



TOWN OF GRIFFITH PUBLIC SAFETY BOARD

111 N. Broad Street, Griffith, IN 46319

Meeting Minutes April 4, 2024

The Griffith Safety Board was called to order by Chairman Jerome at 6:29 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
Greg Mance	Chief, Griffith Police Department – Absent
Roy Schoon	Chief, Griffith Fire Department – Absent
Jim Sibley	Commander, Griffith Police Department
Mike Andree	Deputy Chief, Griffith Fire Department
Christian Bartholomew	Legal Counsel, Burke Costanza & Carberry

The following items were discussed:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of March 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes
PSB Vice Chairman Vehey made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2024 Public Safety Board Meeting as presented.
PSB Member Katona seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5 – 0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Announcements made at tonight's meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS

1. **Griffith Police Department**
Commander Sibley read the monthly report for February 2024.
2. **Griffith Fire Department**
Deputy Fire Chief Andree read the monthly report for February 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 was unable to attend tonight's meeting.
5. **Town Council Liaison**
Councilman Ryfa advised there was nothing to report tonight.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no matters of "Old Business."

NEW BUSINESS

1. Griffith Police Department seeks approval and adoption of Griffith Police Department's:
 - a. Policy 312 Search and Seizure
 - b. Policy 329 Auxiliary Members – Volunteers
 - c. Policy 337 Chaplains
 - d. Policy 340 Service Animals
 - e. Policy 341 Volunteers
 - f. Policy 344 Community Relations
 - g. Policy 400 Patrol
 - h. Policy 402 Briefing
 - i. Policy 405 Ride-Alongs
 - j. Policy 415 Utility Service Emergencies
 - k. Policy 418 Air Support
 - l. Policy 421 Shift Commanders
 - m. Policy 426 Bicycle Patrol
 - n. Policy 600 Investigation and Prosecutions
 - o. Policy 602 Asset Forfeiture
 - p. Policy 603 Informants
 - q. Policy 604 Eyewitness Identification
 - r. Policy 606 Unmanned Aerial Systems
 - s. Policy 800 Crime Analysis
 - t. Policy 1025 Explorers

PSB Member Katona made a motion to approve and adopt Griffith Police Department's policies listed above as Items a. through t. (specifically, Policies 312, 329, 337, 340, 341, 344, 400, 402, 405, 415, 418, 421, 426, 600, 602, 603, 604, 606, 800, and 1025) as presented.

PSB Vice Chairman Vechev seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5 – 0.

2. Griffith Fire Department swears in of five (5) Probationary Firefighters to full status; namely:
 - a. Kyle Gora – Station 33
 - b. John Gibson – Station 32
 - c. Edgar Delgado – Station 31
 - d. Jack Scanlon – Station 31
 - e. Isaiah Garcia – Station 31

Deputy Fire Chief Andree introduced the Firefighters as follows:

Kyle Gora – Station 33

Kyle Gora is a Griffith high school graduate, Class of 2012. He attended Lincoln Tech for Auto Mechanics, and he received a certificate of completion. After a few years in the automotive industry, Kyle decided to change and follow in the family footsteps and became a plumber, and he has been a plumber for the last 10 years. In 2023, Kyle applied for the Griffith Fire Department, completed the

Griffith Fire Department's first ERS Training Program, and graduated from the Academy in December. He is currently serving Griffith's North side of Town at Station 33.
PSB Member Purgert swore-in Kyle Gora.

Jonathan Gibson – Station 32

Jonathan Gibson attended Lake Central High School, Class of 2020. During his senior year, Jonathan attended the Hammond Career Center and obtained his EMT certification. He started his career with the Griffith Fire Department in April of 2023. Like the others, Jonathan attended and completed the Griffith Fire Department's first ERS Training Program. He attended the Fire Academy in Valparaiso and graduated in December of 2023. Jonathan currently serves Griffith's South side of Town at Station 32.

PSB Member Katona swore-in Jonathan Gibson.

Edgar Delgado – Station 31

Edgar Delgado was born in Evanston, Illinois. He is the eldest son of four (4), and a father of two (2). Edga graduated from Chicago Math and Science Academy. He moved to Indiana one (1) year ago. Never at any point did Edgar dream he would be standing here today. Edgar also completed the Griffith Fire Department's first ERS Training Program, and he graduated from the Fire Academy in December of 2023. Edgar is currently enrolled in EMT School and is expected to graduate in June. He is very grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Griffith, and he is excited for the long journey ahead of him.

PSB Member Katona swore-in Edgar Delgado.

Jack Scanlon – Station 31

Jack Scanlon is the middle child of five (5) kids, and a father of two (2). He graduated from Lake Central High School, Class of 2019, with academic honors. Jack attended Purdue University Northwest for one (1) year studying biology. He moved to Griffith in June of 2022 and got engaged a few weeks later. He started serving our Department in April of last year and became one of the six to complete our first ERS Training Program. Jack graduated from the Fire Academy in December of 2023 and is currently enrolled in EMT School.

PSB Member Goral swore-in Jack Scanlon.

Isaiah Garcia – Station 31

Isaiah Garcia was born in Las Vegas, Nevada. He moved to Indiana at the age of five (5) and graduated from Highland High School, Class of 2021. He has 3 children. Isaiah also completed the Griffith Fire Department's first ERS Training Program and graduated from the Fire Academy in December of 2023. He is currently enrolled in EMT School and will earn his certification in the next four (4) months of training.

PSB Member Goral swore-in Isaiah Garcia.

3. Griffith Fire Department requests approval to hire the following three (3) applicants:
 - a. Noah Angel – Station 31
 - b. Robert Madon – Station 32
 - c. Julian Juarez – Station 32

PSB Member Goral made a motion to approve the hiring of the following three (3) applicants: Noah Angel – Station 31; Robert Madon – Station 32; and Julian Juarez – Station 32.

PSB Vice Chairman Vechev seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5 – 0.

4. Griffith Fire Department recognizes and awards four (4) personnel for Meritorious Company Awards; namely:
 - a. Lieutenant Derrick Huzzie
 - b. Engineer Daniel Huzzie
 - c. Firefighter Phil Baker
 - d. Probationary Firefighter Ashley Simpson

Deputy Chief Andree advised of the following:

At approximately 4:00 A.M., Tuesday, March 12th, First Responders were dispatched to a single-family, two-story residence in Wicker Park Manor Subdivision located on the 2300 block of 81st Street, Highland, Indiana, for a report of a structure fire.

Upon arrival, flames were observed to be coming out of one of the first-floor windows. Firefighters were met by two female residents of the house in the front yard. Each were covered in soot from the smoke. They advised that there was still an adult male inside the house in an upstairs bedroom. Once Highland firefighters made entry just inside the front door, they found that the upstairs was filled with thick, black smoke and the interior was extremely hot. Due to these conditions, firefighters were unable to advance further into the house.

The Griffith crew from 3327 made entry from Highland's tower truck to the second floor through a bedroom window. They performed a search for the missing adult male. The adult male was located in the upstairs bedroom; however, he was deceased. 3327's crew continued to conduct a search of the entire second floor and performed ventilation for the crews on the main floor. 3327's crew exited the second floor and continued to work numerous assignments on the fire ground which included checking for fire extension in the kitchen area, overhaul operations, along with performing a primary search in the basement of the structure.

Their performances were outstanding and deserve recognition. During a time of adversity, and extreme stressful circumstances, they stuck together, referred to their training, and continued to get their job done. All four (4) of these individuals are prime examples of what the Fire Service is about.

Firefighter J. Sopher presented each firefighter with their award.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

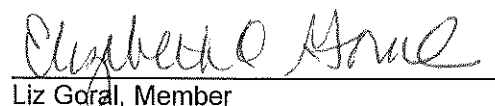
ADJOURNMENT

Tonight's meeting adjourned at 6:51 P.M.


George Jerome, Chairman


Phil Vechev, Vice Chairman


RoAnn Purgert, Secretary


Liz Goral, Member


Sue Katona, Member

Minutes Prepared By:


Joan Kolodziej, Recording Secretary