

Superior Court Judge James Downs has made his decision on Sugar Mountain annexation. The Norwood family tract was among the properties forcibly annexed.

After months of consideration, Downs decided Sugar Mountain's actions were illegal. Additionally, he decided Sugar Mountain Ski Resort, the Tourism Development Authority and the Village Council were too closely intertwined. When the original case was presented in the Avery County Courthouse, the petitioning attorney alleged Gunther Jochl's involvement was a conflict of interest. Jochl, a village council member, operates Sugar Mountain Ski Resort. The petitioners will be reimbursed.