



TOWN OF GRIFFITH PUBLIC SAFETY BOARD

111 N. Broad Street, Griffith, IN 46319

Meeting Minutes February 6, 2025

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
Elizabeth Goral	Griffith Safety Board Vice Chairman
RoAnn Purgert	Griffith Safety Board Secretary
Philip Vechey	Griffith Safety Board Member
Sue Katona	Griffith Safety Board Member – Absent
Rick Ryfa	Town Council Police Department Liaison
Melissa Robbins	Town Council Fire Department Liaison – Absent
Albert Tharp	Chief, Griffith Police Department
Roy Schoon	Chief, Griffith Fire Department
Michael Andree, Jr.	Deputy Chief, Griffith Fire Department
Brian Bott	Legal Counsel, Burke Costanza & Carberry

The following items were discussed:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of January 2, 2025 Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of January 16, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

PSB Member Jerome made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2025 Public Safety Board Regular Meeting and the minutes of the January 16, 2025 Public Safety Board Special Meeting as presented.

PSB Member Vechey seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 – 0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Announcements made at tonight's meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS

1. **Griffith Police Department**

Chief Tharp read the monthly report for December 2024.

2. **Griffith Fire Department**

Fire Chief Schoon read the monthly report for December 2024. Chief Schoon advised the Fire Department will be hosting a car seat safety event at Station 31 on February 21, 2025 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. On February 22, 2025, at 10:00 A.M., the Fire Department will be holding a recruitment drive and orientation at Station 33.

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

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

4. **VEST**

Chief Tharp read the monthly VEST reports for January 2025. The total volunteer hours for January 2025 was 826.25 hours. The top volunteer was Tom Gindl with 291.5 hours, followed by Mike Andree, Sr. (287.5 hours), Fermin Lopez (81 hours), and Ruth Gindl (79.5 hours). The total number of VEST members is currently 13 (8 male, 5 female). There is currently one (1) member in training and two (2) applications being reviewed.

5. **Town Council Liaison**

Town Council President advised the State of Indiana has cut the Town of Griffith's budget by approximately \$586,000. The largest cut will be in the officers' pay in the amount of approximately \$400,000. Mr. Ryfa stated the Town will use TIF dollars to cover the \$400,000 deficit. Mr. Ryfa stated the reason for the cuts was due to the estimated revenue not meeting expectations. In response to PSB Member Vechey's question, Mr. Ryfa stated he felt the Town will be fine even with the budget cuts. PSB Member Jerome stated the Town of Griffith has always been fiscally responsible in the past.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no matters of "Old Business."

NEW BUSINESS

1. Griffith Police Department requests approval of the 2025 Certified Promotion List for Sergeant

PSB Member Goral made a motion to approve the 2025 Certified Promotion List for Sergeant as presented.

PSB Member Vechey seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 – 0.

2. Griffith Police Department requests approval of the 2025 Certified Promotion List for Corporal

PSB Member Vechey made a motion to approve the 2025 Certified Promotion List for Corporal as presented.

PSB Member Goral seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 – 0.

3. Griffith Police Department requests approval of the 2025 Certified Appointment List for Detective

PSB Member Purgert made a motion to approve the 2025 Certified Appointment List for Detective as presented.

PSB Member Vechev seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 – 0.

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

- a. Policy No. 435 – Body Worn Camera

PSB Member Jerome made a motion to approve and adopt Policy No. 435 – Body Worn Camera as presented. Mr. Jerome advised this is just a renumbering of the policy that has been in existence.

PSB Member Vechev seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 – 0.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

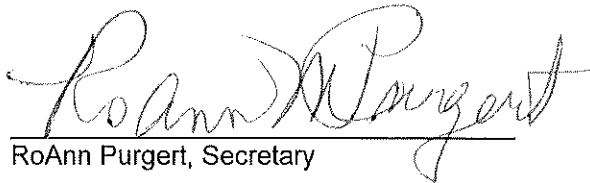
There were no questions or comments from the floor.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.


George Jerome, Chairman


Philip Vechev, Vice Chairman


RoAnn Purgert, Secretary

Elizabeth Goral, Member

Sue Katona, Member

Minutes Prepared By:


Joan Kolodziej, Recording Secretary