Minutes of the Perry County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
5:00 p.m. – Thursday, January 6, 2022
County Board Room – Perry County Government Building

A regular meeting of the Perry County Board of Commissioners was convened at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 6, 2022 in the County Board Room at the Perry County Government Building in the City of Pinckneyville.

OPENING

Chairman Bruce morgenstern called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited by those in attendance.

County Clerk Bobby kelly called the roll. The following members answered the call of the roll: Commissioner Folden, Commissioner Bigham and Chairman Morgenstern were present.

The following department heads were also present: Assistance State's Attorney Marty Beltz, Treasurer Jodi Koester, Sheriff Steve Bareis, Solid Waste & Zoning Officer Becky Tracy and Perry County EMA Chuck Geneseo, Health Dept. Barb Stevenson, Pete Spitler P'ville press, Jeff Ashauer ARPA funds Consultant, Chad Howard, and Rhonda Bigham.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Morgenstern - Before we approve the agenda, does anyone want to be added to Public Comments? Please add Pete Spitler to public comments. Chairman Morgenstern then called for approval of the meeting agenda.

Commissioner Bigham moved the agenda for the meeting be approved. Commissioner Folden seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Morgenstern asked for the approval of the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes of the December 16, 2021 regular meeting. Chairman Morgenstern called for corrections. There were none.

Commissioner Folden moved the minutes of the December 16, 2021 regular meeting be approved. Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved.

RESOLUTION – TO APPROVE PERRY COUNTY TAX AGENT—AQUIRING TAX DEED FOR DELINQUENT TAXES;
There were several ones in which discussion was said about grouping them Instead of voting them individually, and if there was disagreed upon they would Separate them out if needed. There was none so they took a vote on all 12. Commissioner Bigham made he motion Commissioner Folden second the Motion on roll call Ayes motion passed

RESOLUTION – TO EXCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF CALEN CAMPENELLA CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2021 OF PERRY COUNTY, IL.
County Clerk Robert Kelly Presented letter to commissioners and said that he was Notified of said resignation from Calen Campanella, with no explanation why. Chairman Morgenstern asked for any discussion. Pete Spitler asked if there any explanation why Any no one replied the reasoning for his resignation. Commissioner Folden made the Motion Commissioner Bigham second the motion on roll call.
3-0 and the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION – TO APPROVE., STUART MORGENSTERN; AS CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR PERRY COUNTY IL. COMMENCING JANUARY 1ST 2022

DEFENDER FOR PERRY COUNTY IL. COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2021
Commissioner Folden made the motion, Commissioner Bigham second the motion
On roll call all 3 Ayes.
RESOLUTION—APPROVE RAFFLE LICENSE FOR SACRED HEART CHURCH:
County Clerk read the application for approval and there were some questions from Chairman Morgenstern about time lines if they have to put start and finish on them. The county clerk stated that there was no time line that he knew of and that it was just a licensing for one year for them to sell tickets. Commissioner Folden made the motion Commissioner Bigham second the motion on roll call 3 Ayes motion passed.

DISCUSSION: Jackie Davison wanted to discuss with commissioner's what were the benefits of the solar farms going in would be to Perry County, (Beneficial). Mr. Davison went on to say that he was not against solar farms but what tax basis were the county gaining. Becky Tracy went on to explain that we are receiving a higher tax EAV versus just regular farm ground, but that does not mean that we would receive all monies do to we are only a portion of all the taxes. And that there were some questions of why the county could not put some kind of extra tax base on solar usage. In which Becky Tracy explained that she did not know if it was possible if they could do that are not and that it would have to be researched, but did not know if could happen (taxing) Chairman Morgenstern went on to say but he understood about wanting things built that is not the best but possibly the for the greater good for the area.

Jeff Ashauer: spoke about ARPA funds where he has been visiting with department heads on expenditure, and eligibility on the funds on which projects would fall under the act. And that he commended Jodi Koester the treasure for taking the time to sit with him on the rules of spending monies and that there were several pages (438) pages worth and that he was only focusing on then projects we were looking at. Commissioner Folden asked if there where any extra funding that was out there. Mr. Ashauer went to say that there is possible other grants that you possibly tie to some of these projects with ARPA funds. And that we are in a good place that other counties are paving the way and that we are sitting in a good place to see what passes and what does not so we know how to follow others to get things done that was questionable and that if other counties did with Belle Weather then we could see what would possible for us to do. And that it was good decision to hire Belle Weather.

Pete Spitler in regard to Calen he wanted to know if there indication why Calen Campanella was stepping down and if there was any corresponds from department of revenue? County Clerk Robert Kelly responded that he did not know of anything except he received the latter in his office to be put on the agenda. Chairman Morgenstern said he did hear anything unless the States Attorney's office knew of anything, and Mr. Beltz (Assistance State's Attorney) replied as far as he knew that did not hear of anything neither. Pete was asking if we knew of anything about the drilling around the DuQuoin city lake. And that Kevin Reimer was wild catting because he believes that there is oil reserves under or around the lake, Becky Tracy replied that she received a call from Mr. Egbert and thought this cannot be good so she went on to explain that she has been looking into the matter's and there they are following state guide lines and she was going to look to see if there is things we the county need to look into, and that she knows if they hit oil or gas and that they have to put up a structure that we would get involved as far as structure could possibly build and that they would have to go through zoning before they can build any structure. Becky went on to say that she had a zone meeting January 19 and was going to talk to her zoning board about the drilling project. Commissioner Folden went on to ask Chuck Geneseo if he had anything to say in which he did not have much to add that the hole that they are drilling would not affect the lake. Chairman asked if there was anything about the under-ground waters if it would affect water reservoirs underneath. Commissioner was Bigham said that the people was more concerned of draining the lake and Mr. Geneseo said that would not be possible.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Board members examined claims presented for payment.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve the payment of bills when money becomes available. Commissioner Folden seconded the motion. Chairman Morgenstern requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Folden, Commissioner Bigham and Chairman Morgenstern. The motion was approved on a vote of 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT OF COUNTY BOARD MEETING

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Chairman said he would entertain a motion to adjourn.

Chairman Morgenstern moved the Board adjourn and convene the next meeting on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 5:00 p.m., Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved and the Board stood adjourned at 6;00 p.m.

Submitted:

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Robert Kelly, County Clerk
Clerk of the Board of Commissioners
County of Perry, State of Illinois
Approved: January 6, 2022