

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Perry Village Council  
Perry Village Hall

Regular Meeting  
May 14, 2026

### **ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

The meeting was called to order by Fiscal Officer John Roskos, who conducted roll call.

Acting Mayor Elias Coss  
Brian Farley  
Pam Jenkins  
Becky Shimko  
Mike Glover  
Curtis Curd

### **PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE:**

|                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| James O'Leary  | Solicitor            |
| John H. Roskos | Clerk/Fiscal Officer |
| Christian Gray | Zoning Inspector     |

### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Rich Leimbach, Libby Smith, Jessica Fink, Bonnie Nau, Jim Jablonski, Laura Wolkersdorfer, Cris Knox, Cynthia Adams, Chuck Adams, Tom Lucas, George Vogel, Alex Russo, Lee Glover, Jack Brofman, Kathy Bates, Cindy Brofman John Nicely, Toni Gianfagna, Franco Gianfagna, Elizabeth DiSanto, Erin Derzon, Carl Setzer, Tina Haas, John Finley, Robin Finley, Larry W. Hackley, Josh Healan, Sophia Yankie, Kevin Harrison, Sam Markos, Thomas Fulginiti

Immediately upon confirming attendance, Acting Mayor Elias Coss made a motion to go into executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. Those invited to attend were Council and Fiscal Officer John Roskos. Brian seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. Executive session commenced at 7:02 PM. Acting Mayor Coss advised members of the public present that they could remain seated in the room, as council would be only a few minutes. Upon returning, Acting Mayor Coss made a motion to come out of executive session; it was seconded by Brian Farley; all voted in favor. The return to open session was confirmed by Fiscal Officer Roskos, who noted the time as approximately 7:10 PM.

## **READING OF MAYORAL CORRESPONDENCE: MAYOR JIM GESSIC RETIREMENT**

Before proceeding to the public hearing, Acting Mayor Elias Coss stated that he needed to read a letter to the community from Mayor Jim Gessic. He read the letter in its entirety:

"Dear Perry Village Council and Solicitor, over the past month, as I cared for my mother during her illness and after her passing, I have had the opportunity to reflect on the importance of time spent with family. As a result, effective May 14, 2026, I will be retiring to focus on family priorities, spending time fishing with my father, assisting both of my children as they move into new homes, and helping to prepare for my daughter's wedding next spring.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Jean Schonauer, Mike Glover, Becky Shimko, Phil Casella, Elias Coss, Rick Walker, and Ashley Hacking for their efforts in fiscally rebuilding the village and maintaining alignment with our budget. I would also like to thank Jim O'Leary for his continued guidance and his support as village solicitor throughout my tenure. A special thank you goes to the Village Road Crew for their ongoing dedication to keeping our roads and parks safe, functional, and beautiful for the community. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside them during the winter months assisting with snow removal operations.

To the current council, thank you for your willingness to step forward and serve this community. Please recognize that not all decisions in government are easy and, at times, difficult choices must be made to protect the village and ensure its long-term financial stability. I wish you continued success as you guide this community forward and responsibly plan for its future. It has truly been a pleasure serving on council and as mayor. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve this community and wish each of you continued success and good health in the years ahead. Respectfully, James Gessic.

## **PUBLIC HEARING — 2027 TAX BUDGET**

Fiscal Officer John Roskos presented the 2027 Tax Budget, describing it as an annual requirement for every village to present to the Lake County Budget Commission, which initiates the budget process for the upcoming fiscal year.

For fiscal year 2027, the village is requesting \$178,525.04 in property tax for the general fund. Roskos noted that Perry Village has no outside levy, so all property tax revenue derives from inside village millage. Estimated revenues for 2027 are as follows: approximately \$160,200 in property taxes; \$17,215 in homestead and rollback from the state; approximately \$152,100 from the local government fund; and other revenues — primarily income tax, which also includes zoning permit fees — of approximately \$1,525,485. Total estimated expenditures for 2027 are approximately \$1.9 million, resulting in a projected deficit of approximately \$45,000 for the year. The beginning cash balance on January 1, 2027, is projected at \$1,619,664, with an ending cash balance of approximately \$1,574,664.

Regarding outstanding debts required to be listed in the tax budget (Roskos clarified these are not reliant on property tax and could be paid from income tax or other revenues), the village

currently carries three outstanding loans: (1) Perry Village Sanitary Sewer Loan, due at the beginning of 2028, outstanding amount \$12,313; (2) Center Street Reconstruction Loan, outstanding amount \$17,500; and (3) Manchester Road Reconstruction Project Loan, outstanding amount \$16,742.

Solicitor O'Leary asked whether any council action was required at this time. Roskos replied that no action was needed that evening; the budget would go on first reading. Council would subsequently receive a revised form from the county that is more detailed, although the revenue and expenditure amounts will remain the same. The tax budget is due to the Lake County Budget Commission on approximately July 15th.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Tom Lucas, 4350 Casa Bella Drive:** Mr. Lucas asked whether, in light of Mayor Gessic's retirement, the village would post a new council member to the board and take a vote to determine who would serve as mayor, or whether there would be a special election. Solicitor O'Leary responded that the Ohio Revised Code contains several provisions addressing the situation and that the matter was entirely new to council as of approximately 7:02 PM that evening. He explained that Ohio law allows the president pro temp — Acting Mayor Elias Coss — to step in. He stated that council would take an interim step during the meeting to vote on a person to step in if Mr. Coss is unavailable. He added that questions regarding a special election were premature given that the retirement announcement had only just been presented.

**Sophia Yankie, lifelong Perry:** Ms. Yanke stated she came to discuss her grievances with the proposed data center, which she stated she believes will ruin Perry. She described Perry as a quiet, tight-knit town with an older population that is concerned about new technology. She cited numerous articles — acknowledging she did not have the sources with her — which she said prove that data centers raise electric bills and noted that residents are already feeling the burden of high electric prices and inflation. She stated that data centers will poison water and cause noise pollution, including infrasonic pollution that travels far and that people will feel even if they cannot hear it audibly, and that infrasound is proven to hurt people physically and mentally. She stated that if the center is built near schools, libraries, and churches, the health effects would harm children. She noted that light pollution from these facilities would keep residents awake, disturbing sleep. She described the buildings as "a terribly ugly white box." She stated that data centers will draw personal drinking water from the town's supply, potentially making it undrinkable, and noted that this area relies on Lake Erie, and that years of work to repair previous damage from past manufacturing would be set back. She stated that lights from the center will disrupt local wildlife — specifically disorienting birds and bats — and drive out other animals living on the land, disrupting a large ecosystem and the food chain. She stated that the centers may bring in tax revenue and temporary construction jobs, but that once construction is complete, employment in these facilities is only 50 to 70 people at most. She stated she believes in the long run it is not worth it and urged council to listen to residents and look into the true impacts, including the possibility that it will drive residents out and lower property values. She

stated that sickness and other impacts could affect neighboring towns, noting that people from Willoughby, Madison, and Chardon were also present. Solicitor O'Leary gave her a moment to wrap up. She concluded by urging council to reconsider the decision, stating she did not believe it was right for the village, the rest of Lake County, or Lake Erie.

**Resident:** A resident indicated he wanted to ask a question directly and receive an answer. Solicitor O'Leary stated that the public portion is not a question-and-answer period, and the resident declined to come to the podium, stating there was no point if he could not receive a direct answer.

**John Finley, 4364 Oak Avenue (new Perry resident):** Mr. Tinley stated he was playing catch-up on the data center issue and apologized if his questions had already been addressed. He asked whether the electric grid could support the amount of electricity the data center would consume and asked about infrastructure impacts on roads — specifically who would be responsible for ensuring that roads damaged by construction equipment are properly repaired. He stated he had no opinion on the matter, only questions.

Solicitor O'Leary thanked him and noted that council is not taking questions during public comment but asked whether the link on the village's website containing data center information — including frequently asked questions and materials from the town hall — had been fixed. Fiscal Officer Roskos acknowledged there may have been a broken link and offered to check on it. Solicitor O'Leary directed residents to check the village website for a separate data center link with resources and frequently-asked-questions addressing many of the issues raised.

**Chuck Adams, 4290 Casa Bella Drive, Perry Township resident:** Mr. Adams asked whether there had ever been a meeting devoted entirely to the data center topic where the public was allowed to ask questions and receive answers. He stated that if no such meeting had ever been held, council was "derelict in your duty to the citizens of this town." He urged council to put everyone in a large enough room where all citizens could attend and ask questions and receive answers about the environmental effects. He stated that he was not interested in hearing about token gestures — such as paying senior citizen memberships — and asked council to help residents understand what is being done. He stated that the entire process "feels like it's being done under the cover of darkness."

**John Nicely, 3767 Main Street:** Mr. Nicely referenced Resolution 33-2024, adopted May 9, 2024, which he stated gave authorization to Gibson to begin capping the gas wells on the property in question. He stated that the resolution indicates the village has been preparing the property for sale and noted that he had personally walked the property and observed clearing of areas and roadways. He stated he did not expect an answer that evening but asked on the record whether there is a deadline between the village and Province to sign a deal in June, and if so, what is the specific date in June — asking whether there is a "drop-dead date" by which the agreement must be signed or the deal falls through. He stated he wanted that question on the record.

**Carmin Pataca, 3885 Red Creek Court:** Mr. Pataca stated that he had been in a leadership role in the retail industry his entire life, and that the message he took from Mayor Gessic's resignation is that Gessic knew he was at fault and backed out. He stated that council now has an opportunity to show leadership in how it moves forward. He told council directly: "You work for us, whether you like it or not. You do what we want, or you're out of office come this election." He noted that he purchased a home in Hidden Village — describing it as a pretty expensive, beautiful neighborhood — and that he has lived in Perry for six years and wishes to retire there. He stated that the proposed development would ruin his long-term plans, decrease the value of his home, and devalue homes in the area by creating a flood of properties for sale in a competitive market. He stated that if a financial advisor caused the equivalent devaluation of his stock portfolio, he would be able to sue each of them, and he asked council to think about their responsibilities accordingly.

**Josh Healan, 4100 Logans Way:** Mr. Nealon stated that he understood questions likely would not be answered but hoped to at least get informal acknowledgment on certain points. He stated that there was confusion about which council initiated the data center process, clarifying that it was the council that began in 2025. He asked for a hand raise from any council member elected in 2025 and serving in 2026. Acting Mayor Coss clarified he was asking about those elected in late 2025 and serving in 2026. Two members raised their hands. Coss noted he was elected in late 2020. Nealon stated for the record that at least three new council members have been seated since the November 2025 election. He stated his understanding was that the previous council — with the exception of one member who is no longer serving — voted in favor of moving forward with the proposal in the prior calendar year. He then asked his primary question: whether there is any contract, agreement, or stipulation preventing any council member from publicly stating whether they are for, against, or undecided on the data center. Council member Pam Jenkins indicated the question should be directed to Solicitor O'Leary as a legal matter. Solicitor O'Leary again stated this is a public comment portion, not a question-and-answer period. Audience members expressed frustration that they could not receive answers on a matter of public concern. Mr. Nealon then stated that this is precisely what residents mean when they complain about lack of transparency. He stated that elected representatives cannot tell the public their position, the public cannot ask in a public forum, positions are not easily accessible online, and residents cannot even understand why positions cannot be shared. He stated this is what people mean when they say everything feels like it is falling on deaf ears.

**Josh Healan:** The same speaker referenced a story in another city where residents there were promised many of the same things Perry residents are being promised today — that electricity bills would not increase, that water use would not increase, and that noise would not be an issue. He stated that since 2022, they have seen their electric bills climb 77 percent — well above the U.S. Energy Information Administration's estimate of a nationwide increase of 13 to 15 percent. He further stated that the community recently learned their utility company will no longer be receiving power, as that power will instead be directed to the data centers themselves, leaving them less than a year to find a new supplier. He concluded: "This is just another example of promises made by these corporations and promises broken."

**Pam Jenkins (Councilmember, in reply):** Councilmember Jenkins briefly responded, stating that council has answered questions from the audience before and that it is not unheard of. She acknowledged she dropped the ball on scheduling a town hall in the prior month, noting she had been absent quite a bit and that council was also managing uncertainty about Mayor Gessic's situation. She stated she still wants to hold a town hall that includes genuine back-and-forth dialogue. She acknowledged that residents may be surprised to find that council does not know much more than the public does, and has discussed the same concerns — water, lights, and other issues. She noted that when Province made their presentation, the public was allowed to attend. She directed residents to the village website for information and committed to working on scheduling a town hall in a larger room.

**Councilmember Curtis Curd,** also invited direct, one-on-one communication with individual council members, stating that all contact information including email addresses and phone numbers is on the website. He invited individual emails and calls, with the caveat that messages must be sent individually rather than to the full council to avoid violating Sunshine Law.

**Carl Setzer:** Mr. Setzer stated he was raised in Painesville and recalled as a child admiring Perry because of how the community stood up to the nuclear power plant and demanded community benefit rather than allowing the plant to get something for free. He stated he had recently run for elected office and lost but remained engaged. He stated that the more transparency, town halls, and answered questions council can provide, the lower the temperature in the room will be. He then addressed a critical legal point: he stated that as Province has structured their deal, if council votes no, Province has a right to sue for breach of contract with no monetary cap. He stated that a half-million-dollar cap was removed during the amendment process. He urged residents and council not to simply say no to the data center, because that could result in lawsuits that would effectively end the village financially. Instead, he urged a strategic approach: make the deal unappealing to Province by denying tax abatements, demanding ongoing revenue in perpetuity — not merely the one-time land sale price — similar to how the nuclear power plant provides ongoing benefit to the community. He stated: "You need to work with your elected officials, your neighbors, your community, and figure out a strategic way to get out of this deal by making it unappealing to Province."

Acting Mayor Coss responded to both Chuck Adams and Carl Setzer by acknowledging that council is working diligently and listening. He stated that the topic of a town hall came up at a previous meeting and he is fully supportive. He stated he believes council would also support a town hall. He made it clear he would support Councilmember Jenkins 100 percent in that effort and would make phone calls to council's attorneys to share information with them. He stated he is not racing to the finish line and does not believe June 30th is a hard deadline. He described Perry as home to him even though he is not a multi-generational resident. He stated that he receives calls and emails both opposing and supporting the data center and wants to do what is in the best interest of Perry as a whole. He stated council genuinely wants to do that as well. Councilmember Jenkins asked whether a formal motion could be made to hold a public Q&A with Province. Acting Mayor Coss stated he would first need to contact Province to determine if

they are willing. Solicitor O'Leary noted that two council members had already gone on record supporting the idea; inviting Province is a separate step.

**Jim Sheesley, 3965 Call Road:** Mr. Sheesley stated that he personally visited a data center in southern Ohio. He described walking in with his girlfriend and speaking directly to the owner on camera and asking about the ecological impacts. He stated the owner — of a small facility — looked him in the eye and said, "We don't know." He stated it is troubling that anyone would consider proceeding with a project where the ecological impacts are unknown. He stated that the pH of water could be affected, larvae could be affected, and if larvae are affected the entire food chain is impacted. He urged council to invest heavily in scientific research before making any decision.

**Kevin Harrison, 927 Skinner Avenue, Painesville:** Mr. Harrison stated he lives in Painesville but has recreated in Perry his entire life. He stated that at the town hall two weeks prior, multiple red flags emerged: Province forced participants into an NDA to keep decisions from the public on a major public issue; they structured the deal so the village cannot exist without consequences; and in the presentation, Province promised the world and addressed none of the community's genuine concerns about electricity, water, land use, or noise pollution. He stated: "If you can't see the red flags right in front of your face, it's just with y'all, and I hope the best."

**Darlene Clore:** Ms. Clore stated she has been carrying a petition regarding data centers for approximately a month after learning about them, and that people signing petitions come from all over the country but are settled in Lake County and other places and have what she described as "horror stories." She stated her philosophy is simple: if she does not want to live by a data center, she does not want anyone else to have to live by one either.

**Nick McNamee, 4058 Castlewood Court:** Mr. McNamee stated he appreciates the time and effort that goes into serving on Village Council and acknowledged that the data center decision is not easy and has many moving parts. He stated the village has reached a point where enough community concern exists that it should actively seek broader public input before moving forward. He stated the silence from the rest of the community should not be interpreted as support — many people are quiet because they are not informed, do not know what to say, and are still trying to understand the implications for schools, community, environment, and quality of life. He urged the Village Council to work together with North Perry Village and Perry Township to gauge where the community as a whole stands. He also addressed meeting accessibility, noting that many people have obligations — sports events, choir concerts, art shows, rec league activities — on the same nights as council meetings, and that he himself had to race over from baseball pictures where he is head coach. He encouraged council to work with the school district and rec department to minimize conflicts with council meeting nights. He acknowledged the step of live-streaming meetings as an improvement but stated it is not sufficient for broader community engagement. He then addressed what he described as a need to stop online accusations that council members are being paid off or acting in malicious intent, stating he has seen no evidence of that and that such accusations do not help the community or the conversation. He stated: "We're where we're at, and continuing to attack each other nonstop is not going to help resolve anything." He concluded by stating he does not want to be on the

wrong side of the issue — neither obstructing a genuinely beneficial project nor allowing a harmful one to proceed — and urged collaboration, facts, transparency, and coming together as a community to figure things out.

**Alex Russo, Cushman & Wakefield:** Mr. Russo introduced himself as having been with the community for the past four years, marketing the property in question for the proposed data center. He stated he has been diligently marketing the property and over the last several years has found one buyer — the Province group — with whom he has been negotiating. He stated the property is being sold in its current as-is condition, with infrastructure improvements to be made at the developer's expense. He then presented a video recorded by Michelle Jarbo, who had interviewed Mayor Gessic and spoken with community members, and attempted to play the video through the meeting's audio-visual system. After some technical difficulties attempting to route the audio, the video was played for those present. No further remarks were made by Mr. Russo following the video.

**Monica Batali, Shaker Heights:** Ms. Batali stated she does not live in Perry but drinks from Lake Erie along with her family and many people living around the lake and downstream in Pennsylvania, New York, and Canada. She stated she finds it appalling that the Ohio Legislature is passing laws that incentivize data centers without regulating their output or protecting neighborhoods from potentially toxic materials entering drinking water. She noted that tens of data centers are appearing all over Ohio and that the City of Cleveland rejected one in Slavic Village that same day. She noted that Oberlin is also working against one. She stated that council has the opportunity to stand up for the people living in the area and for the lake, despite the Ohio Legislature's apparent disinterest in regulating these facilities. She urged council to be fully informed on all side effects and long-term repercussions before making any decision.

**Gail (last name not stated), Narrows Road, Perry Village:** Ms. Gail stated she lives right next to the nursery and that the data center would be built directly adjacent to her property. She described herself as a 64-year-old lifelong Perry resident who graduated from Perry High School in 1980. She stated she grew up on Route 20, returned to Perry in 1987, and with her husband — who is from Willowick and whom she met in the Army National Guard — built a 3,700-square-foot, five-bedroom, three-and-a-half bath home on an acre and a quarter because they love Perry. She described their property as having apple trees, raspberry plants, a barn, and wildlife including deer, foxes, and coyotes. She described her son Tom as living in Azalea Ridge with three sons who will attend the local school. She expressed profound concern about noise from the facility affecting her visits to Perry Cemetery where her father — who was born in Perry on Thompson Street and died at age 57 from mesothelioma after working at Diamond Shamrock — is buried. She described her own health concerns, including a heart condition since age 45 and her husband's history of pulmonary embolisms. She also stated she recently told her cardiologist she expects to be sick in three years because she will be living next to a data center, and that her cardiologist responded, "I am so sorry, Gail." She expressed concern about contaminants in the water and air, brown water visible in YouTube videos from areas near data centers, the fate of 250 acres of land, and the permanent legacy of the facility once it is no longer needed —

drawing the parallel to the abandoned legacy of Diamond Shamrock. She thanked council for listening.

**Tom Lucas, 4350 Casa Bella Drive (second appearance):** Mr. Lucas returned to the podium to relay that at a council meeting he attended recently, it was announced — he was not certain if it was intended to be disclosed — that there is an agreement between Meta and the power plant to sell 88 acres that served as a buffer zone, and that Meta is proposing to put a facility there. He stated he has been in contact with the Mayor of North Perry, who said he had not been notified of anything but that the deal is supposedly moving very quickly. Solicitor O'Leary responded that, per a published article by reporter DeBus from the North Perry Village meeting, Mayor Titus went on record stating there has been no discussion in North Perry about the matter. O'Leary clarified that if such an agreement is proceeding, it is between the power plant and Meta alone, and neither the village nor the public has any right to be part of that discussion.

Solicitor O'Leary then announced that there would be no action taken on the data center at that night's meeting, and invited members of the public to stay for the remainder of the meeting or to leave, at their discretion.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Acting Mayor Coss requested motions to approve three sets of meeting minutes.

**April 9, 2026, Regular Council Meeting Minutes:** Councilmember Pam Jenkins made the motion; Councilmember Becky Shimko seconded. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. Minutes approved unanimously.

**April 21, 2026, Special Council Meeting Minutes:** Motion was made by Fiscal Officer Roskos; Becky seconded. Roll call was taken. Solicitor O'Leary noted mid-vote that Pam Jenkins was not present at that meeting; Councilmember Jenkins confirmed she was absent and abstained. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, abstain; Curtis Curd, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. Minutes approved.

**April 23, 2026, Special Council Meeting Minutes:** Motion and second were made. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. Minutes approved unanimously.

## **LEGISLATION**

Fiscal Officer Roskos presented the following legislation:

### **Resolution No. 20-2026 (Second Reading)**

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to take all actions necessary to apply for the PEP+ Grant Program to fund Safety, Risk Control and declaring an emergency

**Resolution 21-2026 (Second Reading):** A resolution supporting and urging the Ohio General Assembly to pass Ohio House Bill 695 (HB 695) and declaring an emergency. On second reading; no vote taken.

**Resolution No. 22-2026 (First Reading)**

A resolution approving the proposed Tax Budget in the form attached hereto for the Village of Perry, Ohio, for Fiscal Year 2027, and declaring an emergency. On first reading; no vote taken.

**Resolution 23-2026 (First Reading)**

A resolution by the Council of the Village of Perry, Lake County, Ohio, to levy assessments for the improvement of various streets in the village by supplying such streets with electric street lighting and sidewalks and declaring an emergency. On first reading; no vote taken.

**Resolution No. 24-2026 (First Reading; Recommendation to Suspend the Three-Reading Rule)**

A resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to amend the Certificate of Estimated Resources for the Year 2026 and declaring an emergency

Roskos explained that the primary reason for this resolution is to add funds coming from the Lake County Department of Utilities for the Green Street Water Line Improvement Project. He stated the county initially agreed to pay the contractor directly but later determined they would prefer the village to pay the contractor and then be reimbursed. Therefore, the village needs to ensure its certificate of estimated resources is accurate and reflects the incoming county funds. Councilmember Curtis Curd asked for clarification — confirming that the village becomes essentially a pass-through entity for the Lake County Department of Utilities. Roskos confirmed that is correct. Motion to suspend the three-reading rule: Mike Glover moved; second received by Becky Shimko. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. Motion to approve Resolution 24-2026: moved by Brian Farley and seconded by Curtis Curd. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. Approved unanimously.

**Resolution No. 25-2026 (First Reading; Recommendation to Suspend the Three-Reading Rule)**

A resolution amending Resolution No. 51-2025 and approving the Permanent Appropriations Funds for the Village of Perry, Ohio for the Year 2026 and declaring an emergency.

Roskos detailed the following appropriation increases being requested: (1) Personal Services — Police Chief: from \$92,513.78 to \$150,500, due to the impending hire of a new police chief

(current line item exhausted); (2) Medicare — Police Chief: from \$1,341.47 to \$2,182; (3) Motor Vehicles: from \$210,000 to \$270,000, due to quotes for the proposed new plow truck coming in approximately \$45,000 higher than anticipated; (4) Land and Land Improvements: from \$6,100 to \$11,000, to address potential removal of additional dead trees in the village; (5) Street Fund 2011 — Streets, Highways, Sidewalks and Curbs (Green Street Project): from \$207,200 to \$349,200, due to bids for the asphalt work on Green Street coming in significantly higher than originally estimated; (6) Fund 2907 — Property Maintenance/General Welfare (new line item): from \$0 to \$7,000, for the proposed purchase of laptops for council and the mayor plus basic software, which would be usable at Village Hall and during meetings; (7) Fund 4901 — Utility Distribution Systems (Green Street Water Line Improvement): from \$0 to \$1,100,000, to be fully funded by reimbursement from Lake County for the Green Street Water Line Improvement Project.

Councilmember Pam Jenkins asked whether laptops had been previously approved. Roskos clarified that this resolution would provide the appropriation/funding authority, but council would still decide separately whether to proceed with the purchase. Acting Mayor Coss explained his longstanding view that council-issued laptops would improve efficiency — reducing the time and paper required to prepare and distribute meeting materials, improving communications, and creating clear separation between village business and personal accounts. He noted that some council members do not have personal laptops. Solicitor O'Leary added that village-issued laptops, particularly if managed through Lake County IT, would also make public records responses more efficient and legally defensible by providing administrative access through back-end IT systems. Discussion ensued about estimated costs: approximately \$600 to \$700 per basic laptop, plus a software package of approximately \$2,000, totaling approximately \$7,000 for six units (council and mayor). Council agreed the allocation was reasonable. Roskos confirmed that Lake County IT would be coming onsite within one to two weeks and could potentially provide bulk purchasing discounts and set up appropriate security protocols and administrative access for public records purposes.

Regarding the Green Street \$1,100,000 appropriation, Councilmember Mike Glover asked whether there was a way to note in year-end budget documents that the inflated figure is due to pass-through county funding and not a general expenditure. Roskos confirmed that because the funds are in a separate fund coded specifically to the Green Street project, auditors and the public would be able to identify that the expenditures relate entirely to that project, with a corresponding revenue entry showing the county reimbursement.

Motion to suspend the three-reading rule: moved by Mike Glover and seconded by Curtis Curd. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. Motion to approve Resolution 25-2026: moved by Becky Shimko and seconded by Mike Glover. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. Approved unanimously.

**Resolution No. 26-2026** (First Reading; Recommendation to Suspend the Three-Reading Rule)

A resolution authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer of the Village to accept the bid and enter into a contract with D.B. Bentley Inc. for the Green Street Waterline Replacement and Roadway Improvements within the Village and declaring an emergency

This resolution was the subject of extended discussion. Village Engineer Robert Parker (Bob) presented the bid results. He stated that both the waterline project and the Green Street overlay were bid together for economies of scale. The engineer's estimate for the total bid package was \$1.9 million: \$1.4 million for the waterline and \$500,000 for the Green Street reconstruction. Bentley submitted the low bid at \$1,744,000. Siteworks was the other bidder at \$1,820,000. However, the waterline portion came in at \$995,000 (favorable) and the roadway project came in at \$750,000 — resulting in the asphalt/roadway portion coming in \$250,000 over the \$500,000 estimate, for a total project overage of approximately \$250,000. Parker attributed the overrun to two factors: (1) the village was late to the bidding market, as many asphalt contractors already had full plates for the season, reducing competition; and (2) the ongoing situation in the Middle East causing oil prices to rise significantly, which is directly reflected in increased asphalt prices over the past month.

Parker presented two options: Option A — Accept the waterline bid (Part A) and reject the asphalt/roadway bid (Part B), deferring the road work to the following spring when it could be rebid, potentially combined with other municipalities' paving projects for greater economies of scale. He noted that OPWC grant funds could be transferred to the following year with OPWC's cooperation. Option B — Award both bids, move forward now despite the \$250,000 cost overrun.

Parker recommended Option A, noting a precedent from a Perry Township project on Shepherd Road where a bid came in at \$1.2–\$1.3 million due to late-season asphalt pricing, was rejected, and when rebid the following spring came in at \$900,000. Acting Mayor Coss supported Parker's recommendation. He noted that deferring also allows the village to combine Green Street with Maple Street (see below) and potentially with other municipal paving programs for Perry Township, Madison Township, and North Perry Village — which the village has successfully done in prior years — to attract better bidders and unit prices. He acknowledged the risk that Middle East tensions could worsen and asphalt prices could be even higher next year but stated he believed the benefits of deferral outweighed the risks. He also noted that proceeding with Green Street simultaneously with the Green Road drainage project would create significant traffic problems.

**Council member Mike Glover asked clarifying questions**, confirming that Part B (the roadway/asphalt portion) would be rejected, not deferred, that Bentley does not perform asphalt work (it is done by a subcontractor), and that the road widening component is part of the asphalt/Part B scope. Parker confirmed the legal ability to award the full project since the total bid is within 20% of the engineer's estimate but reiterated that the recommendation is to accept Part A only.

Motion to suspend the three-reading rule: moved by Mike Glover and seconded by Brian Farley. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. Motion to accept bid Part A (waterline) and reject bid Part B

(roadway resurfacing): moved by Acting Mayor Coss; seconded by Brian Farley. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. Approved unanimously.

**Resolution No. 27-2026** (First Reading; Recommendation to Suspend the Three-Reading Rule)

A resolution authorizing Mayor James A. Gessic and Village Engineer Robert Parker to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or Local Transportation Improvement Program (s) and to execute contracts as required

Parker explained that the application covers an overlay of Main Street from Center Street out to Harper, plus Thompson Street and the triangle formed by Thompson and Harper, with a total construction estimate of approximately \$600,000. The village is applying for 50% OPWC funding (approximately \$300,000). Pre-application was already completed and reviewed by Fiscal Officer Roskos; the application is due the following Friday. The ordinance is needed to authorize submission. Bob Parker noted that Main Street from Center to...the remaining portion — would be addressed in a future OPWC application cycle. He noted the village has applied three times and received funding all three times. Motion to suspend three-reading rule: moved by Pam Jenkins; seconded by Becky Shimko. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. Motion to approve Resolution 27-2026: moved by Becky Shimko and seconded by Curtis Curd. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. Approved unanimously.

**Resolution 28-2026 (First Reading — Retained on First Reading):** A resolution authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into a contract for construction administration services with SBJ Consulting Inc. for the Green Street Waterline Replacement and Roadway Improvement Project and declaring an emergency. Roskos noted that the village was waiting to determine the direction on the project before proceeding. Acting Mayor Coss clarified that with the decision to accept Part A only, and with Lake County Department of Utilities expected to administer the waterline contract, a separate contract with SBJ Consulting may no longer be needed. Retained on first reading; no vote taken.

**Resolution No. 29-2026** (First Reading; Recommendation to Suspend the Three-Reading Rule)

A resolution authorizing the Acting Mayor to purchase a truck chassis from Cleveland Freightliner, utilizing Daimler Truck North America, and related vehicle equipment from MTech utilizing ARM Truckcorp (aka Truckcorp LLC), through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program, and declaring an emergency.

Roskos explained that the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program is a national cooperative purchasing vehicle that allows the village to bypass standard bid requirements pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 9.48. Acting Mayor Coss explained the need and background extensively: the

existing plow truck is on its absolute last leg — one of the 4700s recently had a tire blow out and required a service call because the lug nuts were torqued at an extreme level, and the trucks are consistently experiencing auger and hydraulic system failures. The trucks are approximately 20 to 30 years old. While low in mileage, they are exposed to harsh winter conditions including salt. In addition, the village will need to plow two to four additional roads this winter due to new development in Hidden Village and Booth Farms. He stated the need was budgeted in advance over several years. The price has increased approximately \$40,000 due to the situation in the Middle East, raising steel and parts costs. The specific vehicle selected is a Freightliner M2106 in red (Perry's colors; no additional cost vs. white). An upgraded, larger alternator was also specified. The chassis alone is approximately \$110,000 to \$111,000; the customization and outfitting bring the total to approximately \$240,000. Coss explained an extensive competitive evaluation process: multiple vendors brought trucks to the village for road department drivers to test, and Acting Mayor Coss personally plowed village roads in prior years and compared driving experiences. A Freightliner with a sloped hood was selected due to dramatically improved forward visibility for drivers — a significant safety feature — and superior turning radius. The road department expects the chassis to be delivered within four months (by September) and then outfitted, with a target of full completion by November before winter. The purchase will be paid in cash (no financing). Pam Jenkins asked about the feasibility of payment plans; Roskos confirmed this would be paid in full. Council discussed the cost, the age of existing equipment, and the increasing maintenance burden. Coss noted that road visibility is particularly important given damage to new homes in Booth Farms facing Main Street, where approximately two to three feet of property gets torn up almost every year during plowing. Motion to suspend three-reading rule: moved by Becky Shimko; seconded by Brian Farley. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. Motion to approve Resolution 29-2026: moved by Becky Shimko and seconded by Curtis Curd. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. Approved unanimously.

#### **Ordinance No. 2026-02** (Third Reading)

An Ordinance amending Section 121.01 and 121.03(1)(a) Standing Rules of Order for Village Council of the Village of Perry Codified Ordinances to amend the start time for Village Council Meetings and declaring an emergency

Roskos reminded council this is the ordinance to move regular meetings from 7:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Motion to approve made by Pam Jenkins and seconded by Mike Glover. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. Approved unanimously. Roskos noted he will confirm the required public notification period before the change takes effect. Council member Becky Shimko asked how public hearings will be scheduled going forward; Roskos confirmed they can be held within the regular council meeting, scheduled simultaneously at the meeting's opening as was done with the tax budget hearing that evening.

#### **Ordinance No. 2026-03** (First Reading)

An Ordinance amending Section 522.2.06 of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Perry to increase Vacant Structure Registration Fees and declaring an emergency

On first reading, no vote taken.

**Ordinance No. 2026-05** (Second Reading)

An Ordinance prohibiting members of Village Council and the Mayor from entering into nondisclosure agreements regarding public matters, creating Sections 731.142 and 733.241 of the Municipal Ordinances of the Village of Perry, and declaring an emergency

On second reading; no vote taken.

**Ordinance No. 2026-06** (Second Reading)

An Ordinance amending Chapter 121 of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Perry, and declaring an emergency.

On second reading; no vote taken.

**Ordinance No. 2026-07** (First Reading)

An Ordinance regulating the use of consumer fireworks within the Village of Perry, Ohio and declaring an emergency.

Council member Brian presented this ordinance he had developed and stated he was looking for feedback before any amendments or action. Solicitor O'Leary provided background, noting that approximately three years ago the Ohio Revised Code was changed to allow consumer fireworks, and that in order to be more restrictive than the state allows, a village must codify its own restrictions. O'Leary stated the ordinance should standardize dates — e.g., the day before and day of Memorial Day — rather than specific calendar dates that change year to year, to ensure consistent enforceability. He suggested suspending the rules at the June meeting to get the ordinance in place before July 4th. Acting Mayor Coss stated that under the current Ohio Revised Code, the permissible window for July 4th alone includes two full weekends plus the 3rd, 4th, and 5th — a span of approximately 28 days; the draft ordinance significantly reduces this. Safety distance requirements from the Ohio Revised Code (50, 100, and 150 feet depending on firework type) are also incorporated, which will prevent discharge in many Perry Village locations regardless of date. Council discussed the following points: the removal of a prohibition near churches was raised by Brian, who noted churches may want to hold July 4th gatherings on their property and should not be restricted from doing so; Pam Jenkins noted that some nearby municipalities (Fairport, Timberlake) do not allow consumer fireworks at all; council noted that July 4<sup>th</sup> falls on a Wednesday for example, this could create practical issues with limiting fireworks to only the calendar date; and O'Leary suggested the final ordinance reference holiday weekends broadly rather than fixed calendar dates. Acting Mayor Coss noted last year's resolution only covered the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of July. O'Leary clarified the village's current ordinance or resolution would remain in place in the absence of the new ordinance. Council

agreed to provide written feedback to Brian before the June meeting. Retained on first reading; no vote taken.

**Ordinance No. 2026-08** (First Reading)

An Ordinance adopting a cybersecurity program for the Village of Perry, Ohio, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code § 9.64 and declaring an emergency.

Roskos explained that a new state legislative requirement mandates that all municipalities have a cybersecurity policy in place by July 1, 2026. The draft policy was developed by Lake County IT, which will also assist with additional items that must be developed as part of the program. Retained on first reading; no vote taken.

**MAYOR'S REPORT (Delivered by Acting Mayor Elias Coss)**

**Plow Truck Update:** Acting Mayor Coss briefly reiterated that the new Freightliner M2106 plow truck is being purchased in red (Perry's color), with an upgraded alternator. He noted the decision was confirmed with the road department and vendors earlier that day. No further update needed beyond what was presented under legislation.

**Police Chief Interviews:** Coss reported that second-round interviews for police chief candidates have been completed. The village began with 13 to 15 original applicants (two withdrew early), narrowed to five finalists. Coss is conducting HR background checks on all finalists through various departments and jurisdictions, which is time-consuming. He anticipates wrapping up the process soon.

**Administrative Assistant Position:** Coss reported that this new part-time, no-benefits position received 80 applications after being posted in late March. Fiscal Officer Roskos reviewed all 80 resumes while Coss reviewed the first 50. Their lists independently identified the same top eight candidates. A total of 14 candidates were selected for phone interviews; Coss and Roskos conducted five interviews on Tuesday, six on Wednesday, and two on Thursday of that week. The pool was narrowed to seven finalists. Coss stated he will reach out to council to schedule in-person interviews where council members can meet candidates and ask questions, with the goal of filling the position as quickly as possible.

**SOLICITOR REPORT:**

Solicitor O'Leary stated he wanted to go on record acknowledging how much he appreciated working alongside Mayor Jim Gessic since 2020 and stated Gessic would be missed. He then announced that he had previously been scheduled to step aside at the end of March 2026 but extended his tenure due to ongoing issues before the village. He stated he would like the June 2026 meeting to be his last meeting and requested that council put out an advertisement for solicitor candidates. He stated he is available to participate in the selection process or not, at council's discretion. Mike Glover stated a resolution would be needed to authorize advertising for the position; a motion was made, seconded, and approved by Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Becky Shimko, yes.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

**Drainage Project / Green Street / Thompson:** Bob Parker reported that Bentley completed work on Center Street — grading, ADA ramp installation, and paving — in preparation for the Memorial Day parade. On Green & Thompson, the crew discovered numerous utility conflicts that were not previously marked; these were resolved. Work on Green Street will resume after Memorial Day due to school bus traffic concerns.

**Manchester Road Bridge:** While not a village project, Parker reported stopping by and speaking with the bridge contractors. They are approximately two to three weeks ahead of schedule in driving pylons. Parker could not make a 100% guarantee it would be open by the following Monday but described progress as positive.

**Catch Basin / Sidewalk Project:** The village solicited quotes for two catch basins and sidewalk work on Thompson and Main Streets. Bentley submitted the lowest bid at \$52,000, significantly below other bids. The village moved forward with Bentley given they are already on-site with other work.

**Red Creek Deadfall Removal:** American Pride Tree of Perry was hired to clear deadfalls from sections of Red Creek. He explained that Red Creek is the primary drainage for the village; deadfalls across the creek impede flow and can cause flooding. The work was completed as of Monday the 4th. The cost is reimbursed through stormwater funds. He stated this work will be performed on additional sections each year.

**OPWC Round 44 Application / Maple Street:** Parker reported that Perry Village was awarded \$169,400 in OPWC funds — representing 60% of the project cost — for Maple Street. The total project estimate is \$282,800. He explained that OPWC funding is a combination of grant and zero-percent loan over 20 years, and that taking the loan is required to maximize point scoring in the OPWC application process, though there is no practical downside.

## **FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT**

Report was submitted in writing; Fiscal Officer Roskos also stated that the RITA (Regional Income Tax Agency) holds its annual meeting on June 11th and requested a motion authorizing him to act as delegate for the Village of Perry. Motion made by Becky Shimko; seconded by Mike Glover. Roll call: all six council members — Yes. Approved. He also noted that Lake County IT will begin working on the village's systems within one to two weeks.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Coss noted the police report was included in council's packet. He acknowledged Lt. Collins for preparing a well-organized, easy-to-follow report. He noted that citation numbers are up compared to prior periods, largely due to increased patrol at Booth Farms in response to complaints from residents about vehicles running stop signs. Coss personally went on ride-alongs with and witnessed two vehicles being pulled over within 15 to 20 minutes. He also stated that, due to the Manchester Road Bridge closure increasing cut-through traffic in Dugan Farms,

he has directed Lieutenant Collins and the rest of the department to increase patrol in that area. He expressed concern about children's safety as school lets out and summer begins.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Coss stated he has a meeting scheduled for the following Monday with the road department to review direction, expectations, and special projects. He described the goal as building relationships and ensuring all parties are on the same page.

### **ZONING REPORT**

Christian reported that the zoning permit report with numbers to date is included in the packet. Upcoming items: a public hearing on rezoning parcels associated with the Hidden Village development is scheduled for June 11th at 6:00 PM. A Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for the following Wednesday.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/JEDD/PEDC**

Acting Mayor Coss noted he has not attended a JEDD or Planning Commission meeting while the mayor's seat was effectively vacant. Councilmember Mike Glover raised a concern that the Perry Economic Development Council (PEDC) has not held a meeting in approximately a year (likely since the previous March or May). He noted the PEDC has eight total representatives — two each from Perry Village, Perry Township, North Perry Village, and the school. He stated the organization has an agent earning approximately \$1,000 per month and it would be important to know what that agent is doing. Glover suggested that JEDD meetings and PEDC meetings had become separated over time, with the PEDC being pushed to the background. He requested that contact be made to reinstate regular PEDC meetings. Council agreed to follow up. Glover noted the JEDD has one representative per municipality and historically met at 7:00 AM, with the PEDC following at 8:30 PM. An audience member (Roy) confirmed no upcoming JEDD meeting had been set.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Council was informed by Becky Shimko that Planning Commission member Heather had stepped down, and that Acting Mayor Coss would need to appoint a replacement. Shimko recommended appointing a younger community member — someone in their late 20s, 30s, or 40s — noting that new perspectives are needed.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

#### **ELIAS COSS:**

**Joint Governmental Affairs Forum / Intergovernmental Relations:** Acting Mayor Coss reported that Perry Village is hosting all Joint Governmental Affairs Forum meetings this year

(typically three meetings annually), which are held on Mondays at 8:00 AM. He stated he has had a conversation with Councilmember Brian about moving these meetings to later in the day so that council members who work until 4:30 or 5:00 PM (such as Curtis and Brian) can attend without taking time off. He stated he will contact all participating entities to explore rescheduling, though he made no promises. He noted this is a formal commitment meeting and all entities send at least one or two representatives.

**Police Department Updates:** They are looking to fill 2 full-time spots; Lt. Collins has some resumes.

**Other Miscellaneous:** Thanked the Fire Department for their support of the levy; also thanked Rick Walker on the Fire Board for the monthly report, noted that retirement for Cumberland is coming up. Noted that the Senior Center Casino Night raised \$6,677; it was a lot of work, vendors went well. Currently, we have 676 members at the Senior Center. Youth Recreation: Matt is finalizing summer programs and will have their website soon; additional details were discussed.

#### **BRIAN FARLEY:**

Councilmember Brian reported that Acting Mayor Coss, himself, representatives from the school board, and a few others were invited by Maria Rusnak of Perry to attend a meeting with Dr. Michael Cork, a Harvard physician specializing in data center air pollution risks. The presentation covered projected air pollution impacts extending over several miles. Dr. Cork also offers consulting services to communities in this process. Maria Rusnak has posted a recording of the meeting to YouTube and shared the link with Coss. Brian noted that Dr. Cork's expertise is focused on air pollution; water pollution and sound pollution fall outside his specialty. Brian stated the community health, and safety is his top priority and that he intends to look at multiple health study options, including but not limited to Dr. Cork, to find the most comprehensive assessment available.

**Data Center —Province Response to Community Questions:** Farley reported that Council member Nick McNamee (in attendance at the meeting) had submitted questions to the Province Group, which took a long time to respond. After council pushed for a response, a large document of answers was received that day. Coss forwarded it to McNamee that morning, and McNamee posted it to the community Facebook page. Coss stated the document is lengthy and he had not yet reviewed it, but that Fiscal Officer Roskos can post it as a link on the village website in PDF format, which Roskos confirmed is easily done.

**Communication Committee:** Brian Farley stated he will present Acting Mayor a list of nominees for a newly formed Communication Committee at the next meeting. He is seeking community members with diverse ideas about improving village communications. He encouraged any interested residents to contact him.

**Township Relations / Collaboration:** Farley reported attending the Perry Township trustees' meeting on Tuesday and having productive discussions about potential collaboration — such as

jointly purchasing equipment (e.g., plow trucks) to achieve better pricing through economies of scale. He expressed enthusiasm about expanding that intergovernmental relationship.

**Commendation — Police Officers:** Farley commended Officer Jacobson and Sergeant Orf for professionally and compassionately handling a situation in which a homeless individual came into Village Hall during the finance committee meeting.

**MIKE GLOVER:**

Glover addressed Mayor Gessic's retirement, stating that it would be a disservice to judge Gessic's entire tenure solely on the data center issue. He noted that Gessic worked countless hours behind the scenes that most council members and residents never saw — plowing roads through 12-hour winter nights without compensation to give the road department time off during holidays, and leading council through a period of significant financial recovery. He stated: "He basically got this village into a much better position than we were when he started, and he deserves credit for that." He formally stated his appreciation for Mayor Gessic's dedication as a public official.

Glover reiterated the need for the PEDC to resume regular meetings (as noted above). He praised Councilmembers Curtis and Brian for attending the finance committee meeting on Tuesday to better understand the budget — acknowledging that effective budget oversight requires understanding how to read the budget rather than relying entirely on the fiscal officer. He gave special thanks to Fiscal Officer Roskos for his ability to answer detailed questions without even looking at notes. Glover also raised the topic of the village's public records officer (PRO) role: he stated that Fiscal Officer Roskos serves as the village's PRO, and that when public records requests are made — including requests for emails — Roskos needs the ability to access council email accounts directly rather than having to ask individual council members to provide records, which creates an opportunity for records to be withheld if a member were acting improperly. Glover recommended that Roskos have administrative access to all council email accounts, ideally through a secondary IT-managed credential rather than individual member passwords. Solicitor O'Leary and others agreed this is exactly why village-issued laptops managed through Lake County IT are valuable — the county IT system can provide administrative access that protects both the fiscal officer's ability to fulfill records requests and individual council members' privacy. An audience member from the private sector noted that his employer (Progressive Insurance) uses exactly this system. Roskos agreed to raise this directly with Lake County IT when they begin their onsite work within the next week or two.

**PAM JENKINS:**

Jenkins reported on the following: (1) Parks Committee — The third park committee meeting was held on Tuesday and is going well; (2) Earth Day Event — Held on April 26th, good weather, good turnout, relaxed atmosphere, kite-flying, various activities; (3) Summer Fun Day — Planned for July 12th with a luau theme focused on water activities, similar to a prior successful event; (4) Community Garden — Fence is now installed after some difficulty, plots will be marked by Jenkins, Barb, and John Howley the following day, shed has been cleaned out, new hose installed with speed bump crossings, ready by that Saturday; (5) Pickleball Courts —

Already addressed under Acting Mayor's report; (6) Nature Works Grant — The committee decided to postpone applying for this grant until next year, as the July 1st deadline was too close given the committee's recent formation, and the pickleball court work was already consuming significant energy; (7) PEP Grant — Through the village's insurance underwriter, a \$1,000 grant is available to improve safety. Jenkins investigated installation of a barrier gate across the park driveway, obtaining three quotes: Shannon Fence — \$1,945 for a galvanized swing gate on two-inch galvanized posts set in concrete; Henry Fence — \$2,150 for a three-inch galvanized gate; T&T Fence- \$3,200. Jenkins noted the gate at 17 feet 7 inches wide would be locked each night by a police officer and opened each morning, with hooks to secure the gate when open. She stated the resolution authorizing the mayor to take all actions necessary for the PEP grant is on second reading; once that passes, the purchase decision would rest with the acting mayor. Solicitor O'Leary asked her to forward all three quotes to full council (for information only, not to discuss via email to avoid Sunshine Law issues) before the next meeting, so a vote can be taken then. Acting Mayor Coss noted that an extra \$200 for a three-inch pipe versus two-inch pipe may be worthwhile and suggested Jenkins obtain clarification on the specifications from the two lowest bidders; (8) Park Tasks List — Jenkins and the park committee developed a list of summer maintenance tasks for the road crew to complete in the park; (9) Earth Day Help — Six PSL students and one recurring high school volunteer helped at the event; the fire department was called to move heavy picnic tables out of the shelter pathway using their truck, and Jenkins praised this as an example of small-town community spirit; (10) Battery Collection Box — Jenkins raised the ongoing issue of the battery tube disposal program. Acting Mayor Coss clarified the miscommunication: the fire marshal stated the location at the corner of the building is acceptable, but the existing tube cannot be used — a specially designed fire-safe battery storage box is required, estimated at approximately \$200. Coss stated he would personally pay for the box. Once received, the road crew can install it. The program had been well-received, with many batteries being dropped off; (11) Fishing Derby — Jenkins and Becky Shimko discussed the annual fishing derby, tentatively the first Saturday of June (approximately June 6th). Becky Shimko offered to contact Jim McMillan — former Boy Scout leader who organized the prior fall festival fishing event — to see if he would coordinate the derby again. McMillan previously provided tackle boxes and fishing-related prizes in lieu of trophies, which were very popular with children. Roskos noted the village applies annually for a state grant of approximately \$500 to stock the pond; the grant was applied for but not yet received, and in the prior year the check arrived after the derby. A member of the public offered to donate brand new fishing tackle for prizes. Acting Mayor Coss asked who handles stocking the pond; Roskos stated he has the vendor's information on file.

**Councilmember Becky Shimko:** Shimko stated she had no major report items, noting she missed the last Planning Commission meeting due to illness, and Christian covered everything. She reiterated the need to fill the Planning Commission vacancy left by Heather's departure with a younger community member (late 20s to 40s).

#### **PURCHASE AND EXPENSE APPROVALS**

Acting Mayor Coss requested a motion to approve purchases from April 6th through May 7th. Motion made; seconded. Roll call vote: Elias Coss, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Pam Jenkins, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Becky Shimko, yes. Approved unanimously.

## **SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Resident : Josh Healan,** This resident asked for clarification about what any potential town hall with Province would look like, stating that a presentation by Province telling the village how great the project is one thing, but what the community really wants is to hear directly from their elected representatives — where they stand on the issue, what they see as the pros and cons, and why. He stated there are many rumors about council members circulating in the community, that they are not true, and that direct communication from council members would help dispel them. He also asked council whether they primarily use Google Docs; discussion ensued about the village's use of Microsoft Office and occasional Google Docs. He suggested Chromebooks as a cost-effective alternative if the Lake County IT arrangement does not work out, since content stored in the cloud on Chromebooks is more easily accessible for records purposes. Acting Mayor Coss thanked him.

**Nick McNamee:** Stated that if Province money ultimately comes to the village, he could think of nothing more important than using it to harden the school — specifically metal detectors or other school security improvements — to protect children in the event of an emergency. He urged council to research what such improvements would cost and prioritize those children's safety above all other potential uses of data center revenue.

Acting Mayor Coss responded by affirming that the school and fire department are at the forefront of his thinking and that he has brought both institutions to the table in discussions. He stated he meets with them at least once a month and that John Roskos also joins the school meeting. He echoed Glover's and McNamee's sentiments that the fire department often gets overlooked in financial discussions, and that funding historically available from the state or from the nuclear power plant has significantly decreased over the years. He stated both the school and fire department are very much a priority concern.

**Bill DeBus (News-Herald):** Mr. DeBus asked several questions. First, he requested that someone email him the exact number of applicants for the police chief position, as he plans to write a story on it. Acting Mayor Coss agreed to do so. Second, he noted it was the first he had heard of the part-time administrative assistant position and asked whether it was full-time. Coss clarified it is part-time with no benefits, that it had been budgeted for the prior year, attracted 80 applicants after posting in late March, and that phone interviews had been completed with 13 of 14 candidates. DeBus also asked: (1) the effective date of Mayor Gessic's retirement letter — Coss confirmed it was effective that day; (2) whether council would provide a fall festival update at the June meeting — Coss confirmed yes; and (3) whether council would hold a July meeting given the volume of activity — Coss said it had not been discussed but may be warranted.

**Jim Sheesley:** Asked who was in charge of the Fish Derby, as he has unused Fishing Gear he would like to donate; he can drop donated goods off at the Hall once we figure out who is organizing the event.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Before the executive session, Acting Mayor Coss took a moment to echo Councilmember Glover's earlier tribute to Mayor Gessic, stating that Gessic put in countless hours — raking and picking up leaves, plowing roads to give the road department holiday breaks — and that he took over during a period of financial difficulty and helped lead the village to a significantly improved financial position. Coss stated he wanted to honor that record publicly.

Solicitor O'Leary requested that Council go into executive session for the following reasons:

- (a) To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official.
- (b) To consider the purchase of property for public purposes, the sale of property (ORC 121.22 (G)(2) at competitive bidding, or the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property in accordance with section 505.10 of the Revised Code, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest.

Inviting Council and Solicitor O'Leary, action is not anticipated but may be taken after executive session.

Motion to enter Executive Session was made by Brian Farley and seconded by Pam Jenkins.  
Vote to enter Executive Session: Elias Coss, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Pamela Jenkins, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Rebecca Shimko, yes; and Mike Glover, yes  
Executive Session began at 10:02 p.m.

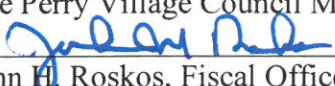
Elias Coss made a motion to come out of executive session, and Brian Farley seconded the motion. All in favor voted yes, and executive session closed at 11:10 p.m.

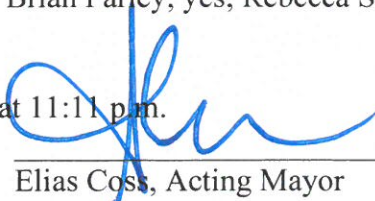
The council room door was reopened, and Council resumed their normal meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Rebecca Shimko made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mike Glover.  
Vote to Adjourn: Elias Coss, yes; Curtis Curd, yes; Brian Farley, yes; Rebecca Shimko, yes; and Mike Glover, yes

The Perry Village Council Meeting was adjourned at 11:11 p.m.

  
John H. Roskos, Fiscal Officer

  
Elias Coss, Acting Mayor

Posted July 15, 2026