



TOWN OF GRIFFITH PUBLIC SAFETY BOARD

111 N. Broad Street, Griffith, IN 46319



Chairman Elizabeth Goral
Vice-Chairman Sue Katona
Secretary RoAnn Purgert
Member George Jerome
Member Philip Vechey

Legislative Appointment
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01-01-2022 to 12-31-2025
01-01-2022 to 12-31-2025
01-01-2023 to 12-31-2026
01-01-2022 to 12-31-2025
01-01-2024 to 12-31-2027

Rick Ryfa – Town Council Liaison: Police Liaison
Melissa Robbins – Town Council Liaison: Fire Department

Meeting Minutes August 7, 2025

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

Those in Attendance:

Elizabeth Goral
Sue Katona
RoAnn Purgert
George Jerome
Philip Vechey

Griffith Safety Board Chairman
Griffith Safety Board Vice Chairman
Griffith Safety Board Secretary
Griffith Safety Board Member
Griffith Safety Board Member - **Absent**

Rick Ryfa
Melissa Robbins
Albert Tharp
Roy Schoon
Michael Andree, Jr.
No Representation

Town Council Police Department Liaison - **Absent**
Town Council Fire Department Liaison - **Absent**
Chief, Griffith Police Department
Chief, Griffith Fire Department
Deputy Chief, Griffith Fire Department - **Absent**
Legal Counsel, Burke Costanza & Carberry

The following items were discussed:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of June 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes

PSB Member Katona made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2025 Public Safety Board Regular Meeting as presented.
PSB Member Jerome seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5 – 0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Announcements made at tonight's meeting.



COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS

1. Griffith Police Department
Police Chief Tharp read the monthly report for June 2025.
2. Griffith Fire Department
Fire Chief Schoon read the monthly report for June 2025.
3. Griffith F.O.P. Lodge #161
Officer Austin Tucker represented Griffith FOP Lodge #161 at tonight's meeting. Officer Tucker advised he has served as a Griffith Police Officer for the past three (3) years and currently serves as a board member of the Griffith Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). Officer Tucker stated he was here on behalf of the Griffith FOP to share a brief but meaningful update. He stated the FOP is proud to announce that the Griffith Police Department now has 100% participation in the Griffith FOP – EVERY officer has chosen to stand together as part of their organization.

Officer Tucker stated the FOP would like to extend their sincere appreciation to the Public Safety Board. The Board's continued support and partnership means a great deal to the FOP, and they are grateful for the Board's commitment to our department and the work that the officers do.

4. VEST
Chief Tharp advised that Corporal P. Ghrist was out of town for tonight's meeting.
5. Town Council Liaison
There was no representative from the Town Council present at tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no matters of "Old Business."

NEW BUSINESS

1. Griffith Police Department presents Certificate of Commendation to:
 - a. Officer Daniel Arroyo

Chief Tharp advised Officer Arroyo, Corporal Beck, Officer Sekula and Lieutenant Sines responded to a domestic disturbance involving a suicidal subject armed with a gun. After a coordinated search, the subject emerged from between two (2) cars and approached Officer Arroyo's vehicle holding a gun by the barrel, grip extended. Demonstrating exceptional restraint and situational awareness, Officer Arroyo calmly addressed the subject and had him place the gun on the ground and step back, allowing Corporal Beck to safely secure the weapon.

This incident presented significant danger to not only the officers but also to the subject in crisis. Officer Arroyo's quick judgement and composed response prevented a potentially fatal outcome. While acknowledging the sensitivity surrounding mental health and use-of-force incidents, this nomination is offered with care and respect – not to sensationalize a personal crisis, but to recognize exemplary restraint, compassion, and teamwork during a volatile situation.

All involved officers showed commendable professionalism, with Officer Arroyo deserving special recognition for his actions.



TOWN OF GRIFFITH PUBLIC SAFETY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 7, 2025
Page | 3

Commander C. Burrow presented Officer Arroyo with his Certificate of Commendation.

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

- a. Policy No. 301 – Use of Force
- b. Policy No. 347 – Vehicle Pursuits

PSB Member Jerome made a motion to approve Policy #301 and #347 as written.
PSB Member Katona seconded the motion.
Motion carried 4 – 0.

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

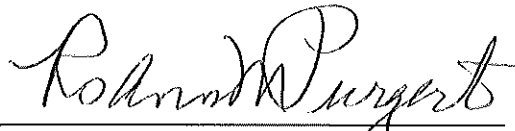
There were no questions or comments received from the floor.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 P.M.


Elizabeth Goral, Chairman

Sue Katona, Vice Chairman


RoAnn Purgert, Secretary

George Jerome, Member


Philip Vedhey, Member

Minutes Prepared By:


Joan Kolodziej, Recording Secretary