



# **TOWN OF GRIFFITH PUBLIC SAFETY BOARD**

111 N. Broad Street, Griffith, IN 46319

**Meeting Minutes  
May 2, 2024**

The Griffith Safety Board was called to order by Chairman Jerome at 6:31 P.M. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Those in Attendance

George Jerome	Griffith Safety Board Chairman
Phil Vehey	Griffith Safety Board Vice Chairman
RoAnn Purgert	Griffith Safety Board Secretary
Liz Goral	Griffith Safety Board Member
Sue Katona	Griffith Safety Board Member
Rick Ryfa	Town Council Police Department Liaison
Melissa Robbins	Town Council Fire Department Liaison
Greg Mance	Chief, Griffith Police Department – <b>Absent</b>
Roy Schoon	Chief, Griffith Fire Department
Mike Andree	Deputy Chief, Griffith Fire Department
Jim Sibley	Commander, Griffith Police Department
Curt Burrow	Commander, Griffith Police Department
Paul Sines	Lieutenant, Griffith Police Department
Christian Bartholomew	Legal Counsel, Burke Costanza & Carberry

The following items were discussed:

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### 1. Approval of April 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes

PSB Vice Chairman Vehey made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2024 Public Safety Board Meeting as presented.

PSB Member Katona seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5 – 0.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Announcements made at tonight's meeting.

### **COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS**

1. **Griffith Police Department**  
Commander Sibley read the monthly report for March 2024.
  
2. **Griffith Fire Department**  
Fire Chief Schoon read the monthly report for March 2024.
  
3. **Griffith F.O.P. Lodge #161**  
There was no representative present tonight from Griffith F.O.P. Lodge #161.
  
4. **VEST**  
Lt. Sines read the monthly VEST report for April 2024. The top volunteer for the Month of April was Mike Andree, Sr. with 237 hours. He was followed by Tom Gindl (171 hours), Ruth Gindl (57.5 hours), and Fermin Lopez (47 hours). Total hours volunteered for 2024 is 3,109.25 hours. Total membership as of this date is 15.
  
5. **Town Council Liaison**  
Councilman Ryfa advised there was nothing to report tonight.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There were no matters of "Old Business."

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Griffith Police Department seeks approval and adoption of Griffith Police Department's:
  - a. Policy 323 Department Use of Social Media
  - b. Policy 322 Information Technology Use
  - c. Policy 407 Hostage and Barricade Incidents
  - d. Policy 702 Vehicle Maintenance
  - e. Policy 700 Department-Owned and Personal Property
  - f. Policy 429 Medical Aid and Response
  - g. Policy 607 Warrant Service
  - h. Policy 505 Operating While Intoxicated
  - i. Policy 408 Response to Bomb Calls
  - j. Policy 432 Civil Disputes
  - k. Policy 411 Summons and Release
  - l. Policy 413 Rapid Response and Deployment
  - m. Policy 416 Aircraft Accidents
  - n. Policy 338 Public Safety Video Surveillance System
  - o. Policy 423 Mobile Data Terminal Use

PSB Member Katona made a motion to approve and adopt Griffith Police Department's Policy a. through o. listed above (namely, Numbers 323, 322, 407, 702, 700, 429, 607, 505, 408, 432, 411, 413, 416, 338, and 423) as presented.

PSB Vice Chairman Vechey seconded the motion.  
Motion carried 5 – 0.

2. Griffith Police Department – Outstanding Citizen Award – Kerry Gehrke

Commander Burrow advised of the following: On March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at approximately 6:00 AM, Mr. Gehrke was working for Able Disposal when he noticed a cane near a garbage can and a woman's scarf lying on a nearby driveway. Mr. Gehrke stopped his route and investigated. He found a 90-year-old female dementia patient lying on the dark, front porch who could not get up. An ambulance was summoned to the scene to treat for possible hypothermia due to the freezing temperatures. Mr. Gehrke's attentiveness and actions possibly prevented a tragic situation.

Commander Burrow then presented Mr. Gehrke with his Outstanding Citizen Award. Photos were taken.

3. Griffith Fire Department requests to hire the following candidates pending Safety Board interviews and approval:

- a. Julian Molina – Station 31
- b. Jahmeen Evans – Station 33
- c. Timothy Gonzales – Station 33

PSB Member Goral made a motion to approve the hiring of the following candidates pending Safety Board interviews and approval:

- a. Julian Molina – Station 31
- b. Jahmeem Evans – Station 33
- c. Timothy Gonzales – Station 33

PSB Member Purgert seconded the motion.  
Motion carried 5 – 0.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

There were no questions or comments from the floor.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 P.M.



George Jerome, Chairman

---

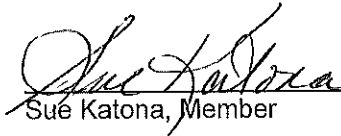
Phil Vechey, Vice Chairman



RoAnn Purgert, Secretary

---

Elizabeth Goral, Member

  
Sue Katona, Member

Minutes Prepared By:

  
Joan Kolodziej, Recording Secretary