



# **TOWN OF GRIFFITH PUBLIC SAFETY BOARD**

111 N. Broad Street, Griffith, IN 46319

## **Meeting Minutes June 6, 2024**

The Griffith Safety Board was called to order by Chairman Jerome at 6:30 P.M. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Those in Attendance**

George Jerome	Griffith Safety Board Chairman
Phil Vechey	Griffith Safety Board Vice Chairman – <b>Absent</b>
RoAnn Purgert	Griffith Safety Board Secretary
Liz Goral	Griffith Safety Board Member – <b>Absent</b>
Sue Katona	Griffith Safety Board Member
Rick Ryfa	Town Council Police Department Liaison – <b>Absent</b>
Melissa Robbins	Town Council Fire Department Liaison – <b>Absent</b>
Greg Mance	Chief, Griffith Police Department – <b>Absent</b>
Roy Schoon	Chief, Griffith Fire Department
Mike Andree	Deputy Chief, Griffith Fire Department
Curt Burrow	Commander, Griffith Police Department
Christian Bartholomew	Legal Counsel, Burke Costanza & Carberry

The following items were discussed:

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **1. Approval of May 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

PSB Member Katona made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2024 Public Safety Board Meeting as presented.

PSB Member Purgert seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3 – 0.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Jerome announced the July 4, 2024 Meeting of the Griffith Public Safety Board has been cancelled due to a lack of business for the Board.

### **COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS**

1. **Griffith Police Department**  
Commander Burrow read the monthly report for April 2024.
2. **Griffith Fire Department**  
Fire Chief Schoon read the monthly report for April 2024. In response to Chairman Jerome's query, Chief Schoon advised the Griffith Fire Department will be hosting Driver Training at the end of July.
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 report for May 2024.
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 Certification of the 2024 Hiring List for Patrol Officer  
  
PSB Member Katona made a motion to certify the 2024 Hiring List for Patrol Officer as presented.  
PSB Member Purgert seconded the motion.  
Motion carried 3 – 0.  
  
Chairman Jerome advised an emergency meeting of the Griffith Public Safety Board was held on May 17, 2024, to certify the 2024 Hiring List for Patrol Officer, but the Board felt they should approve the certification again publicly.
2. Griffith Police Department seeks permission to offer one (1) Conditional Offer of Employment to the First Candidate of the Certified Hiring List by Rank Order  
  
PSB Member Purgert made a motion to grant permission to make one (1) Conditional Offer of Employment to the First Candidate of the Certified Hiring List by Rank Order.  
PSB Member Katona seconded the motion.  
Motion carried 3 – 0.
3. Griffith Police Department seeks approval to remove two (2) vehicles from the auction list; specifically:
  - a. Two (2) 2016 Dodge Chargers (Fleet #9157 and #9158)  
PSB Member Katona made a motion to approve the removal of two (2) vehicles from the auction list; specifically:
  - a. Two (2) 2016 Dodge Chargers (Fleet #9157 and #9158)PSB Chairman Jerome seconded the motion.  
Motion carried 3 – 0.

4. Griffith Police Department seeks approval to auction excess property; specifically:
  - a. Two (2) 2015 Dodge Chargers (Fleet #9151 and Fleet #9153)

PSB Chairman Jerome made a motion to approve the auction of excess property; specifically:

- a. Two (2) 2015 Dodge Chargers (Fleet #9151 and #9153)

PSB Member Katona seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3 – 0.

5. Griffith Fire Department swears in two (2) Probationary Firefighters to full status; namely:
  - a. Ashley Simpson – Station 33
  - b. Steven Gronkiewicz – Station 33

Deputy Fire Chief Andree advised Ashley Simpson moved to the Town of Griffith in 2021. She started serving the Griffith Fire Department at the North Station in June of 2023. Ashley works full time in the advertising industry. Throughout her probationary period with the Department, she has exceeded expectations by earning her car seat technician certification and Public Fire & Life Safety Educator certification to better serve the department and the community. She was crowned our 2023 Rookie of the Year and was awarded the Jack Eskridge Award of Leadership while in the Academy. Ashley was recently featured in Inc Magazine, recognizing her accomplishments within the fire service.

PSB Member Purgert proceeded to swear in Firefighter Ashley Simpson to full status.

Deputy Fire Chief Andree advised Steve Gronkiewicz attended St. Mary's Grade School and is a 2011 Griffith High School graduate. Steve became a Probationary firefighter in June of 2023 and attended the Summer Academy, along with 8 others, graduating in December of 2023. He received ambition from his friends and family, to keep pushing hard and moving forward and to benefit the Griffith Fire Department and the community. Steve is looking forward to the years ahead in hopes of assisting with the growth of the department.

PSB Member Purgert proceeded to swear in Firefighter Steven Gronkiewicz to full status.

Deputy Fire Chief Andree commented that these two (2) firefighters, Ashley Simpson and Steven Gronkiewicz, were hired in June of 2023, wherein they did not get ERTS Training prior to entry into the Academy. They had to play catch up with the other six (6) candidates that were hired prior to them and who were going to the Academy as well. These two (2) firefighters worked hard to catch up, and they succeeded. They are overachievers, and they have both exceeded all expectations the department had of them.

#### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

There were no questions/comments from the floor.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:44 P.M.

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George Jerome, Chairman



Philip Vechev, Vice Chairman

  
RoAnn Purgert, Secretary

  
Elizabeth Goral, Member

  
Sue Katona, Member

Minutes Prepared By:

  
Joan Kolodziej, Recording Secretary