

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE
PROGRAM

Town of Sophia

2021_
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: Danny Barr	Title: Mayor	
Contact Person: Jeanie White	Title: City Manager	
Address: PO Box 700		
City, State, Zip: Sophia, WV 25921		
Telephone Number: 304-683-4456	Fax Number:	
E-Mail Address: sophiawv@yahoo.com		
2010 Census Population: 1344		
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.		
Danny Barr, Mayor	Danny Barr, Mayor	12/13/21
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: "Eyesores: and Dilapidated Structures"
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).
<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>The provisions of WV Code pertaining to eyesores and dilapidated structures have kept us from addressing these issues in our town. We have been able to use our home rule ordinance to demolish a dilapidated structure and we are in the process of placing a lien on the property.</p> <p>We will continue to address the eyesores in our town.</p>
<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> <p>The process of having a structure demolished was a learning experience. Although, this was a pressing issue, we realize it will be more beneficial to deal with properties before they get to the point of needing demolished.</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.

Initiative: Building and Zoning Administration Enforcement Provisions -- 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? 12/17/2020
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. Our Code Enforcement Office has issued 10 citations for various “nuisance” offenses, (high grass, trash, etc.) As this was a new ordinance, the citations were reduced to warnings once the violations were corrected. These violations were not repeated, as they had been in the past once the case was dismissed. We believe this is due to the issuance of a citation instead of going through the municipal court.
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 Code Enforcement Officer should work in conjunction with the Police Department to ensure efforts are not being duplicated in the area of nuisance violations.

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.

Initiative: Reducing or Eliminating Certain B&O Tax Categories and Adding the 1% Municipal Sales Tax
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application X 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 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).
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. We have collected one quarter of sales tax revenues in the amount of \$35,258.56. This is considerably less than we estimated. We eliminated the B&O tax in our manufacturing and wholesale category and saw a total reduction in B&O Tax revenue in those categories of \$1,571.08. Even with our less than expected sales tax revenue, we had a net revenue gain of \$33,687.48
SUCCESSSES – 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. Since we have only received one quarter of sales tax revenue, we have not yet implemented any of the improvements listed in our home rule application.
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. N/A