

GRIFFITH PUBLIC SAFETY BOARD

March 2, 2023

The Griffith Safety Board was called to order by Chairman George Jerome at 6:30 P.M.

Those in Attendance

George Jerome	Griffith Safety Board Chairman
Liz Goral	Griffith Safety Board Vice Chairman
RoAnn Purgert	Griffith Safety Board Secretary
Phil Vechey	Griffith Safety Board Member
Sue Katona	Griffith Safety Board Member
Rick Ryfa	Town Council Police Department Liaison – Absent
Melissa Robbins	Town Council Fire Department Liaison – Absent

The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance. The following items were discussed:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of February 2, 2023 Minutes

PSB Member Goral made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2023 Public Safety Board Meeting as presented.

PSB Member Vechey seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5 – 0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Griffith F.O.P. Lodge #161 – F.O.P. Golf Outing

F.O.P. President R. Hemphill advised the Griffith F.O.P. will be hosting a Golf Outing on Friday, June 2, 2023. The outing will have an 11:00 A.M. Shotgun Start, and will be held at the Scherwood Golf Course, located at 600 E. Joliet St., Schererville, Indiana. There will be a 50-50 Raffle, Longest Drive, Closest to the Hole, and more. Food and beverage will be included at Bridges Scoreboard Restaurant after the outing. Cost is \$400 per foursome, and \$100 for Hole Sponsor. A "Super Sponsor" deal is available for \$1,000 which will include a foursome, Hole Sponsor, and Name on a Banner. Points of contact for the Golf Outing will be Officer Michael Abel and Officer Tony Hemphill.

COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS

1. Griffith Police Department

Commander J. Sibley read the monthly report for January 2023.

2. Griffith Fire Department

Chief Schoon read the monthly reports for January 2023.

3. Griffith F.O.P. Lodge #161

Officer R. Hemphill advised they have one (1) more officer to swear-in, and then the F.O.P. will be at 100% membership.

4. VEST

Corporal P. Ghrist read the VEST Monthly Report for February 2023. In response to PSB Goral's question regarding the current number of golf cart permits issued, Cpl. Ghrist advised that would be a question for Lisa Burrow, of the Griffith Police Department's Records Division.

5. Town Council Liaison

There was no Town Council Liaison present.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no matters of "Old Business."

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval and Adoption of Griffith Police:

- a. Policy 204 Electronic Mail
- b. Policy 205 Administrative Communications
- c. Policy 209 Budget Management
- d. Policy 412 Foreign Diplomatic and Consular Representatives
- e. Policy 1005 Reporting of Arrests, Convictions, and Court Orders

PSB Member Goral made a motion to approve and adopt Griffith Police Department's Policies #204 Electronic Mail, #205 Administrative Communications, #209 Budget Management, #412¹ Foreign Diplomatic and Consular Representatives, and #1005 Reporting of Arrests, Convictions, and Court Orders, as presented.

PSB Member Katona seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5 – 0.

2. Griffith Fire – Presentation regarding Emergency Procedures related to Train Disasters

Fire Chief R. Schoon advised the Griffith Fire Department conducts extensive training on rail incidents, alongside with mutual aid companies and CN Railroad. This training includes both classroom and hands-on training. In the month of April 2021, the Griffith Fire Department trained on CN Dangerous Goods, along with Railroad Emergency Preparedness. In June/July of 2023, they have scheduled hands-on training with a locomotive and rail car at the Griffith Yard. CN Railroad also sponsors week-long training in Crude by rail and tank car specialists in Pueblo, Colorado, which a couple of Griffith's firefighters have attended.

Deputy Chief M. Andree related the following procedure for a Railroad Incident Response:

- Griffith PD and FD both respond to determine the situation that has occurred.
- Establish Incident Command (unified) and assign a safety officer, initiate Mabas Box Alarm for 30-805 Railroad Incident based on the pre-defined cards for mutual aid.
- PD provides scene security, assists with evacuations and traffic control.
- VEST assists with traffic control and/or shelter operations.
- Notify the railway.
- Confirm the location with Rail Traffic Control Center.

- Locate the train crew for a current and updated list of what the train consists of on-scene. USE "ASKRail App" if crew cannot be located.
- Secure the area as the incident may span a large distance.
- Establish the proper hazard zones using ERG Book to establish an isolation zone if necessary.
- Begin a site assessment upwind and uphill, including the following and with keeping in mind your safety, capabilities/resources:
 - Location
 - Rail car initials and numbers
 - Commodities or materials involved
 - Severity of the incident
 - Possible injuries
 - Weather conditions
 - Status of railcars involved
 - Identify hazards of the materials involved
 - Distance to the nearest populated area(s)
 - Nearby waterways
 - Additional hazards (i.e., stability of wreckage, bent/stressed rails, power lines, pipelines, as well as nearby facilities)
- Determine available resources.
- Unified Command to determine a course of action.
- FD to advise PD if evacuation is needed and if so, make a recommendation to the Town Council President and Town Emergency Manager to advise the Town's EOC (Emergency Operation Center) members to proceed to open the EOC. Location will be based out of the affected zone.
 - As ICS and the Town's EOP demonstrate, people would fill roles as Chief of: Logistics, Operations, Planning, PIO, and Finance/Admin. (Unified Command Structure). They would then follow their appropriate checklist as defined in the EOP and position specific best practices.
 - PD would initiate the Code-Red System for those residents that are needing to evacuate giving current information and proper instructions.
 - Members of PD, VEST, and FD, along with mutual aid partners, would assist getting folks out of the area and if sheltering is needed to a defined shelter.
 - Lake County EMA can assist with gaining additional resources from Red Cross, Salvation Army and State resources by using WebEOC, which goes into the State's Watch Desk.
 - Sheltering operations would need to occur at a location out of the affected zone, which may be outside of Griffith. Permission of a locality that would be best would be needed ASAP.
 - Griffith's EOC would begin operations and provide updates to the media as well as work with the unified command of the incident. Additional resources can be called in to fill EOC seats with District 1 Incident Management Team (if available).
 - All responders to the incident are given instruction that the only updates provided to the media and interested parties goes through the PIO.
- Event is managed through the cleanup and till the area is deemed safe by FD, PD, IDEM, EPA, etc.

PSB Chairman Jerome stated he finds it comforting to know that the Griffith Fire Department is on top of the situation should a Train Disaster occur in Griffith.

S. Stelk commented there are derail sensors and heat sensors built into the rails, which help prevent a train disaster incident.

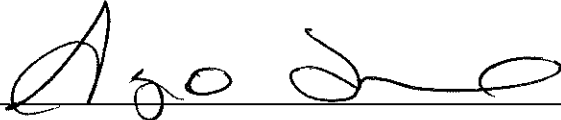
PSB Member Goral queried regarding a situation requiring evacuation, were residents' pets included in the plan, to which M. Andree advised they were.

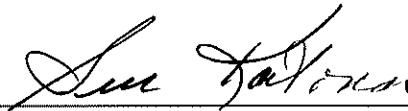
QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Cmdr. J. Sibley thanked Steve Stelk and the Griffith Fire Department for their assistance recently in getting charges accepted at the Lake County Prosecutor's Office regarding an Arson case. Their help was greatly appreciated.

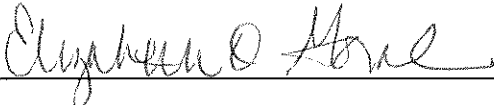
ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 P.M.

George Jerome 

Sue Katona 

RoAnn Purgert 

Liz Goral 

Phil Vehey 