MUNICIPAL HOME RULE PILOT PROGRAM

City/Town of Beckley

2016
PROGRESS
REPORT

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 Pilot 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 December 1, 2016, by emailing Debbie Browning at debbie.a.browning@wv.gov, West Virginia Development Office, West Virginia Home Rule Pilot Program, State Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 553, Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0311, 304-558-2234.

A. General Information	
Name of Municipality:	
Certifying Official: Robert Rappold	Title: Mayor
Contact Person: Billie Trump	Title: Recorder/Treasurer
Address: 409 South Kanawha Street	
City, State, Zip: Beckley, WV 25801	
Telephone Number: 304-256-1768	Fax Number: 304-256-1767
E-Mail Address: billie.trump@beckley.org	
2010 Census Population:	
B. Municipal Classification	
☐ Class I x Class II ☐ Class III ☐ Class IV	
C. Pilot Program Entry Phase	
☐ Phase I (2007 Legislation) ☐ Phase II (2014 Legislation) **X** Phase III (2015 Legislation)	
D. 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.	
Robert Rappold	11/30/2016
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. Each non-tax related initiative must have a separate page.

Initiative: Authorization of Code Enforcement Officials to issue citations immediately on scene for code violations concerning public nuisance, safety and or health.
Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply) ☐ Organization **X** Administration ☐ Personnel ☐ Other
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application **X** or a plan amendment ☐?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? **X** Yes ☐ No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? December 8, 2015
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s)
SUCCESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance. The fact that Code Enforcement Officials can now issue citations has paid dividend in several ways. Foremost among these is that non-compliant property owners can immediately be cited and assessed financial penalties for violations. This has led to significantly more cooperation in quickly resolving nuisance and code violation incidents. Residents and businesses that are cited have demonstrated that they would prefer to resolve the violations quickly rather than to deal with a citation and still have to resolve the problem. The streamlined process has been a great benefit in this regard. There have been 6 citations issued and all have been resolved prior to court action.
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. The City has saved money by not having to directly intervene and mitigate nuisance situations. The revenue from issuance of citations is minimal and in most cases waived if the issue is resolved. The benefits resulting from compliance and mitigation of these problems are far more beneficial to the City and its residents than any realized financial gain. The drawback is that the violator must sign the ticket and this can cause a delay between the complaint and resolution of the incident.

Application. Each non-tax related initiative must have a separate page.

Initiative: Authorization to dispose of City Property without auction: to lease or sell city property for less than fair market value in certain circumstances
Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply) ☐ Organization **X** Administration ☐ Personnel ☐ Other
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application **X** or a plan amendment ☐?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? **X** Yes ☐ No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? December 8, 2015
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s)
SUCCESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance. The City has been able to begin negotiations on some City owned real property that a local business wants for expansion. The property is assessed at fair market value and the transaction will ultimately benefit both the business and the City. Also the City has taken advantage of this rule to expand its ability to dispose of surplus property. Rather than dispense with auctions entirely, the City has begun using on-line auction services to widen the scope of potential buyers for this surplus equipment. This has resulted in revenue from surplus property that has far exceeded previous auction efforts. Also the new initiative allows the City to sell surplus property on an on-going basis rather than store it for a large auction. Heavy equipment from the City Public Works netted the City $ 40960.00 after fees. Surplus vehicles and property from other City departments and the Sanitary Board netted the City $ 89,636.77 after fees.
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. The streamlined ability to sell real property at fair market value has the potential to encourage commercial growth. Also the use of on-line resources expands the potential buyer base for surplus equipment to a large degree. This enables the City to realize a greater return on sales of surplus property.

Initiative: Authorizes purchase of tax liens on property subject to delinquent property taxes: right of redemption by City			
Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply)			
☐ Organization	**X** Administration	☐ Personnel	☐ Other
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application **X**		or a plan amendment ☐?	
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted?		**X** Yes	☐ No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? December 8, 2015			
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s)			
SUCCESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance. The City has not at this time exercised this option.			
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. None as yet			

Application. Each non-tax related initiative must have a separate page.

Initiative: Ability to enter into Intergovernmental agreements by resolution			
Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply)			
☐ Organization	**X** Administration	☐ Personnel	☐ Other
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application **X**		or	a plan amendment ☐?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted?		**X** Yes	☐ No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? December 8, 2015			
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s)			
SUCCESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance. The City is considering options to integrate some services with Raleigh County, but this is in the very early stages.			
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. None as yet			

Application. Each non-tax related initiative must have a separate page.

Initiative: Authorizes City to place liens on property for action taken in regard to eyesores and dilapidated buildings
Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply) ☐ Organization **X** Administration ☐ Personnel ☐ Other
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application **X** or a plan amendment ☐?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? **X** Yes ☐ No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? December 8, 2015
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s)
SUCCESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance. The City has placed 1 lien on a property so far and this is pending. The City has a working list of structures scheduled for demolition. Prominent in this list is a downtown structure that the City is taking steps to have demolished. When demolition occurs property owners are billed and if the charges are unpaid the property has a lien placed against it to recover demolition costs.. There are property owners that when they are notified that a lien will be filed come to the City and a payment plan for the expenses is reached. As long as payments are made the lien is not implemented.
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. The ability to use of liens to recover expenses has been successful. Property owners will make payments rather than have a lien against them. It is in the City's interest to recover expenses with payments rather than wait until the property is sold to recover demolition costs.

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

Initiative: Reduction of B&O rates in 3 Classifications and enactment of a 1% consumer sales tax
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application **X** or a plan amendment ☐?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? **X** Yes ☐ No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? Passed by Council 12/8/2015 ; effective 7/1/2016
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s)
REVENUES – 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. The City of Beckley reduced the B&O tax in 3 categories: Manufacturing (from $.30/$100 to $.25/$100 a 17% reduction), Retail (from $.50/$100 to $.40/$100 a 20% reduction) and Amusement (from $.50/$100 to $.35/$100 a 30% reduction). Total B&O revenues from the months of July and August of 2015 were $2,429,520.86. Total B&O revenue for the same period in 2016 was $2,310,549.08. The 1% sales tax for the July-August period of 2016 was $673,138.56. This is an increase of $ 541,166.78 over this period and is in line with estimates.
SUCCESSES – 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. The additional revenue will allow the City to update the fleet of the Beckley Police Department and the equipment of Public Works. A new central Police station is a critical need and will be a long term commitment for new revenues. The needs for funding Police and Fire pensions additionally will be examined as well.
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. The WV State Tax Department has been an invaluable resource during this process and it is recommended that their assistance be sought out.