

GRIFFITH SAFETY BOARD

August 14, 2014

The Griffith Safety Board was called to order by Chairman Goral at 7:00 p.m.

Those in Attendance

Liz Goral	Griffith Safety Board Chairperson
RoAnn Purgert	Griffith Safety Board Secretary
Gary Sutton	Griffith Safety Board Member
John Volkmann	Griffith Safety Board Vice-Chairman
Jim Marker	Griffith Safety Board Member Absent
Glen Gaby	Town Council
Greg Mance	Police Chief
Roy Schoon	Fire Department Deputy Chief

The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance. The following items were discussed:

Approval of July 10, 2014 minutes: Motion by Gary Sutton
2nd by John Volkmann
Motion passed 3-0

Reports: Griffith Police Department

Chief Mance read the monthly reports for July 2014.

When compared to last July, overall crime fell by 5%. Comparing the average number of crimes committed during the same time period of the past four years, crime was reduced by 34%.

Compared to last year crime is down 17%.

Griffith Fire Department

Chief Schoon read the July monthly reports.

VEST

Chairperson Goral reported for VEST that they will be interviewing a prospective member on August 14th, the remodeling of the VEST garage is planned to start next week and VEST volunteers are scheduled to work during Western Days and Rock N Rail Fest.

FOP Post 161

Nothing to report at this time.

Old Business

Modification of PD SOP promotion policy regarding seniority – still under review pending legal counsel

New Business

PD Recognitions:

Robert & Charlotte Abernethy
Betsy Mican
Natalie Foss
Dianne Dzikowski
Helena Servin
Vickie Genovesi
Lynn Laviolette

The Griffith Police Department and Griffith Safety Board would like to recognize the individuals standing before you for their continued support of the Griffith Animal Control. These individuals have given countless volunteer hours in support and without their collective assistance, there is no doubt that Animal Control and the animals themselves would suffer. From cleaning and repairing the facility to cleaning and feeding the animals, these outstanding individuals before you give so much of themselves because of their large hearts. We cannot begin to adequately display our gratitude to them all for their selfless acts and contributions that enhance our ability to service the community and the animals. It is with great pride and appreciation that we thank you all.

Corporal Sines
Officer Gary
Dispatcher Zembala

On April 12th, 2014 Griffith Police Officers were called to the scene of a disturbance at a second floor apartment. Upon investigating the incident, they determined that a male subject was to be taken into custody for a criminal violation of law. Just as Cpl. Sines and Officer Gary made motions to detain the suspect, the suspect ran towards the balcony while stating he would rather die than go to jail. The subject was of large stature and just as he was hurling his body over the balcony railing, Corporal Sines and Officer Gary grabbed the suspect who continued to struggle with officers as he hung in mid-air with the officer's grasp being the only thing that kept him from falling to the ground. The suspect was then transported to the Griffith Police Station where he was being held in a cell pending immediate arrangements for treatment. Dispatcher Matthew Zembala was on duty and through closed circuit television, observed the suspect remove his pants and begin to use them in an attempt to hang himself. Dispatcher Zembala immediately summoned officers who intervened and again prevented the suspect from causing harm to himself. It is with great pride that we recognize Corporal Sines and officer Gary with Certificates of Commendation for their swift actions and dedication to duty under difficult circumstances. It is also with great pride we present Dispatcher Matthew Zembala with this Certificate of Achievement for his outstanding diligence and swift reaction. Our congratulations and appreciation go out to all three of you gentlemen.

Officer Jaques

On January 26th, 2014 Griffith Police Officers responded to the scene of a domestic battery. Just prior to the arrival of police, the male suspect barricaded himself inside an interior room and was believed to be armed with a firearm. Officers held the scene secure as the area SWAT Team was activated for response. The suspect was reluctant to communicate with anyone on scene. Officer Jaques, at risk to himself, was able to establish contact with the suspect and through effective

and sympathetic communication, encouraged the suspect to calm down and think more clearly. As a result of Officer Jaques' actions, the suspect surrendered after a period of time and was taken into custody without incident. These types of situations are often very volatile and unpredictable and place all those involved in harms way. We are proud to present this Certificate of Achievement to Officer Jaques for effectively de-escalating the situation and thus preventing further acts of violence. Our congratulations and appreciation go out to you Officer Jaques.

Officer Hemphill

On April 25th, 2014 Officer Hemphill was watching over the occupants of a vehicle that was contacted by Officer Lazic for suspicious activity. As Officer Lazic conducted records inquiries, one of the occupants of the vehicle exited and exclaimed to Officer Hemphill that the other occupant was suffering from a drug overdose. Officer Hemphill conducted an immediate assessment and determined the subject was not breathing and had no pulse. Immediately, Officer Hemphill began resuscitative efforts as medical crews were summoned. The subject was able to be resuscitated and survived the overdose. Had it not been for the immediate intervention of Officer Hemphill, it is likely the subject would not have survived. It is with great pride and appreciation we present this Certificate of Achievement to Officer Hemphill for his swift actions. Congratulations Officer Hemphill!

Officer Borgetti

On April 29th, 2014 Officer Borgetti became involved in the search for a runaway juvenile who had already been missing for over a day. Out of genuine concern and dedication to duty, Officer Borgetti went beyond what is required and expected of officers under these circumstances as he diligently followed every lead throughout his entire shift. After much effort and time, Officer Borgetti located the juvenile who was then determined to be in need of immediate medical attention. Officer Borgetti immediately summoned medical personnel and had the juvenile transported to the hospital. Had it not been for Officer Borgetti's dedication and strong work ethic, it stands to reason the juvenile could have suffered a much more severe medical emergency. It is with great pride and appreciation we present this Certificate of Achievement to Officer Borgetti for his extreme dedication! Congratulations Officer Borgetti!

Swearing in of Officer Michael Abel, #72

Police Chief Mance introduced Probationary Officer Abel with Chairperson Goral having the honor of swearing in this new officer.

No Announcements

Questions/comments from the floor.

None

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

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