

DUI TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – March 6, 2024

The Granite County DUI Task Force met on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in open meeting at the Granite County Courthouse's District Courtroom. The meeting was called to order by the Granite County Sheriff, Scott Dunkerson at 1:02 p.m. Task Force members in attendance included the following: Sheriff Scott Dunkerson (voting member), Blaine Bradshaw (voting member), Granite County Attorney; Claudette Parke (non-voting), Granite County Attorney's Office; Ella Tallon, Philipsburg School Student Member; Dawn Ries (non-voting); Jackie Bolster, Granite County DES Coordinator; Dirk Sichveland (voting member); and Kayla Sanders, Healthy Granite County Network. MHP Sgt. Zachary Freeman (voting member) was not in attendance.

Sheriff Scott Dunkerson noted that a quorum was present for this meeting and introductions were made for the new members.

Reading of the Minutes: The meeting minutes from December 6, 2023 were reviewed and approved. A motion for approval of the December 6, 2023 minutes was made by Jackie Bolster and seconded by Dirk Sichveland; and all voted in favor of the motion.

FINANCIALS: Sheriff Scott Dunkerson provided a copy of the current balance in the DUI Task Force Budget which is \$9,605.71. Sheriff Scott Dunkerson took some time to clarify for new members where the money comes from for the task force, specifically, the reinstatement fees and alcohol permits. Sheriff Dunkerson also shared that a yearly report is due in April and that he would be preparing and submitting for approval.

MIP/DUI REPORT: Sheriff Dunkerson reported that there were three (3) recent DUI's and two (2) MIP's and that there was one (1) possession of a vape at the local high school which was a second offense as the first offense was taken care of through the school. Sheriff Dunkerson shared that there was a rise recently in the domestic violence calls that are escalated by the use of alcohol. There have been five (5) in the past few weeks. This is a lot for this area. Sheriff Dunkerson also shared that one of the persons involved in a recent Partner and/or Family Member Assault (PFMA or Domestic) wanted to get some help for medical and mental health issues. Sheriff Dunkerson stated that due to the Healthy Granite County Network, mental health services are now available in Granite County.

There was further discussion about the DUI Patrols that are being done and Sheriff Dunkerson passed around the current DUI Patrol logs for members to review and will be included on the email sent to all members. The Sheriff pointed out that there had been a situation recently where a Deputy was in the middle of a DUI arrest at the end of a shift and the Sheriff approved overtime with DUI Task Force funds to pay for the overtime. There was discussion of how this was acceptable to the task force and within the parameters of the already approved hours for DUI patrols.

OLD BUSINESS: There was discussion about the any upcoming school speakers, where Jackie Bolster shared that there was an OPI grant for tobacco use education and she had forwarded the information to both schools.

Dawn Reis shared that there had been a speaker at the school in Philipsburg in October, 2023 and that she had researched a gentleman out of Dallas Texas who speaks to youth about the affects of vaping as this is the current trend in high school youth. She believed it to be affordable and would try to get both schools involved. There was discussion about finding something more local.

Jackie Bolster brought a gentleman named Steve Schmidt, who may know someone more local and stated she would reach out to him to see if he knew someone more local who could provide school instructional speaker services for the local schools. Mr. Schmidt was part of the Missoula County DUI Task Force and may have some contacts.

Dawn Reis, shared that she had been approved to provide the PFL (prime for life) alcohol classes in the school and that they could attend a 4 ½ hour class or take the class online. She further stated that she could provide prevention plus wellness courses which help them to make the right choices. She stated that Drummond Schools hadn't been as receptive to the classes or training that she has offered.

Dawn Reis also stated that she is interested in the Communities that Care (CTC) position that is currently available and wanted to make sure that the Task Force was in favor of her taking the position and how it could benefit the county. She would work exclusively in Granite County as the prevention specialist and the Communities that Care person. All were supportive of Ms. Reis taking the position. Kayla Sanders spoke about the positive nature of the CTC group and want to see it continue now that they have it started. Kayla was supportive of Dawn being the new CTC point of contact.

Sheriff Dunkerson brought up the need to elect new officers for the year and it was decided to put on the agenda for May, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS: Sheriff Dunkerson then moved to New Business and began discussing gift cards for designated drivers. Blaine Bradshaw made a motion for the Task Force to purchase five (5) gift cards (\$25 each) for a total amount of \$150 from a business in Drummond for local deputies to give them out to designated drivers. The motion was seconded by Jackie Bolster and all voted in favor of the motion. Sheriff Dunkerson explained the gift card process to the new members of the task force.

Dawn Reis stated that she could make some flyers for the task force to put in local businesses. There was discussion about the Think Twice program with the portable breath testing that were in local business and it was the general consensus that they had become a bit of a joke to patrons and had been less effective.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

St. Patrick's Day was approaching and Sheriff's Dunkerson stated that he would have an extra patrol. Sheriff Dunkerson stated that the recent hockey tournament had kept his office busy with calls.

It was noted that the Mud Bog Racing and associated concert, in Drummond, is coming up in May and they were going to have a concert as well this year. Sheriff Dunkerson stated he would have additional patrols scheduled that weekend. The only other activities in May would be High School Graduation and the Prom in April.

NEW MEMBERS:

The new members in attendance were recognized, Ella Tallon and Kayla Sanders. There was discussion about getting more community members and the members of the task force would ask around.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Election of officers and new membership will be on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 1:00 pm in the Granite County Courthouse's District Courtroom. Meetings are held, per the by-laws, on the first Wednesday of March, May, September and December.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.