

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE
PILOT PROGRAM

City of Beckley

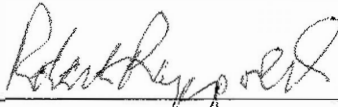

2017
PROGRESS
REPORT

West Virginia State Code §8-1-5a (m) provides:

“Commencing December 1, 2015, and each year thereafter, each participating municipality shall give a progress report to the Municipal Home Rule Board and commencing January 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, the Municipal Home Rule Board shall give a summary report of all the participating municipalities to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.”

The Municipal Home Rule Board has developed this standard format for Pilot Program participating municipalities to prepare and submit their respective Annual Progress Reports. The intent of this standard format is to gather and compile information in a consistent, easily understood, and efficient manner that will be used to develop a concise and practical summary report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.

Annual Progress Reports must be submitted electronically as an individual file in PDF format no later than the close of business on December 1, 2017, by emailing Courtney Shamblin at courtney.d.shamblin@wv.gov, West Virginia Department of Revenue, West Virginia Home Rule Pilot Program, State Capitol Complex, Building 1, Room W-300, Charleston, West Virginia 25305, 304-558-3356.

A. General Information		
Name of Municipality: City of Beckley		
Certifying Official: Robert Rappold	Title: Mayor	
Contact Person: Billie Trump	Title: Recorder/Treasurer	
Address: 409 South Kanawha Street		
City, State, Zip: Beckley, WV 25801		
Telephone Number:304-256-1768	Fax Number:304-256-1767	
E-Mail Address:billie.trump@beckley.org		
2010 Census Population:17,614		
B. Municipal Classification		
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class II	<input type="checkbox"/> Class III
<input type="checkbox"/> Class IV		
C. Pilot Program Entry Phase		
<input type="checkbox"/> Phase I (2007 Legislation)	<input type="checkbox"/> Phase II (2014 Legislation)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phase III (2015 Legislation)
D. Attest		
I hereby confirm that I am the authorized official for this municipality and certify that the information submitted herein and attached hereto is true and accurate and that this report addresses each and every initiative included in the original Home Rule Pilot Program Plan Application for this municipality and any subsequent amendments, if applicable.		
Robert Rappold		
		
Type Name of Certifying Official	Signature of Certifying Official	Date

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application. Each non-tax related initiative must have a separate page.

Initiative: Authorization of Code Enforcement Officials to issue citations immediately on scene for code violations concerning public nuisance, safety and or health.			
Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Personnel	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?			
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 12/08/2015			
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s)			
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>The fact that Code Enforcement Officials can now issue citations has paid dividend in several ways. Foremost among these is that non-compliant property owners can immediately be cited and assessed financial penalties for violations. This has led to significantly more cooperation in quickly resolving nuisance and code violation incidents. Residents and businesses that are cited have demonstrated that they would prefer to resolve the violations quickly rather than to deal with a citation and still have to resolve the problem. The streamlined process has been a great benefit in this regard. There have been several citations issued and all have been resolved prior to court action.</p>			
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p> <p>The City has saved money by not having to directly intervene and mitigate nuisance situations. The revenue from issuance of citations is minimal and in most cases waived if the issue is resolved. The benefits resulting from compliance and mitigation of these problems are far more beneficial to the City and its residents than any realized financial gain. The drawback is that the violator must sign the ticket and this can cause a delay between the complaint and resolution of the incident. We have additionally implemented a “Community Pride” initiative that has identified and cleaned up nuisance properties. We do the cleanup initially and then leave a notice that the owner will be cited for any additional clean up efforts.</p>			

Application. Each non-tax related initiative must have a separate page.

Initiative: Authorization to dispose of City Property without auction: to lease or sell city property for less than fair market value in certain circumstances			
Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Personnel	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?			
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? December 8, 2015			
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s)			
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>The City has been able to begin negotiations on some City owned real property that a local business wants for expansion. The property is assessed at fair market value and the transaction will ultimately benefit both the business and the City.</p> <p>The City is mirroring the State of West Virginia in using Govdeals to dispose of surplus property in on-line auctions. This has expanded the pool of interested buyers greatly and has resulted in higher returns from the sale of surplus property. The return on surplus property sold has gone over the \$ 100,000 mark and the City is able to sell property as it becomes surplus on an ongoing basis rather than wait and arrange for local auctions. While the City has the ability to sell property for less than fair market value, the auction process has yielded in many cases value above market value.</p>			
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p> <p>The streamlined ability to sell real property at fair market value has the potential to encourage commercial growth. Also the use of on-line resources expands the potential buyer base for surplus equipment to a large degree. This enables the City to realize a greater return on sales of surplus property.</p>			

Initiative: Authorizes purchase of tax liens on property subject to delinquent property taxes: right of redemption by City

Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply)

Organization Administration Personnel Other

Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application or a plan amendment ?

Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? Yes No

If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? December 8, 2015

If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s)

SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.

The City has not at this time exercised this option.

LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.

None as yet

Initiative: Ability to enter into Intergovernmental agreements by resolution			
Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Personnel	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		or	a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? December 8, 2015			
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s) There are governmental functions that lend themselves to integration on a municipal and county level. The process of identifying these functions is time consuming			
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>The City is considering options to integrate some services with Raleigh County, but this is in the very early stages. There is currently a metro government committee meeting to explore the metro option in Beckley/Raleigh County.</p>			
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p> <p>None as yet</p>			

Initiative: Authorizes City to place liens on property for action taken in regard to eyesores and dilapidated buildings

Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply)

Organization Administration Personnel Other

Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application or a plan amendment ?

Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? Yes No

If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? December 8, 2015

If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s)

SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.

The City has placed liens on property that are currently pending. The City has a working list of structures scheduled for demolition. When demolition occurs property owners are billed and if the charges are unpaid the property has a lien placed against it to recover demolition costs.. There are property owners that when they are notified that a lien will be filed come to the City and a payment plan for the expenses is reached. As long as payments are made the lien is not implemented.

LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.

The ability to use of liens to recover expenses has been a good tool in the efforts to remove blighted properties. Property owners will make payments rather than have a lien against them. It is in the City's interest to recover expenses with payments rather than wait until the property is sold to recover demolition costs. However challenges remain with absentee owners and heirship complications.

Please use this page to report progress on each **tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application. Each tax related initiative must have a separate page.

Initiative: Reduction of B&O rates in 3 Classifications and enactment of a 1% consumer sales tax
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? Passed by Council 12/8/2015 ; effective 7/1/2016
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s)
<p>REVENUES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting revenue amounts and revenue categories realized; revenue amounts and revenue categories reduced; net revenue gain; and, any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>The City of Beckley reduced the B&O tax in 3 categories: Manufacturing (from \$.30/\$100 to \$.25/\$100 a 17% reduction), Retail (from \$.50/\$100 to \$.40/\$100 a 20% reduction) and Amusement (from \$.50/\$100 to \$.35/\$100 a 30% reduction).</p> <p>B&O for fiscal 15-16 was \$ 10,306,477.40 and the City ran a deficit of \$ 778,680.57 for that period. B&O for fiscal 16-17 was \$ 10,002,462.94 (even with the reductions), the 1% tax yielded \$ 4,985,018.51 (which exceeded estimates by nearly 2 million).</p> <p>B&O was relatively unchanged because of the identification of some significant uncollected sources of revenue.</p>
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting projects, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>The City has used the additional monies to address critical needs for both the Police and Public Works in regards to equipment. The Police Department has gotten new vehicles and Public Works has received new heavy equipment and trucks. Also the City was able to begin the process of building a new Police Headquarters that was an absolute priority.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p> <p>Uncollected sources of B&O should be explored and identified if possible.</p> <p>The WV State Tax Department has been an invaluable resource during this process and it is recommended that their assistance be sought out.</p>

