

## GRIFFITH SAFETY BOARD

June 20, 2013

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
John Volkmann	Griffith Safety Board Member
RoAnn Purgert	Griffith Safety Board Member
Glen Gaby	Town Council Liaison
Gregory S. Mance	Chief of Police
Roy Schoon	Fire Department

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

Approval of May 9, 2013 minutes: Motion by Vice Chairman Sutton  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Secretary Goral  
Motion carried 3-0

Reports: Griffith Police Department

Chief Mance read the monthly report for May

The new towing company, Double T Towing, has been added to the rotation and is working well.

Griffith Fire Department

Chief Schoon read the May monthly report.

### VEST

Co Liaison - Lt Gang reported that Cpl Morris has been appointed the primary liaison. The personal files have been being updated as well as a revamping the application process. VEST building has had some repairs done; i.e. flag pole, and exterior lighting. The old lockers from the police department will be installed at the building and AC repaired. VEST members are being included in training. Exploring ways to increase membership.

### FOP Post 161

Nothing to report.

### **New Business**

#### GPD-Take Home Vehicle Policy

A motion by Safety Board Member Purgert to approve and adopt the SOP Take Home Vehicle Policy, seconded by Safety Board Member Volkmann. Motion carried 5-0.

#### Future Officers Conditional Offer

A motion by Vice-Chairman Sutton to extend a conditional offer of employment to candidates four and five on the current list for hiring in 2014, seconded by Safety Board Member Goral. Motion carried 5-0.

#### Promotional Examinations

A motion by Chairman Marker for Police Chief Mance to hold examinations for promotions. Promotional examinations will be held on July 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the lower level of the Griffith Town Hall. Applications will be accepted from July 1, 2013, 8:00 a.m. through July 21, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. Positions to be filled are Corporal, Sergeant and Detective. Seconded by Safety Board Member Goral. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **Announcements**

##### Statement of the Safety Board Regarding Demand for Hearing by Former Chief Ronald Kottka

The Griffith Safety Board is in receipt of a demand by an attorney by the former Griffith Police Chief Kottka. The demand insists that the Safety Board hold a hearing to review the November 5, 2013 (2012) decision by the Town of Griffith Council to demote former Chief Kottka. The Safety Board has no authority or purview to grant a hearing reviewing an action taken by the Town Council which is the executive body of the Town of Griffith. Therefore, there is no action for the Safety Board to take at this time. Our attorneys have notified former Chief Kottka's attorney of the status of this situation. In addition the Safety Board is also in receipt of notice dated June 4, 2013 from the attorney for Ronald Kottka that declares Kottka is withdrawing his retirement notice. On April 22, 2013, the Town of Griffith received a letter signed by Kottka that states in part, quote "effective April 23, 2013, I will be retiring from the Griffith Police Department" end quote. Despite having less than one day notice, the retirement was accepted and adjustments were made to the accommodations of the department for the shifts that needed to be covered to Kottka's immediate absence. After a future review, we find no mechanism allowing Kottka to rescind his retirement order under the 1925 Police Pension Fund Act, the 1977 Police Officer and Firefighters Pension and Disability Fund Act, the Griffith Police Department Operating Procedures, or the Town of Griffith Personnel Police Manual. Consequently, the attorney's notice withdrawing retirement has no legal basis and no effect on the Griffith Police Department or the Town of Griffith. Therefore there is no action for the Safety Board to take at this time.

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

Nothing

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

/lep