



TOWN OF GRIFFITH PUBLIC SAFETY BOARD

111 N. Broad Street, Griffith, IN 46319

Meeting Minutes September 5, 2024

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

Those in Attendance

George Jerome	Griffith Safety Board Chairman
Philip Vechev	Griffith Safety Board Vice Chairman – Absent
RoAnn Purgert	Griffith Safety Board Secretary
Elizabeth 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 – Absent
Greg Mance	Chief, Griffith Police Department
Roy Schoon	Chief, Griffith Fire Department
Mike Andree	Deputy Chief, Griffith Fire Department
Christian Bartholomew	Legal Counsel, Burke Costanza & Carberry

The following items were discussed:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. August 1, 2024 PSB Meeting Minutes

PSB Member Katona made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Board Meeting as presented.

PSB Member Goral seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 – 0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Announcements made at tonight's meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS

1. Griffith Police Department

Chief Mance read the monthly report for July 2024. Chief Mance advised the Board that our Animal Control facility is full beyond capacity. This seems to be true for all the animal control facilities in our area.

2. Griffith Fire Department

Fire Chief Schoon read the monthly report for July 2024. Chief Schoon stated they are currently working to get their Survive Alive House ready for the upcoming Safety Day on September 21 and for the Department's Open House scheduled for October 6, 2024. Chief Schoon advised they have signed an agreement with the Highland Fire Department for automatic aid for structure fires, which basically has both departments being paged out together in the event of a structure fire in either community.

3. Griffith F.O.P. Lodge #161

There was no representative present tonight from Griffith F.O.P. Lodge #161.

4. VEST

Corporal P. Ghrist read the monthly VEST report for August 2024. Total hours worked by VEST Members for August 2024 were 1,239.25 hours. The top Volunteer for August is Tom Gindl with 315 hours. Honorable Mentions go out to: Mike Andree (286 hours), Ruth Gindl (123.5 hours), Fermin Lopez (114 hours), Robert Bubala (119.75 hours), Mathew Plopper (52.5 hours), Lamar Blanks (70 hours), and Tracy Labuda (55.25 hours). Total hours for 2024 are 6,865.25. There are currently 13 members in VEST, and they have 5 applications for membership. The VEST units worked numerous hours this month at Special Events such as: Central Markets, NWI Symphony Concert, BBQ & Blues Fest, Western Days, and Rock 'N Rail Music and Street Festival.

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 for the development of an Emergency Hiring List for Police Officer, subject to Town Council budgetary approval.

PSB Member Goral made a motion to approve the Police Department's request for development of an Emergency Hiring List for Police Officer, subject to Town Council budgetary approval.

PSB Member Katona seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 – 0.

2. Griffith Fire Department swearing-in of one (1) Probationary Firefighter to Full Time Status; namely:

- a. Jennifer Covington – Station 31

PSB Member Purgert made a motion to approve the swearing-in of Probationary Firefighter Jennifer Covington (Station 31) to full-time status.

PSB Member Katona seconded the motion

The motion carried 4 – 0.

Deputy Chief Andree advised the following: Jennifer Covington is a Griffith High School graduate. She enjoys spending time with her two beloved fur babies and loves hanging out with her friends and family, especially her nephew Jackson. She loves going to the beach and engaging in outdoor activities.

Jennifer joined our department in September 2023. She was one of three to complete our second ERS Class. She graduated from the District 1 Fire Academy this past June and is currently enrolled in our driver operator course. Jen has proven herself to be an asset to the department and continues to help with numerous events and fundraisers.

PSB Member Katona swore-in Firefighter Jennifer Covington. Chief Schoon presented Firefighter Covington with her Certificate of Promotion recognizing her as a full and active member of the Griffith Fire Department. Deputy Chief Andree presented Firefighter Covington with her shield.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Richard Powell, of 1206 E. Lake Street, Griffith, Indiana, stated he had a concern regarding the intersection of E. Lake Street and N. Colfax Street. Mr. Powell stated the southwest corner lot is full of branches and bushes. When a vehicle tries to turn to go North on Colfax Street, they must pull out onto Colfax Street to see. Town Councilman Ryfa stated Chief Mance would handle this matter with Code Enforcement as it is a serious issue, and it is critical that it be addressed. Chief Mance stated he would look into the matter.

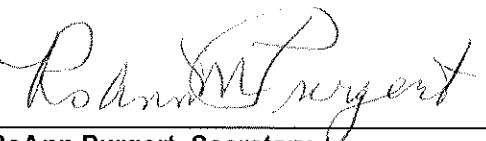
An unidentified male subject addressed the Safety Board asking where he could go to get a copy of his Form DD214. Chairman Jerome advised the subject to go to the Adam Benjamin Jr. Veteran's Administration, located at the intersection of W. 93rd Avenue and Broadway, in Crown Point. He should be able to get a copy of his DD214 at that location.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.


George Jerome, Chairman


Philip Vechev, Vice Chairman


RoAnn Purgert, Secretary


Elizabeth Goral, Member


Sue Katona, Member

Minutes Prepared By:


Joan Kolodziej, Recording Secretary