A Regular Meeting of the
VILLAGE COUNCIL OF SUGAR MOUNTAIN
MINUTES
Tuesday, September 15, 2026
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., Officer Joe Buchannan, Public Works Director Bill Daniels, Village Manager Susan Phillips, and Municipal Clerk Tammy Floyd who recorded the official meeting.

   Approximately two members of the public attended.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Officer Joe Buchannan 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 made the motion to adopt the agenda with a second received from Council Member Wade Wittman. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

5. **Approval of Minutes**
   a. **August 20, 2026 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. **Old Business**
   a. **Review Resolution and Consider Setting a Public Hearing for Amending Ordinance §154.026 Fences.**
      Mayor Gunther Jochl advised that chain link fences are needed for certain areas like the tennis courts. Council Member Dick Casey advised the planning board also removed cement, stucco facing. The Village Attorney will have the ordinance updated to reflect the changes. Council Member David Ammann moved to hold a public hearing during the next regular council meeting for October. Council Member Dick Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

7. **New Business**
   a. **Review Resolution to Transfer Certain Real Estate to a Non-Profit Entity. 0.063-acre parcel 1491 Sugar Mountain Dr.**
      After discussion, Council Member Dick Casey made the motion to approve the transfer of property. Council Member Wade Wittman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

b. Review and Consider Adopting FY 2026-27 Budget Amendment #2 for the Golf Course Green Aeration Project.
Council Member David Ammann moved to adopt the budget amendment. Council Member Dick Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

8. Departmental Reports

a. Village Manager's Report – Susan Phillips

The golf course stream repair contract with North State Environmental has been executed, with construction expected to begin in late September. Golf revenue through August increased $51,003 (8.31%) over 2024, with 12,948 rounds played. Tennis revenue increased $5,741 (13.0%) over 2025.

The TDA approved funding for golf course greens aeration, Sugar Mountain Resort advertising, and a design proposal. Occupancy tax collections increased 17.59% for the August 2025–July 2026 period.

Work continues on the Sugar Mountain Drive Helene Road/embankment repairs, with completion anticipated in mid-October. Tri-County Paving is completing street repairs and resurfacing throughout the Village. Public Works will complete the final mowing cycle and roadside trimming.

The Planning and Zoning Board discussed fence material regulations and recommended continuing to prohibit concrete and wire fences. Avery County visitor spending increased 3.0% in 2025 to $258.97 million.

The High-Country ABC Board is considering leasing additional space adjacent to its current store to accommodate continued growth and expanded operations.

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

Chief Turbyfill reported that the Police Department continues to operate efficiently, with increased patrol visibility and RADAR enforcement throughout the Village. All full-time officers completed annual Taser 10 recertification, and additional RADAR and Intoximeter certifications are planned. New speed-limit signs have been installed, and the new 2026 Dodge Durango patrol vehicle is expected to be placed into service before year-end. The Department reported 306 residence checks, 322 business checks, 3,343 patrol miles, 5 citations, 4 vehicle crash investigations, and no arrests. Three notable incidents involved a propane gas leak, a mountain bike accident, and a trespass notice at Lowe's Foods.

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

Public Works continued clearing downed trees and debris from J. Douglas Williams Park trails, with the project to resume as roadwork permits. Sugar Mountain Drive repairs require extensive excavation of unsuitable material and are expected to continue for several more weeks. The golf course stream restoration project is anticipated to begin by October 1 and continue through mid-March. Summer paving has been completed, with road striping to follow.

d. Monthly Permits Issuance Log – Tammy Floyd

10 Tree Pruning and Removal Permits, 4 Zoning Permits for Buildings, and 1 Signs Permit.

e. Tax Collection Report

2026 Tax Collection Rate 30.58%
2025 Tax Collection Rate 99.67%

f. Finance Officer's Financial Report – Susan Phillips

Financial Reports provided through August 31, 2026

9. Public Comments

Susan Auffinger commented on the repaving on Grouse Moor Drive.
Dedy Traver how well everything looks and appreciates the Police and Public Works Departments.

10. Mayor/Council Comments

Mayor Gunther Jochl reported he is happy to be back in Sugar Mountain after traveling.

11. Adjournment

Council Member David Ammann moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Wade Wittman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the **motion carried** three (3) votes to zero (0).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

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Gunther Jochl, Mayor

ATTEST:_____
Tammy W. Floyd, Clerk SEAL