

GRIFFITH PUBLIC SAFETY BOARD

June 1, 2023

The Griffith Safety Board was called to order by Chairman George Jerome at 6:32 P.M.

Those in Attendance

George Jerome	Griffith Safety Board Chairman
Sue Katona	Griffith Safety Board Vice Chairman
RoAnn Purgert	Griffith Safety Board Secretary
Liz Goral	Griffith Safety Board Member – Absent
Phil Vechey	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 May 4, 2023 Minutes
PSB Member Vechey made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2023 Public Safety Board Meeting as presented.
PSB Member Katona seconded the motion.
Motion carried 4 – 0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no "Announcements" made at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS

1. **Griffith Police Department**
Chief Mance read the monthly report for April 2023.
2. **Griffith Fire Department**
Chief Schoon read the monthly report for April 2023. Chief Schoon advised the Griffith Firefighter's Association is sponsoring a Cruise Night on June 14th from 5 pm – 8 pm at the Franklin Center.
3. **Griffith F.O.P. Lodge #161**
There was no representative of Griffith F.O.P. Lodge #161 present.
4. **VEST**
Corporal Ghrist read the monthly report for May 2023. PSB Member Purgert asked who would do all the work (escorts, road closures, etc.) if the Town did not have the VEST members. Corporal Ghrist advised it would not be possible to get all the work done without the VEST units. Their availability helps the PD budget by providing additional manpower when needed without the cost. Corporal Ghrist stated the VEST members are always looking for additional ways to be of more assistance. PSB Purgert stated they are very grateful for the VEST members and for all that they do.

Chief Mance advised that Corporal Ghrist just celebrated his 20th anniversary with the Griffith Police Department. The Safety Board members congratulated Corporal Ghrist on his accomplishment of 20 years.

5. Town Council Liaison

There was no Town Council Liaison present.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no matters of "Old Business."

NEW BUSINESS

1. Griffith Police Department seeks approval and adoption of the following:
 - a. Policy 316 Missing Persons
 - b. Policy 318 Victim and Witness Assistance
 - c. Policy 334 Limited English Proficiency Services
 - d. Policy 335 Communications with Persons with Disabilities
 - e. Policy 341 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation
 - f. Policy 329 Outside Agency Assistance
 - g. Policy 300 Use of Force
 - h. Policy 301 Use of Force Review Boards
 - i. Policy 309 Office Response to Calls
 - j. Policy 305 Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths

PSB Member Katona made a motion to approve and adopt the above listed Policies, Items a. through j. (i.e., Policy Numbers 316, 318, 334, 335, 341, 329, 300, 301, 309 and 305), as written.

PSB Member Vechey seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 – 0.

2. Griffith Police Department seeks approval and adoption of:

- a. 2023 Certified Police Officer Hiring List

PSB Member Vechey made a motion to approve and adopt the 2023 Certified Police Officer Hiring List as presented.

PSB Member Katona seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 – 0.

3. Griffith Police Department seeks approval to hire one (1) additional full-time Police Department Social Worker

PSB Member Katona made a motion to approve the hiring of one (1) additional full-time Police Department Social Worker. Chief Mance advised the position is partially funded through a grant, and the Town Council has agreed to support the hiring of an additional Police Department Social Worker.

PSB Member Vechey seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 – 0.

4. Griffith Police Department – Tow Firm Review

PSB Member Jerome advised Chief Mance conducted a review regarding a third tow firm requesting to be added into the Tow Rotation and found the firm was not really qualified at this time. Therefore, the third firm will not be added to the Tow Rotation. Chief Mance wrote a memorandum to the Griffith Safety Board detailing his review, and a copy of said memorandum is included with these minutes.

5. Griffith Fire Department is requesting approval to hire the following candidates as probationary firefighters for Station 33:
- Ashley Simpson
 - Philip Baker
 - Steven Gronkiewicz
 - Tristen Sepko

PSB Member Katona made a motion to approve the hiring of the above four (4) listed candidates as probationary firefighters for Station 33.

PSB Member Vechey seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 – 0.

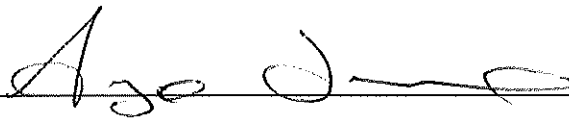
QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no questions/comments received from the floor.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 P.M.

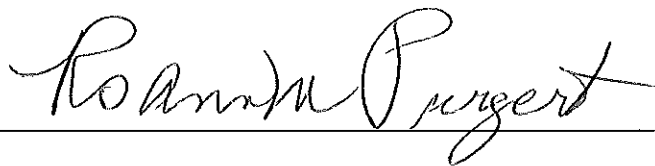
George Jerome



Sue Katona

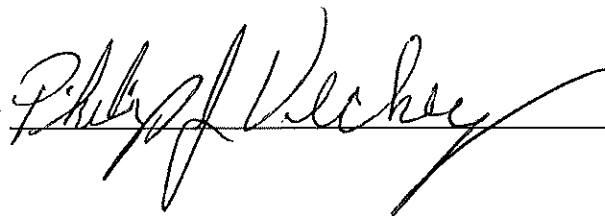


RoAnn Purgert



Liz Goral – Absent

Phil Vechey





Gregory Mance
Chief of Police

Jim Sibley
*Detective Commander
Executive Officer*

Curt Burrow
Operations Commander

Paul Sines
Patrol Lieutenant

GRIFFITH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Date: June 1, 2023
To: Griffith Public Safety Board
From: Police Chief Greg Mance
Subject: Tow Service Providers for the Griffith Police Department

I am writing to provide an update on the current tow service providers for the Griffith Police Department and address the request from Victory Towing & Recovery, Inc. to become a contracted tow service provider.

Currently, we have two contracted tow service providers, Double T Towing located at 1950 Indiana Ave, Griffith, and Purkey's Towing located at 435 E. Main Street, Suite 12, Griffith. These providers have been serving our department for the past 12 months and have successfully completed approximately 300 tows during this period. I am pleased to report that we have received no grievances or complaints from civilians or officers regarding their services.

Recently, we received a request from Victory Towing & Recovery, Inc., owned by Marisol Nunez Torres, to be added as a contracted tow service provider. Upon initial review, their firm appears to meet the qualifications outlined in our current general orders for towing services. However, it is important to note that they have provided documentation indicating they have two employees, one residing in Chicago Ridge, IL, and the other in Hobart, IN. According to our general order, tow service providers should be located within a 30-minute commute to Griffith. Using Google maps, the commute for their employees would exceed this standard.

After careful consideration, I recommend against expanding the number of contracted tow service providers at this time. The existing providers have been delivering high-quality service, and the number of annual tows remains relatively low. Moreover, considering the location of Victory Towing & Recovery's employees, there may be challenges in meeting our response time requirements.

I suggest continuing with our current tow service providers and reassessing the need for additional providers if the volume of tows increases significantly or if there are any issues or concerns with the existing contractors.

Please review this memo and let me know if you have any questions or if you would like to discuss this matter further. Your input and guidance are important in making the best decision for our department.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Mance".

Greg Mance
Chief of Police

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Griffith, IN 46319
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219-922-3076 fax