

# MUNICIPAL HOME RULE PROGRAM

## Town of Alderson

2024  
PROGRESS  
REPORT

WV Municipal Home Rule Board  
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E  
Bldg. 1, Ste. W-300  
Charleston, WV 25305  
[MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov](mailto:MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov)  
304.558.3356


Rev. 08.01.24

**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 Alderson		
Certifying Official: Travis L. Copenhaver	Title: Mayor	
Contact Person: Corianna Spinks	Title: Municipal Clerk	
Address: PO Box 179		
City, State, Zip: Alderson, West Virginia 24910		
Telephone Number:	Fax Number:	
E-Mail Address:		
2020 Census Population:		
<b>B. Municipal Classification</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I	<input type="checkbox"/> Class II	<input type="checkbox"/> Class III <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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.		
Travis L. Copenhaver, Mayor		23 October 24
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: "Party Membership Requirements for Election Boards"</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? January 13, 2022
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<p><b>SUCCESES</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.</p> <p>The passage and adoption of this ordinance has made it easier to fill our municipal poll worker elections officials.</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> <p>This action fixed a serious issue we were having filling our poll worker positions due to the partisan requirements of the state code.</p>

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: "Disposition of Equipment/Property Without Public Auction"</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? March 10, 2022
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<p><b>SUCCESSSES</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.</p> <p>March 10, 2022, was the final reading of this ordinance. From March 2022 until now (October 2024) we have realized \$68,004.25 by utilizing <a href="http://www.govdeals.com">www.govdeals.com</a> as a public bid process as a result from passing this ordinance. This ordinance has given us access to the utilization of the web for public auctions of equipment and forfeiture items.</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> <p>The utilization of <a href="http://www.govdeals.com">www.govdeals.com</a> has had a very good exposure and returned more realistic values of items being sold than the old way of holding the public auctions. We have linked these sales to our social media and had very good success in liquidating public property.</p>

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: "On Spot Zoning 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? June 11, 2020 – original
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<p><b>SUCCESES</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.</p> <p>Through changing the process of how we enforced the zoning code, we have had major success with abandoned and dilapidated structures being torn down and abated. We started utilizing the on spot citations giving the time period to abate the issue. Used in conjunction with the REAP program and a HUD grant, we have demolished 16 properties. One has been turned into a storage unit space.</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> <p>By having the ordinances and zoning ordinances in place, we were able to step into the REAP program and quickly eliminate structures that the owners had not mitigated. Further, we have began placing owners on performance bonds to assure they either fix their property or lose their cash. This has been effective since the REAP program is not an unlimited or continued program. We also have learned to push our legislature to allocate more funding for the very worth while REAP program.</p>

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: Implementation of 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? January 13, 2022
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>1% sales tax collections</p> <p>FY'23 we collected \$124,564.24  FY'24 we collected \$160,733.52  FY'25 we have collected \$46,922.61 (YTD)</p> <p>Tracked by our team and processed in our Accufund accounting system.</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>After making sure that the businesses understand the remittance, cash register set up, and process, we have had to turn B&amp;O checks back over to the larger companies that are used to still collecting B&amp;O in other places in addition to sales tax.</p> <p>This additional revenue has helped us to balance the budget. It was passed at a critical time for us.</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> <p>Our team looks at the remittances from the Tax Department. We have contacted three operating businesses that were not remitting (state or town) taxes, and they have now become compliant. It is a very cumbersome job to get started, but it has helped us to provide vital services and keep our town alive.</p>