

WEST VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL HOME RULE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2008

A meeting of the West Virginia Municipal Home Rule Board was held at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 30, 2008, at the State Capitol in Charleston, West Virginia.

The following members were present:

Jon Amores (proxy for Development Office Executive Director Steve Spence)
Edwin Bowman, Member
Chris Fletcher, Member
Brian Jones, Member
Jim Morgan, Member
Nick Sparachane, Member

The following member participated by conference call:

Floyd McKinley Sayre III, Member

Others present:

Christian Alexandersen, Herald Dispatch
Rob Alsop, Jackson Kelly
Christina Arvon, Charleston Surgical Hospital
Chris Campbell, American Institute of Architects
Rob Casto, ACEC/WV and Qualifications Based Selection Council
Marty Chapman, Putnam County Chamber of Commerce
Amy Clendenin, ACEC/WV and Qualifications Based Selection Council
Steve Dexter, Thomas Memorial and St. Francis Hospitals
David Felinton, City of Huntington
Dan Lauffer, St. Francis Hospital
Deloris Martin, West Virginia House of Delegates
James W. Thomas, Jackson Kelly
Nancy S. Tonkin, Tonkin Management Group
Tom Susman, TSG Consulting
Jason Wazell, West Virginia House of Delegates
Dr. R. Austin Wallace, WVSMA
Justin Williams, West Virginia House of Delegates

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Nick Sparachane. It was reported that notice of the meeting had been lawfully given, a quorum was present, and the meeting was convened.

Mr. Sparachane opened the meeting by introducing members and welcoming guests.

A motion was made by Mr. Chris Fletcher to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2007, meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brian Jones and unanimously carried.

Chair's Report

The chair, Mr. Nick Sparachane, reported on the following.

- Explained to the membership that he was not going to resign from his position on the Board as discussed at the last meeting. Although the City of Wheeling submitted an application for the pilot program, he was advised by the West Virginia Ethics Commission to merely recuse himself from voting on the Wheeling application to avoid any conflict of interest.
- Similarly, Senator Bowman and Delegate Morgan will continue to be a part of the meetings and discussions. However, they will abstain from voting on all official actions of the Board.

Old Business

There was no old business to be discussed.

New Business

A summary of recently introduced legislation relating to the municipal home rule program was furnished by Mr. Jon Amores.

Documents were provided to the membership concerning notice of a Writ of Prohibition and Mandamus filed in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County enjoining the Home Rule Board from accepting the application for Bridgeport's participation in the pilot program.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Jon Amores and amended by Delegate Morgan that the Board accept all four applications. The applications were received from the City of Charleston, the City of Huntington, the City of Wheeling, and the City of Bridgeport. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chris Fletcher and a roll call vote was taken. Five members voted

“yes” and Senator Bowman and Delegate Morgan abstained from the vote. The motion unanimously carried.

The membership agreed that each city be extended an opportunity to present their detailed proposal to the Board. In addition, the group elected to vote on the applications after the presentations. Mr. Chris Fletcher reminded everyone that these applications are subject to amendment in the future. Chair Sparachane stated that he will begin developing a standard set of criteria by which the applicants will be judged. Staff will schedule the presentations commencing in early March. They will include affected state government agencies and will hold the meetings in the city of the applicant beginning with Charleston.

Adjournment

It was agreed that the next meeting should be scheduled upon conclusion of the legislative session unless deemed otherwise. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.