Minutes of the Regular Meeting

of the Perry County Board of Commissioners, Perry County, Illinois, held on the 16th day of July, A.D. 2026, in the Pinckneyville County Government Building,

Pinckneyville, Illinois.

Chairman Bruce Morgenstern called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., and lead the invocation. Commissioner Jennifer Martin lead the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was answered by Commissioners Joseph Folden, Jennifer Martin and Chairman Bruce Morgenstern present. Also present was Attorney Aaron Atkins, who served as Deputy Clerk for County Clerk Robert Kelly, who was absent.

Chairman Morgenstern took up the matter of the approval of the agenda. Chairman Morgenstern asked if anyone from the gallery wished to be recognized. Mr. Dan Stephens, and Supervisor of Assessments Yvonne Morris asked to be recognized. Commissioner Martin moved to approve the agenda with Commissioner Folden seconding the motion. The motion passed with voice vote with Commissioners Folden, Martin and Chairman Morgenstern all voting "aye.

On the approval of the regular meeting minutes of July 2, 2026, Commissioner Folden moved to approve the minutes of July 2, 2026, seconded by Chairman Morgenstern. The motion passed with Commissioner Folden and Chairman Morgenstern voting "aye". Commissioner Martin abstained from voting due to the fact that she was absent from the meeting of July 2, 2026.

Under Public Comments, Mr. Dan Stephens addressed concern for a Veteran residing in a house on Route 4, in Willisville, in deplorable circumstances. Mr. Stephens asked the Board to condemn the house. Chairman Morgenstern indicated that the County has traditionally not done condemnations of structures. However, Zoning Administrator Becky Tracy indicated that she could help with the removal of rubbish and debris. She also indicated that in the event that the Veteran in question is residing in the house with no electric power, no water service and in deplorable conditions, the Veteran's Administration or Shawnee Alliance could also provide some assistance.

Continuing with public comments, Supervisor of Assessments Yvonne Morris read a prepared statement pointing out the advantages of the position of supervisor of assessments remaining

an elected rather than an appointed position. Ms. Morris focused attention to the fact that maintaining the office as an elected position respects the democratic process. She pointed out that with an elected position, the voters have the opportunity to make a direct choice in who will be assessing their property. After a brief exchange of differing opinions passing between Ms. Morris and the members of the Board, Chairman Morgenstern thanked Ms. Morris for her contribution to the discussion.

Under the Discussion items, Chairman Morgenstern began by setting forth a time line for working on the 2026 budget. Chairman Morgenstern has requested from Treasurer Jodie Koester and Atty. Rhett Barke that they have tentative budgets prepared by August 16.

Next, Sheriff Chad Howard was recognized. Sheriff Howard advised the Board that he has applied for and has been awarded funds for a new state of the art Live Scan finger scanning machine for the jail. This machine greatly streamlines the work of finger printing a suspect. It is the 21st century version of the fingerprint card. The present system requires a fingerprint card to be mailed off for checking against criminal databases. However, with this new machine, a fingerprint can be transmitted electronically in a matter of minutes to check the criminal data bases. The cost of the machine is $20,235.00, which will be paid by a grant. However, in order to get the machine, the Sheriff must pay for the machine before it is delivered and put into service. For that reason, the Sheriff is asking the County to advance the funds for same since the machine is awaiting delivery. It was the consensus of the Commissioners that the disbursement should be made from General Fund to expedite delivery of the machine. Upon receipt of the funds from the grant, the Sheriff would reimburse the County from the grant.

Next, Nathan Beasley, Environmental Health Specialist with the Perry County Health Department, addressed the Board regarding a revised Food Safety Ordinance which the Health Department has proposed. Chairman Morgenstern advised Mr. Beasley that the proposed ordinance has been referred to Mr. Frank Heiligenstein of Illinois Codification Service for his review. Illinois Codification Service codifies the County's ordinances and maintains them in a coherent compendium of the county code.

The last item for discussion was the proposed ordinance authorizing the submission of the question to the voters asking whether the office of the Supervisor of Assessments should be an elected or appointed position. Chairman Morgenstern began the

discussion stating that the position of Supervisor is one of the lowest paid of the County offices, yet it carries great responsibility. Applicants for the office are required to pass a difficult test, and then, after having passed the test, they may not be elected. John Batteau is the only other person in the County, besides Ms. Morris, who is known to have the required credentials. However, if the position is an appointed one, the County Board can bring someone in from out of the County to fill the office. Also, if the position is appointed, it is possible for two counties to share one assessor. Also, with an appointed position, the Board can offer a salary commensurate with that which it deems necessary to secure the services of a quality applicant. Mr. Morgenstern also pointed out that with an appointed position, there is a greater degree of accountability to the County Board. Commissioner Folden agreed that the ability to go out of the County to obtain a candidate could be an advantage. Chairman Morgenstern added that Williamson County had established the position as an appointed one. Then, the County Board decided to make it elected. That only lasted for four years, after which the County Board chose to go back to having the position appointed. Commissioner Martin stated that she liked the idea of allowing the voters to decide whether they wanted it to be appointed or elected. Commissioner Folden recalled that this was a matter which had been discussed even before Ms. Morris came into office. Chairman Morgenstern advised that even if the voters decide to make the office appointed, it will not affect Ms. Morris' two year term for which she will be running in the coming election.

Under Ordinances, Commissioner Folden moved to approve ordinance #2026-07, entitled An Ordinance Authorizing the Submission of a Question to the Voters Regarding the Office of Supervisor of Assessments. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Folden, Martin and Chairman Morgenstern voting "aye" by roll call vote.

Under Resolutions, Commissioner Martin moved to approve Resolution #2026-R85, awarding SUP-26-09 to Kathy Miller allowing her to place a 14' x 56' mobile home at 7437 Shamrock Road, Tamaroa, IL 62888 (PIN# 1-42-0250-110). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Folden. The motion passed with Commissioners Folden, Martin and Chairman Morgenstern voting "aye" by roll call vote.

Commissioner Folden moved to approve Resolution #2026-R86, awarding SUP-26-10 to Mason Blank, allowing him to place a 72' x

30' mobile home at 7105 Sacred Heart Road, DuQuoin, IL 62832 (PIN# 1-62-0150-014). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Martin. The motion passed with Commissioners Folden, Martin and Chairman Morgenstern voting "aye" by roll call vote.

Commissioner Folden moved to approve Resolution #2026-R87, awarding SUP-26-11 to Emerald Lane Energy, allowing it to construct and operate a 3.5 MW solar farm to be known as DuQuoin East Solar on 23 acres of an approximately 38-acre parcel located near the northeast corner of the intersection of Old DuQuoin Road and East Jackson Street Road. The property is PIN 1-61-0240-020. The Applicant, ELEF DQE, LLC is wholly owned by Emerald Lane Energy Fund, LLC. The managers of Emerald Lane Energy Fund are: Grant Pope and Micah Sussman. The development manager and contact for the project is Samuel Garry. They can be reached at 203 Flamingo Road, #302, Mill Valley, CA 94941. The facility should be in service by early to mid-Autumn 2027. Also there is a host agreement which will bring $25,000.00 in revenue to the County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Martin. The motion passed with Commissioners Folden, Martin and Chairman Morgenstern voting "aye" by roll call vote.

Commissioner Folden moved to approve Raffle License #026-RL15 for the Perry County Sportsman Club. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Folden, Martin and Chairman Morgenstern voting "aye" by roll call vote.

Commissioner Martin moved to approve Raffle License #2026-RL16 for NubAbility Athletics Foundation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Folden. The motion passed with Commissioners Folden, Martin and Chairman Morgenstern voting "aye" by roll call vote.

Commissioner Folden moved to approve Raffle License #2026-RL17 for Swanwick Bethel Legacy Foundation #2026-RL17. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Martin. The motion passed with Commissioners Folden, Martin and Chairman Morgenstern voting "aye" by roll call vote.

Commissioner Martin moved to approve Raffle License #2026-RL18 for Perry County Home & Comm. Education Assoc. (HCE) The motion was seconded by Commissioner Folden. The motion passed with Commissioners Folden, Martin and Chairman Morgenstern voting "aye" by roll call vote.

Commissioner Martin moved to approve Raffle License #2026-RL19 for VFW Post 513. The motion was seconded by Commissioner

Folden. The motion passed with Commissioners Folden, Martin and Chairman Morgenstern voting "aye" by roll call vote.

Chairman Morgenstern requested a motion to approve the warrant for payment of bills. Commissioner Martin moved to approve the warrant, seconded by Commissioner Folden. Roll call vote was taken with Commissioners Folden, Martin, and Chairman Morgenstern voting "aye".

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Commissioner Folden, to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Martin. A voice vote on the motion to adjourn was conducted, with all present voting "aye". Chairman Morgenstern gaveled the meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron A. Atkins

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Chairman Morgenstern

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Commissioner Folden

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Commissioner Martin