



TOWN OF GRIFFITH PUBLIC SAFETY BOARD

111 N. Broad Street, Griffith, IN 46319

Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2023

The Griffith Safety Board was called to order by Chairman Jerome at 6:32 P.M. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 Vehey	Griffith Safety Board Member
Rick Ryfa	Town Council Police Department Liaison
Melissa Robbins	Town Council Fire Department Liaison – Absent
Greg Mance	Chief, Griffith Police Department
Roy Schoon	Chief, Griffith Fire Department
Christian Bartholomew	Legal Counsel, Burke Costanza & Carberry

The following items were discussed:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of August 3, 2023 Minutes

PSB Member Vehey made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2023 Public Safety Board Meeting as presented.

PSB Vice Chairman Katona seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 – 0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Jerome announced the Griffith Police Department will be hosting its Annual Public Safety Day this Saturday, September 9, 2023, from 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., at Central Park. Chief Mance advised this will be the 16th or 17th year for the Public Safety Day.

COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS

1. Griffith Police Department

Chief Mance read the monthly report for July 2023.

2. Griffith Fire Department

Fire Chief Schoon read the monthly report for July 2023.

PSB Member Vechey stated concern regarding a recent fire call to Park West South, wherein the lock had to be cut off the gate to gain entry to the property. Chief Schoon advised each truck is supposed to have a key for the lock.

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

There was no representative present tonight from Griffith F.O.P. Lodge #161.

4. **VEST**

Chief Mance read the monthly VEST reports for August 2023.

5. **Town Council Liaison**

Town Council Liaison Ryfa advised there was nothing to report at tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no matters of "Old Business."

NEW BUSINESS

1. Griffith Police Department seeks approval and adoption of the following:

- a. Policy 315 Discriminatory Harassment
- b. Policy 403 Crime and Disaster Scene Integrity
- c. Policy 1004 Anti Retaliation
- d. Policy 425 Public Recording of Law Enforcement Activity
- e. Policy 1016 Fitness for Duty
- f. Policy 1014 Request for Change of Assignment
- g. Policy 1018 Lactation Breaks
- h. Policy 1028 Temporary Modified-Duty Assignments

PSB Member Vechey made a motion to approve and adopt the above listed Policies, Items a. through h., e(specifically, Policy Numbers 315, 403, 1004, 425, 1016, 1014, 1018, and 1028), as written.

PSB Vice Chairman Katona seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 – 0.

2. Griffith Police Department seeks approval to add Bert's Towing as a tow provider for the Griffith Police Department.

Chief Mance provided background on this request by advising Purkey's was the other tow provider for the Town; however, Purkey's felt it was in their best interest to remove themselves from our tow rotation. Bert's Towing meets all the criteria for a tow provider; actually, they exceed the requirements. Chief Mance stated he personally approached Bert's Towing and asked them to consider taking us as another customer, and Bert's Towing agreed to do so.

PSB Secretary Purgert made a motion to approve adding Bert's Towing as a tow provider for the Griffith Police Department.

PSB Member Vechey seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 – 0.

3. Griffith Police Department's Recognition of Citizen Tawanda Harris and Award Presentation

Chief Mance advised that on June 30th, 2023, Tawanda Harris witnessed an unknown woman remove an American flag from the rear of an military veteran's pickup truck . The flag had sentimental value as the veteran had brought it back home with him after he was deployed to Afghanistan. Our officer spoke with Ms. Harris who advised she had seen the unknown woman before and suspected her of other thefts. Ms. Harris advised she would keep an eye out for the suspect, and she would contact the

police should she see her again. That very same night, Ms. Harris observed the suspect and called the police. This ultimately led to an arrest and the recovery of the flag stolen earlier in the day. Ms. Tawanda Harris is recognized as a credit to her community. Her actions likely prevented future thefts and allowed someone who served our Country to be reunited with his flag. She is being commended for her actions.

PSB Vice Chairman Katona presented Ms. Harris with her Award and congratulated her for her actions that led to this recognition.

4. Griffith Fire Department seeks approval to hire Jennifer Covington as a probationary firefighter at Station 31

PSB Vice Chairman Katona made a motion to approve the hiring of Jennifer Covington as a probationary firefighter at Station 31.

PSB Member Vechev seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 – 0.

PSB Chairman Jerome commented that Jennifer Covington was a very impressive candidate, and she is going to be a great firefighter.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Michael Kitzmiller, of 121 N. Raymond St., Griffith, Indiana, advised the Safety Board he needs a handicap ramp built at his residence, and he is requesting a handicap parking sign be placed in front of his residence as both he and his mother are handicapped. PSB Chairman Jerome informed Mr. Kitzmiller that he was in receipt of Mr. Kitzmiller's letter regarding this matter. PSB Chairman Jerome stated he has since forwarded that letter to the Safety Committee as the Public Safety Board does not have the authority to grant or deny a handicap parking sign. Some discussion ensued.

ADJOURNMENT

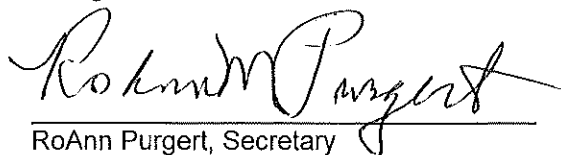
Meeting adjourned at 6:46 P.M.



George Jerome, Chairman

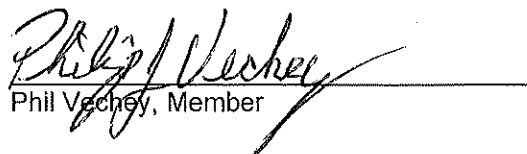


Sue Katona, Vice Chairman



RoAnn Purgert, Secretary

Liz Goral, Member (Absent)



Phil Vechev, Member