

DUI TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – September 4, 2024

The Granite County DUI Task Force met on Wednesday, September 4, 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 1:00 p.m. Task Force members in attendance included the following: Sheriff Scott Dunkerson (voting member); Claudette Parke (non-voting), Granite County Attorney's Office; Blaine Bradshaw (voting member), Granite County Attorney Dawn Ries (non-voting); Dirk Sichveland (voting member); Debbie Robinson, Granite County Health Nurse (voting); Jackie Bolster, Granite County DES Coordinator and Amanda Bohrer Public Health and Tobacco Prevention. Kayla Sanders, Healthy Granite County Network; Ella Tallon, Philipsburg School Student Member and MHP Sgt. Freeman were 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 May 1, 2024 were reviewed and approved. A motion for approval of the December 6, 2023 minutes was made by Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw and seconded by Dirk Sichveland; and all voted in favor of the motion.

FINANCIALS: Sheriff Scott Dunkerson spoke about the current financial status and that there were several catering licenses issued prior to the Labor Day Holiday, but didn't have the current printout of the balance of the DUI Task Force account. It was stated that the balance is \$9,926.05. Amanda Bohrer asked Sheriff Scott Dunkerson if he checked for the appropriate RASS training prior to the licenses being issued. Sheriff Scott Dunkerson stated that it was the state's responsibility to make sure that happened. There was further discussion how they are earmarked for the DUI Task Force and allowed for overtime DUI patrols throughout the summer.

Amanda Bohrer shared that Katherine McEnery; Powell County Attorney recommends during sentencing for a DUI Defendant who hires an attorney to pay \$200 to the local task force.

The Task Force discussed the Towers that were an email discussion previously, and agreed that one half of the cost of the Towers that were ordered and placed around town would be paid half by the task force and half by public health department. The public health department had ordered and set up the towers. Jackie Bolster shared that they were purchased around September 10, 2024 and she answered questions as to how they would best be used. Specifically, by placing at different places throughout the county, such as local games and functions to provide education. County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw made a motion to pay for 3 of the 6 ordered towers and the motion was seconded by Jackie Bolster with all voting in favor.

Sheriff Scott Dunkerson referenced the letter and DUI Task Force plan that was accepted and signed by the Granite County Commissioners. A copy of both the letter and plan were provided to the task force members in attendance.

MIP/DUI REPORT: Sheriff Scott Dunkerson reported that there were seven (7) recent DUI's in the past three months with 3 new drug cases, one being morphine and the other two methamphetamines.

The discussion turned to the open School Resource Officer (SRO) opening in the county for local schools. Sheriff Scott Dunkerson stated that Deputy Marlana Weber had been appointed and would be the liaison to the local schools until she is able to attend the necessary training. Once there is more help hired Deputy Weber would be freed up to be in the schools.

DUI patrols over the summer totaled fifteen. The DUI logs were passed around the group for review. These logs will be attached to the email as the task force pays for the overtime for these patrols.

There was further discussion about Dirk updating the Designated Driver program that he was in charge of as the holiday season approaches.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dawn Ries and Amanda Bohrer spoke to the Task Force's need for school speakers and requested clarification as to what the Task Force was looking for. They shared that have felt through there experience that a large group assembly has been less effective but an individual with a smaller group provided for more questions and follow up. They went on to share that there are kits/resources for teachers and then they do the follow up. The discuss went to the crashed car and its effectiveness. Felt that is was 50/50.

Public Health Nurse Debbie Robinson, shared that they have seen a need with bullying, including acceptance which includes isolation and substance abuse. She further stated that they have a curriculum for all GC middle schoolers that was provided by a grant. It is called "Be the One" which promotes being positive and helpful.

Amanda Bohrer suggested getting OPI (Office of Public Instruction) involved to teach the staff at the schools about vaping and the latest products on a PIR day at the schools.

Dawn Ries stated that she has 2500 coasters for local bars with DUI information and facts for local patrons. There was discussion amount the group about how the number of DUI's within the county fluctuates for different reasons, including local establishment support and different deputies that are willing to make the arrests.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jackie Bolster shared that next Spring (spring 2025) they would be putting on a kids' health fair at the grade school and high school to provide education to students. The Sheriff's Office agreed to have a table with educational information. The morning would be for the younger kids and the afternoon for the older ones with both community schools participating. The projected date is April 2025. County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw suggested that they as GCSO Reserve Deputy Nail Atkinson to help as he is also is in the medial field and sees all kinds of things in the ER.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sheriff Scott Dunkerson stated that there would be DUI patrols for all the upcoming hockey tournaments and for miner days.

Amanda Bohrer suggested a survivor walk as an activity for local students. It was also suggested that doing an event like Survivor has been successful. There are prizes and food and there are short classes in several different areas including, vaping, cost of a dui, suicide, bullying and tabaco prevention. A recent one that was held in a different county had prizes worth up to \$1,000. Parents are asked to chaperone and volunteer to help. Amanda and Dawn were asking for the task force support of such an event in Granite County. All agreed.

There was further discussion of other tabaco education opportunities that have worked in Anaconda and Deer Lodge with success, specifically surveys about what community members think.

NEW MEMBERS:

No discussion

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 4, 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 2 p.m. on a Motion made by County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw.