but would ask Attorney Boorman if there was something more current to guide the Commission. Karen Futoma shared that the Fair Rent Commission hasn't met in more than 20 years. Karen Faust stated that it spoke well of landlords that there haven't been complaints. Karen Futoma clarified that Human Services has received calls from landlords and tenants looking for assistance with a situation and often been referred to Housing Education Resource Center in Hartford, with no formal complaint ever being filed. Mark Hollis offered to research fair market rent rates in Newington to present at next meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for March 30, 2015 at 6:30pm.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Mark Hollis moved to adjourn, with Cathleen Hall seconding the motion which was carried at 7:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Karen Futoma, Director of Human Services 3/17/2015