

**WEST VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL HOME RULE BOARD**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2009**

A meeting of the West Virginia Municipal Home Rule Board was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2009, at the West Virginia Municipal League in Charleston, West Virginia.

The following members were present:

Jon Amores (designee for Development Office Executive Director Kelley Goes)  
Chris Fletcher, Member  
Brian Jones, Member  
Jim Morgan, Member  
Emmett S. Pugh III, Member (designee for the Honorable Joe Manchin III)

The following member participated by teleconference:

Edwin Bowman, Member

The following member was absent:

Floyd (Kin) McKinley Sayre III, Member

Others present:

Lisa Dooley, West Virginia Municipal League  
Susan Economou, City of Charleston  
Paul Ellis, City of Charleston  
Jack Harrison, Charleston City Council  
Robert Herron, City of Wheeling  
David Higgins, Charleston City Council  
Bill Kenny, West Virginia Insurance Commission  
David Molgaard, City of Charleston  
Victor Mullins, West Virginia Insurance Commission  
Charles Roskovensky, West Virginia House of Delegates

The meeting was called to order by Chair Emmett Pugh. It was reported that notice of the meeting was lawfully given, a quorum was present, and the meeting was convened.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2009, meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brian Jones and unanimously carried. Members Jim Morgan and Edwin Bowman abstained from voting.

### Chair's Report

The chairman did not give a formal report.

### Old Business

The board discussed correspondence dated May 14, 2009, from the offices of the West Virginia Insurance Commissioner regarding Huntington's debris removal ordinance. In response Chair Pugh reiterated that the Municipal Home Rule Board merely provides support and guidance to the home rule pilot cities once their application has been approved. Accordingly, it was recommended by the Board that the Insurance Commission share their concerns with the City of Huntington officials in an effort to advance a solution or compromise. The Insurance Commission will provide a letter to Mr. Jim Morgan detailing the issue and a possible solution for delivery to City of Huntington officials in an effort to resolve the matter. Furthermore, Mr. Bowman requested that the topic be included on the next board meeting agenda.

### New Business

The membership heard progress reports from the cities of Charleston and Wheeling. These reports are included as part of the official meeting minutes.

Charleston city officials expressed their gratitude for the cooperation and support of several state agencies that assisted them in bringing a few of their home rule proposals to fruition. In addition, the City of Charleston communicated to the board that they may begin the process to amend their current home rule plan to include credit card usage for certain fees.

Similarly, the City of Wheeling submitted for the Board's consideration an amendment to streamline and simplify their business licensing process. The City of Wheeling provided the requisite affidavits and documents evidencing that the procedural requirements of West Virginia Code §8-1-5a et seq. were met. During deliberation, Board members discussed that the City of Wheeling's amendment was the same in principle as the City of Bridgeport's original proposal concerning business licenses. Hence, the Board decided it was not necessary to notify potentially affected state agencies for their comments. A motion was made by Mr. Chris Fletcher to adopt the amendment to the City of Wheeling's Municipal Home Rule application. The motion

was seconded by Mr. Brian Jones and unanimously carried. Members Jim Morgan and Edwin Bowman abstained from voting.

Lastly, Mr. Chris Fletcher and Mr. Jim Morgan encouraged Huntington and Charleston home rule cities to begin recording quantitative results in annual reports for the West Virginia Legislature versus at the end of the five year pilot program as required by legislation. In like manner, it was suggested that the four pilot cities deliver the same quantitative reports at the annual West Virginia Municipal League meeting. Touching upon the same, Mr. Morgan explained to the group that demonstrated home rule successes might easily be legislated for all municipalities during the five year pilot program as opposed to at the end of the program.

#### Adjournment

With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

The Board was reminded that the next meeting was slated to be held on Thursday, August 20.