

# WEST VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL HOME RULE BOARD

## MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

A meeting of the West Virginia Municipal Home Rule Board was held at 10:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 15, 2011, at the State Capitol Complex in Charleston, West Virginia.

The following members were present:

Angel Moore (designee for Development Office Executive Director Keith Burdette)  
Jim Morgan, Member

The following members participated by conference call:

Chris Fletcher, Member  
Brian Jones, Member  
Floyd (Kin) McKinley Sayre III, Member

The following members were absent:

Emmett S. Pugh III, Member (designee for the Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin)  
Herb Snyder, Member

Others present:

Susan Economou, City of Charleston  
Paul Ellis, City of Charleston  
Ryan Lake, WSAZ-TV  
Briana J. Marino, Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso, PLLC  
Charles Roskovensky, West Virginia House of Delegates  
Brenda Thompson, West Virginia House of Delegates

The meeting was called to order by Kin Sayre. He noted that Chair Pugh was unavailable for the conference call. It was reported that notice of the meeting was lawfully given, a quorum was present, and the meeting was convened.

A motion was made by Brian Jones to approve the minutes of the Thursday, June 16, 2011, meeting. The motion was seconded by Chris Fletcher and unanimously approved. Member Jim Morgan abstained from voting.

### Chair's Report

The chairman was absent and did not give a report.

### Old Business

No old business was discussed.

### New Business

The group received progress reports from the cities of Bridgeport, Charleston, Huntington, and Wheeling.

It was mentioned by Chris Fletcher and confirmed by Paul Ellis that Charleston may propose several amendments to their Home Rule plan in the future.

Mr. Fletcher commented that a hearing date of October 5 had been set for the Huntington legal challenges. Similarly, he inquired if new information (hearing date) had been received regarding the notice by the Harrison County Commission to institute a declaratory judgment against the Municipal Home Rule ruling for the City of Bridgeport. Member Angel Moore answered that Silas Taylor of the West Virginia Attorney General's Office had not advised the Board of any further action taken by the Harrison County Commission. She further explained that Board members would probably not be expected to attend or testify at the hearing when scheduled.

Lastly, Member Jim Morgan read an excerpt of a recent Herald Dispatch article in which ". . . Tomblin also stressed the need to give cities more powers to raise revenue. He said a home rule pilot program that has allowed Huntington and other cities to try new initiatives has worked well. Those initiatives will need to be evaluated by the Legislature, but Tomblin said he isn't opposed to either extending the deadline increasing the number of cities that can join the pilot program."

### Adjournment

Members were reminded that the next regularly scheduled meeting would be held on December 15 at a location and time yet to be decided. With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.