

# MUNICIPAL HOME RULE PROGRAM

## Town of Sophia

2023  
PROGRESS  
REPORT

West Virginia  
Municipal Home Rule Board  
P. O. Box 11360  
Charleston, WV 25339-1360  
[MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov](mailto: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](mailto:MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov).

<b>A. General Information</b>		
Name of Municipality: Town of Sophia		
Certifying Official: Danny Barr	Title: Mayor	
Contact Person: Jeanie White	Title: City Manager	
Address:		
City, State, Zip:		
Telephone Number: 304-683-4456	Fax Number:	
E-Mail Address: sophiawv@yahoo.com		
2010 Census Population: 1344		
<b>B. Municipal Classification</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I	<input type="checkbox"/> Class II	<input type="checkbox"/> Class III      X Class IV
<b>C. Attest</b>		
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.		
DANNY BARR	<i>Danny Barr, Mayor</i>	November 20, 2023
<i>Danny Barr</i>	<i>Danny Barr</i>	11-20-23
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.

<b>Initiative: Eyesores and Dilapidated Structures</b>
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? 12/17/2020
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<b>SUCSESSES</b> – 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.  We have not demolished any structures this year.  We are continually addressing the eyesores in our town. As we learned from our experience of demolishing a structure, it is much easier to address problems before they get to that point.  Our home rule ordinance has allowed us to address these issues.
<b>LESSONS LEARNED</b> – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.  N/A

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.

<b>Initiative: Building and Zoning Administration Enforcement Provisions – On the spot citations</b>
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? 12/17/2020
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<b>SUCSESSES</b> – 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. Since the implementation and enforcement of this ordinance we have seen less violations that include a fine. Most homeowners are taking care of the issue withing 24 hours of receiving a citation.
<b>LESSONS LEARNED</b> – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities. N/A

Please use this page to report progress on each **tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application. Each tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

<b>Initiative: 1% Sales Tax</b>
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> or N/A <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?
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<p><b>REVENUES</b> – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting revenue amounts and revenue categories realized; revenue amounts and revenue categories reduced; net revenue gain; and, any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>In calendar year 2023 we collected \$276,241.59 in sales tax revenue. This is slightly higher than our original estimate of \$258,000 and higher than the calendar year 2022 receipts of \$232,126.85. This gives us a gain of \$44,114.74 over last year.</p> <p>We eliminated B&amp;O tax on wholesale and manufacturing with a total reduction of \$3,781.31 from quarter before the reduction. We have not tracked our manufacturing income, but even with allowing for revenue increases, our net revenue gain would have been at least \$270,000.</p>
<p><b>SUCCESES</b> – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting projects, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>With the additional revenue from the 1% sales tax, we have been able to provide our employees with health insurance. We have also placed a new roof on the police department building. We are planning or more improvements to the police department building.</p>
<p><b>LESSONS LEARNED</b> – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities</p>