

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE PROGRAM

Town Of Romney

2022
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:		
Certifying Official: Logan Mantz	Title: Town Attorney	
Contact Person: Beverly Keadle	Title: Mayor	
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.		
J. Logan Mantz, Esq.		11/25/22
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. Although this ordinance has not yet been utilized, the Town is in the process of liquidating several aging capital assets (pieces of equipment), and is poised to use this authority to receive a higher return than could have been expected under the previous statutory requirements.
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. Because this authorization and ordinance have not yet been utilized, 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 a new process that the Town is working through and will likely bring its own challenges.

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).
<p>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> <p>This Ordinance has already been used with positive effects by the Town. Specifically, the Town is in the beginning phases of implementing its nuisance and dangerous structures ordinances, and has started issuing on-the-spot citations for nuisances. The Town has noticed a marked improvement in nuisance ordinance compliance since beginning the on-the-spot citation issuance in October.</p> <p>The Town anticipates issuing citations for dangerous structures under code section 8-12-16 before the end of the year.</p>
<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> <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>

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).
<p>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> <p>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 starting its first economic development project by way if its promotion of a historic preservation/ adaptive reuse project. Although only three meetings have occurred 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 thus far.</p>
<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> <p>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.</p>

Initiative: Regulation of Cats
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. While this ordinance has been implemented, no action has been taken regarding enforcement.
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 <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).
<p>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.</p> <p>While this ordinance has been implemented, no action has been taken regarding enforcement.</p> <p>The Town is currently 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.</p>
<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> <p>Because no enforcement measures have been taken, no lessons learned are yet available for this program.</p>