

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE PROGRAM

Town Of Romney

2023
PROGRESS
REPORT

West Virginia
Municipal Home Rule Board
P. O. Box 11360
Charleston, WV 25339-1360
MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov
304.558.3356

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 Home Rule 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 the first business day of December, by emailing to WV Municipal Home Rule Board at MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov.

A. General Information	
Name of Municipality:	Title: Town Attorney
Certifying Official: Logan Mantz	Title: Mayor
Contact Person: Beverly Keadle	
Address: 340 E. Main Street	
City, State, Zip: Romney, WV 26757	
Telephone Number: 304 822 5118	Fax Number: 304 822 5793
E-Mail Address: lmantz@townofromney.org	
2020 Census Population: 1708	
B. Municipal Classification	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I	<input type="checkbox"/> Class II
<input type="checkbox"/> Class III	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class IV
C. 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.	
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 and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

Initiative: Disposition of Municipal Property Without Auction	
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? August 8, 2022	
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).	
SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.	<p>Although this ordinance has only been used in a few limited instances, it has proved a useful tool easing administrative burden for sales of unused maintenance equipment. Since obtaining this ability we have sold a snow-plow for which we no longer owned a corresponding truck. The sale was conducted at market value and at arm’s length.</p> <p>We currently plan to list another unused maintenance truck for similar sale in the coming months.</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>Because this authorization and ordinance have only been used once by the Town to date, the Town has very limited experience from which it can draw lessons learned. There is, however, an increased amount of effort that must now be used to determine fair market value for items sold. While this has not yet become an imposition, it does represent an ongoing consideration for the Town in using this authorization.</p>

Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

Initiative: Authority to Issue On-The-Spot Citations	
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? August 8, 2022	
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).	
SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.	
<p>This Ordinance has already been used with positive effects by the Town. Specifically, the Town has fully implemented the use of on-the-spot citations for its nuisance and dangerous structures ordinances. The Town has noticed a marked improvement in nuisance ordinance compliance since beginning the on-the-spot citation issuance in October of 2022.</p>	
LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this initiative that would benefit other municipalities.	
<p>The issuance of citations for nuisance ordinance violations has been effective, but there were certainly some growing pains. The sporadic implementation of the previous nuisance ordinance (which contained a ten-day mandatory warning period) left some residents confused by the implementation of the new warning-free nuisance ordinance. To help alleviate the tension, the Town provided a free trash pick-up day (during which the Town coordinated trash trucks to pick up items left along the road which would otherwise constitute nuisance ordinance violations) along with social media and information campaigns to help inform the Town residents that a new ordinance was coming into effect. This approach seems to have been effective.</p> <p>Use of the On-the-spot citations for dangerous structures under Code Section 8-12-16 has been particularly effective in dealing with blighted properties and neglectful landowners. Although our code enforcement officer has still been providing warnings and setting performance schedules for violations, the ability to write on the spot citations helps streamline the re-inspection process and allows for citations to be issued in real time as issues present themselves.</p> <p>We have specifically noticed that neighborhoods in which landowners have been given citations for dangerous structures violations, neighboring property owners have spontaneously making repairs to</p>	

deficits that have not yet been investigated by the Town.

Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

Initiative: Adjust the Number of Members on the Development Authority Board
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? August 8, 2022
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance. This Ordinance has been implemented and the resulting appointments have been made to the Romney Development Authority. Said Development Authority has organized, adopted its bylaws and made its committee appointments. Said Development Authority is also in the process of continuing its first economic development project by way if its promotion of a historic preservation/ adaptive reuse project. To date, the Romney Development Authority has had quorum at every meeting and been able to handle its matters with a high degree of efficiency in the year it’s been in existence.

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

Special consideration should be given to the mechanism by which members of the community can be selected for board membership. State code specifically provides for the method by which members are selected for larger boards (12-21 members), but reducing this number can introduce some ambiguity into the categories from which members are selected and the terms each member can serve. Although these ambiguities are easily resolved, they should be addressed early in the planning process to avoid unnecessary complications during the appointment process.

Initiative: Regulation of Cats

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? August 8, 2022

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

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

While this ordinance has been implemented, no action has been taken regarding enforcement. It is important to note that the Town has a meeting scheduled with a Trap, Nuter, Return program representative scheduled for the last week of November 2023. It is anticipated that this program will be live by Christmas 2023.

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

Because no enforcement measures have been taken, no lessons learned are yet available for this program.

Initiative: Rental Registration

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 no, when was the ordinance enacted? August 8, 2022

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

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

While this ordinance has been implemented, no action has been taken regarding enforcement.

The Town is in the final in the process of updating its website capabilities; upon completion of these upgrades, the Town intends to implement the Rental Registration ordinance, using the new software capabilities to provide an online version of the Rental Registry forms.

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

Because no enforcement measures have been taken, no lessons learned are yet available for this program.