

**A Regular Meeting of the
VILLAGE COUNCIL OF SUGAR MOUNTAIN
MINUTES
Tuesday, November 18, 2025
4:00 P.M.**

- 1. Call to Order of Regular Meeting** – Mayor Gunther Jochl called the Regular Meeting of Council to order at 4:00 p.m. with a quorum present as follows:

Council Members Present:

Mayor Gunther Jochl, Council Member David Ammann, Council Member Wade Wittman, and Council Member Dick Casey.

Council Members Absent:

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Brown

Village Hall Staff Present:

Attorney Stacy Eggers IV, Village Manager Susan Phillips, Chief Casey Turbyfill and Village Clerk Tammy Floyd who recorded the official meeting.

Approximately five members of the public attended.

- 2. Pledge of Allegiance** – Chief Casey Turbyfill leads the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. Moment of Silence** – Mayor Gunther Jochl announces a moment of silence.
- 4. Adoption of Regular Meeting Agenda** – Council Member David Ammann moved to adopt the agenda adding closed session. Council Member Dick Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

5. Approval of Minutes

a. October 21, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Council Member Dick Casey moved to approve the minutes as written. Council Member Wade Wittman seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

6. Public Hearing

Mayor Gunther Jochl opened the public hearing to hear comments on the proposed amendment to the Village of Sugar Mountain Zoning Ordinance Section 154.151 requiring a building permit from Avery County before grading may be performed on any lot. Resident Susan Auffinger stated that her and her husband both support this ordinance. With no more public comments, Council Member Dick Casey motioned to close the public hearing. Council Member Wade Wittmann seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

7. Old Business

8. New Business

a. Review and Consider Adoption of the Resolution to Enact the Zoning Ordinance to Require a Building Permit Before Land Disturbing Activities Commence Section 154.151.

Council Member David Ammann moved to adopt the ordinance. Council Member Wade Wittman seconded the motion, and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

b. Consider Re-Appointment of Edith “Dedy” Traver to the Planning & Zoning Board.

Council Member David Ammann made the motion to re-appoint Dedy Traver. Council Member Dick Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion carried three (3) votes to zero (0).

c. Request for a Refund of 2025 Tax Year Overpayments

Council Member Dick Casey moved to grant the refund of overpayments. Council Member Wade Wittman seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion carried three (3) votes to zero (0).

9. Departmental Reports

a. Village Manager’s Report – Susan Phillips

The report provided election results for November 4, 2025. Dail Golf will continue to work on the course through the end of the week and resumes in the Spring. A request for proposals will be advertised for bids in the upcoming weeks on stream restoration and culvert and bridge replacement. There was a decrease of 33.26% in revenues for the period April through October in comparison to the same period in 2024. Tennis had an overall decrease of 10.39%. The Board of Adjustments met on Tuesday, October 28th and unanimously granted a variance to the setback requirements on lot 149, Derby Lane. The Tourism Development Authority approved the 2025 SugarBus contract, schedule, and banners for decorative lights. Occupancy tax showed an increase of 10% in comparison to September 2024. The High Country ABC FY 2024-25 audit has been completed. Overall sales at the ABC store decreased 5.71% in 2024.

b. Police Chief’s Monthly Report – Chief Casey Turbyfill

Daily operations continue smoothly, with officers actively patrolling Village streets and performing business and residence checks. We are preparing for our busiest season and have begun scheduling reserve officers for holidays and weekends. As of this report, no applications have been received for the police officer position. Patrol Miles: 3,828 Foot Patrols: 165 Business Checks: 440 Residence Checks: 376

c. Public Works Director’s Monthly Report – Bill Daniels

The department has spent the last few weeks preparing all the winter plow and spreader equipment. Hopefully this allows an issue free winter with the usage of the equipment. Installation of the new guardrail is in progress in the area of 1950 Grouse Moor Dr. The guardrail at the bottom of Timber Ridge Rd. on Sugar Mountain Dr. will be replaced, along with the addition of one on Briarcliff Rd. The paving crew will be on site next week completing needed repairs and patching throughout the mountain.

d. Monthly Permits Issuance Log – Tammy Floyd

Tree Permits: 1

Zoning Permit for Building: 3

Road Cut Permits: 4

Driveway Permit: 1

e. Tax Collection Report

Tax Year 2025 Tax Collection Rate as of Friday, November 14, 2025 57.33%

Tax Year 2024 99.72%

f. Finance Officer's Financial Report – Susan Phillips

Financial reports provided through October 31, 2025.

10. Public Comments

Dedy Taver expressed thanks to Chief Casey Turbyfill and his officers.

Sue Auffinger asked why we cannot retain officers. Chief Turbyfill advised this is a nationwide issue.

11. Mayor/Council Comments

Council Members wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Mayor Gunther Jochl expressed appreciation to the police department for making the Village safe with patrols and house checks.

12. Closed Session Attorney-Client Privilege G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3)

At 4:18 p.m. Council Member Dick Casey moved to go into closed session for attorney-client privilege with a second from Council Member Wade Wittmann. All were in favor, and the motion carried three (3) votes to zero (0). Council returned to open session at 4:39 p.m. stating no decisions were made in closed session.

13. Adjournment

Council Member David Ammann moved to adjourn the meeting with a second from Council Member Wade Wittman. All were in favor, and the motion carried three (3) votes to zero (0).

The meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

Gunther Jochl, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Tammy W. Floyd, Clerk

SEAL