

WEST VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL HOME RULE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2022

A meeting of the West Virginia Municipal Home Rule Board was held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at the Department of Revenue, State Capitol Complex in Charleston, West Virginia.

The following members were present:

Dave Hardy (designee for the Honorable Jim Justice)

The following members participated via telephone:

Mark Polen, Member  
Brian Jones, Member  
Dan Vriendt, Member

The following members were absent:

James Bailey, Member  
Honorable Mark Maynard, West Virginia Senate  
Honorable Brandon Steele, West Virginia House of Delegates

Others present:

Allen Prunty  
Anoop Bhasin, Deputy General Counsel, WV Dept. of Revenue

Others present via telephone:

Susan Economou, WV Municipal League  
Michael Secret, City Attorney, City of Mannington  
Tim Fluharty, Councilman, City of Mannington  
Lora Michael, Mayor, City of Mannington  
Michele Fluharty, City Clerk, City of Mannington  
Logan Mantz, Town Attorney, Town of Romney  
Beverly Keadle, Mayor, Town of Romney

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hardy at 11:30 a.m. It was reported that the notice of the meeting was lawfully given, a quorum was present, and the meeting was convened. A motion to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2022, meeting

was made by Brian Jones and seconded by Dan Vriendt. The motion was approved with a 4-0 vote.

### Chair's Report

None.

### Old Business

None.

### New Business

#### City of Mannington:

- Michele Fluharty, City Clerk, and Lora Michael, Mayor, presented the proposed plan application for the City of Mannington.
- Chair Hardy confirmed that the City of Mannington complied with all legal requirements as provided in WV Code § 8-1-5a in order to submit their proposed plan amendment to the Home Rule Board.
- Chair Hardy asked for a motion to accept the City of Mannington into the Home Rule Program. A motion was made by Mr. Vriendt, with a second by Mr. Jones. The motion passed unanimously with a 4-0 vote.
- The first item on the proposed plan application was the imposition of a 1% sales tax and to reduce or eliminate selected B&O tax categories. A brief discussion took place with no questions asked by the Board.
- The second item on the proposed plan application was the standardization of business license categories and fees. A brief discussion took place with no questions made by the Board.
- The third item on the proposed plan application was to provide relief from requirements of the sale of the City's real property. The Board agreed with the \$15,000 cap proposed by the City and no further questions were asked by the Board.
- The fourth and final item on the proposed plan application was the relief from party affiliation requirements for the Municipal Non-Partisan Elections & Building Commission Appointments. The Board had no objections or questions regarding this initiative.

- Chair Hardy asked for a motion to approve the application as a whole. The motion was made by Mr. Vriendt with a second by Mr. Jones. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Town of Romney:

- Logan Mantz, Town Attorney, and Beverly Keadle, Mayor, presented the proposed plan application for the Town of Romney.
- Chair Hardy confirmed that the Town of Romney complied with all legal requirements as provided in WV Code § 8-1-5a in order to submit their proposed plan amendment to the Home Rule Board.
- Chair Hardy asked for a motion to accept the Town of Romney into the Home Rule Program. A motion was made by Mr. Vriendt, with a second by Mr. Jones. The motion passed unanimously with a 4-0 vote.
- The first item on the proposed plan application was the disposition of municipal property without auction. A discussion took place and the Town agreed to amend their proposal to include a cap of \$25,000 on the sale or lease of property at less than fair market value that could be sold or leased without an auction. The property sold at above fair market value has no cap and could be sold without an auction.
- The second item on the proposed plan application was the ability to issue on-the-spot citations. A brief discussion took place with no questions made by the Board.
- The third item on the proposed plan application was to adjust the number of members on the Development Authority Board. A brief discussion ensued with no questions made by the Board.
- The fourth item on the proposed plan application was tax increment financing authorization. The Town of Romney expressed their wish to withdraw this proposal from their application with no objections from the Board.
- The fifth item on the was the regulation of feral cats. The proposal was described by Mr. Mantz and no questions were asked by the Board.
- The sixth and final proposal on the proposed plan application was rental registrations. A lengthy discussion was held with several questions asked to Mr. Mantz.

- Chair Hardy asked for a motion to approve the proposed plan application as amended. The motion was made by Mr. Jones with a second by Mr. Vriendt. The motion carried with a 3-0 vote. (Mr. Polen left the meeting early.)

#### Other Business

None.

#### Adjournment

Chair Hardy announced the date of the next Home Rule Board meeting would take place on October 12, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Vriendt. The motion carried with a 3-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.