



TOWN OF GRIFFITH PUBLIC SAFETY BOARD

111 N. Broad Street, Griffith, IN 46319

Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2024

The Griffith Safety Board was called to order by Chairman Jerome at 6:31 P.M. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those in Attendance

George Jerome	Griffith Safety Board Chairman
Phil Vehey	Griffith Safety Board Vice Chairman
RoAnn Purgert	Griffith Safety Board Secretary
Liz Goral	Griffith Safety Board Member
Sue Katona	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:

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. **Election of Officers – Chairman**
PSB Member Katona nominated George Jerome as Chairman of the Griffith Public Safety Board. No other nominations were received. George Jerome is elected by acclamation as the Griffith PSB Chairman.
2. **Election of Officers – Vice Chairman**
PSB Member Purgert nominated Philip Vehey as Vice Chairman of the Griffith Public Safety Board. No other nominations were received. Philip Vehey is elected by acclamation as the Griffith PSB Vice Chairman.
3. **Election of Officers – Secretary**
PSB Katona nominated RoAnn Purgert as Secretary of the Griffith Public Safety Board. No other nominations were received. RoAnn Purgert is elected by acclamation as the Griffith PSB Secretary.
4. **Appointment – Legal Counsel**
PSB Member Katona made a motion to retain the Law Firm of Burke Costanza & Carberry as the Board’s legal counsel.
PSB Vice Chairman Vehey seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5-0.

5. **Appointment – Recording Secretary**

PSB Member Purgert made a motion to retain Joan Kolodziej as Recording Secretary for the Public Safety Board.

PSB Vice Chairman Vehey seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of December 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes

PSB Vice Chairman Vehey made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2023 Public Safety Board Meeting as presented.

PSB Member Goral seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5 – 0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Announcements made at tonight's meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS

1. **Griffith Police Department**

Chief Mance read the monthly report for November 2023. Chief Mance stated the officers of the Griffith Police Department completed over 3500 hours of training in 2023; which equals approximately 102 hours per officer. The State mandate for officer training is 24 hours per year per officer. Most of the training was funded through the Continuing Education Fund. Chief Mance stated he would like to acknowledge Lt. Paul Sines, who is the Training Coordinator, for an excellent job scheduling training for the officers.

2. **Griffith Fire Department**

Fire Chief Schoon read the monthly report for November 2023. Chief Schoon stated the members of the Griffith Fire Department completed 11,542 hours of training in 2023. He advised that most of those hours were volunteer hours of training. Chief Schoon also advised that the Fire Department's nine (9) candidates graduated from the academy on December 15th. The Department has four (4) candidates that have completed their ERS training and are certified. They began the Academy today, January 4, 2024.

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

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

4. **VEST**

Corporal P. Ghrist read the monthly VEST reports for December 2023. Total hours volunteered in the month of December was 733.75 hours. The leading Volunteers were Tom Gindl (245.5 hours) and Mike Andree (242.5 hours). The total number of hours volunteered in the Year 2023 by VEST members was 9,228.75. Corporal Ghrist advised that at minimum wage (\$7.25 per hour in Indiana), those volunteered VEST hours would have cost \$66,908.00.

Corporal Ghrist advised there were two (2) VEST members present tonight that he would like to introduce to the Board; namely, Jessica Pavlinac and Jamarion Magee. Corporal Ghrist advised that Jessica became a VEST member in May of 2020, when she was 18 years old. She is studying Criminal Justice and looks forward to pursuing a career in Law Enforcement. Corporal Ghrist stated Jamarion joined VEST in August of 2022, and is pursuing a career in Law Enforcement. He has since been hired

by the Hammond Police Department as a guard at the Hammond City Jail. Jamarion will begin attending NILEA later this month to become a Police Officer. Corporal Ghrist stated these two (2) VEST members worked the Central Market every weekend, and they are always available to assist when needed. Corporal Ghrist commended both VEST members for all that they do for the Town of Griffith. Jessica and Jamarion were given an opportunity to introduce themselves to the Board and provide some information about themselves.

5. Town Council Liaison

Town Council Liaison Ryfa stated the Town's financial situation is being reviewed, and Department heads are being advised to hold off on spending. Mr. Ryfa also advised a new policy is going into effect regarding spending, wherein a Purchase Order will need to be obtained for purchases in excess of \$5,000.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no matters of "Old Business."

NEW BUSINESS

1. Griffith Police Department seeks approval to become a member agency of the South County Crash Team

Chief Mance advised that in years past, the Lake County Sheriff's Department had a Crash Team which the local departments could call upon for assistance. When Lake County was having difficulty handling those calls, Indiana State Police (ISP) began to assist. About a year or two ago, ISP advised they cannot continue to assist with these calls. Therefore, about a year ago, the Cedar Lake Police Department and the St. John Police Department created the South County Crash Team, and they are now extending an invitation to local departments to join. Chief Mance advised for a nominal fee of \$500 per year, he felt it would be a good opportunity to become a member. Griffith Police Department has three (3) officers who have already expressed an interest in joining the Team.

PSB Member Katona made a motion to approve the Griffith Police Department becoming a member of the South County Crash Team.

PSB Member Goral seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5 – 0.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no questions or comments from the floor.


ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 P.M.

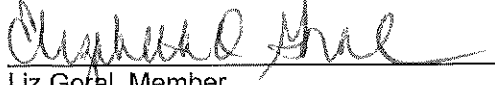


George Jerome, Chairman


Philip Vechey, Vice Chairman



RoAnn Purgert, Secretary



Liz Goral, Member


Sue Katona, Member

Minutes Prepared By:


Joan M. Kolodziej, Recording Secretary