

## **GRIFFITH SAFETY BOARD**

January 9, 2014

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

### **Those in Attendance**

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

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

### **Safety Board Election**

The election of officers from the December 12, 2013 was invalid due to the assignment expiration for some members.

A motion by Vice-Chairman Sutton, seconded by Board Member Volkmann, to nominate Liz Goral for the position of Chairwoman for the year 2014. No other nominations, election passed with a vote of 5-0.

A motion by Vice-Chairman Sutton, seconded by Secretary Goral, to nominate Board Member Volkmann to the position of Vice-Chairman for the year 2014. No other nominations, election passed with a vote of 5-0.

A motion by Board Member Goral, seconded by Vice-Chairman Sutton, to nominate Board Member Purgert to the position of Secretary for the year 2014. No other nominations, election passed with a vote of 5-0.

Elected Chairwomen Goral proceeded with the meeting.

Approval of December 12, 2013 minutes: Motion by Safety Board Member Purgert  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Marker  
Motion carried 5-0

Reports: Griffith Police Department

Chief Mance read the monthly report for December.

For the year 2013 the overall crime for the Town of Griffith fell 12%. Last year's crime compared to the last three (3) years, overall crime fell by 14%. Violent crime, which includes the crimes of murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault, fell by 36%. To compare last year to the average of the past three (3) years violent crime fell by 26%. The biggest single decline in known crime this year was in the category of aggravated assaults. Aggravated assaults are defined as the unlawful act by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting sever bodily injury usually by the use of a weapon. This declined from 23 acts in 2012 to just five (5) acts in 2013 and that accounts for 78% reduction. When you compare this to the past three (3) years, aggravated assault declined by 69%. To further point out the significance of this reduction this

was achieved through a reduction of our staff by 16-25%. We should be back to full staff by midsummer. We attribute a large part to IUN's Center for Urban and Regional Excellence and the crime mapping. We use that data and the crime stats we have through our Spillman System to tailor our response to crime as it happens from month to month. We also credit our partnership with our residents; they have been doing a great job of reporting crime or suspicious activities. And our partnerships with land owners and rental property owners who have been very cooperative as far as assisting us with identifying problems and last but not least the officers. They have really committed to our approach and they have worked very hard under some very trying circumstances.

All of our officers completed the Active Shooter Training which was conducted at the Griffith High School involving several volunteers which reenacted a shooter in the school. Lt. Jeff Gang presented this training and is absent tonight due to delivering a presentation to the school board.

Chief Mance presented an award Chairman Marker for all he put into the Griffith Safety Board. Chairman Marker congratulated Chief Mance on all he has done over the last year.

Safety Board member Marker read a letter of thanks from Highland Police Chief Hojnicky for the help of Officer Gutierrez and canine Gino during the Highland Police Departments drug sweep at the Highland High School.

#### Griffith Fire Department

Chief Schoon read the December monthly report.

#### VEST

Chief Mance reported that estimates are being compiled for repairs on the VEST garage. Repairs will be completed with funds donated from Enbridge. VEST will be conducting interviews for new members in the new future.

#### FOP Post 161

No report

#### **New Business**

No new business at this time.

#### **Announcements**

Safety Board member Marker commended the Fire Department on a great job during 2013.

#### **Questions/comments from the floor.**

Nothing at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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