

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 18, 2015**

A Regular Meeting of the Substance Abuse Task Force was held at 5:15 p.m. on February 18, 2015, in the Page Public Library Conference Room in Page, Arizona. Chair Ron Macdonald presided. Vice Chair Cherie Zube' and Secretary, Bunny Cochran were present. Member(s) Regina Santelli and Ivan Cendese were excused. Council Liaison John Mayes was excused.

Chair Macdonald called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Staff members present: Police Chief Frank Balkcom, Police Lieutenant Tim Lange, and Page City Attorney Joe Estes

HEAR FROM CITIZENS

No citizens addressed the Substance Abuse Task Force

MINUTES

Regular Substance Abuse Task Force Meeting – January 21, 2015

Motion made by Member Zube' to approve the minutes. The motion was duly seconded by Member Cochran and passed upon vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Update on obtaining dual purpose dogs for the Page Police Department

Chief Balkcom stated that the research had been done to purchase a dual purpose dog as cost effective as possible. They received verification that Ray Varner has valid credentials as a trainer and is a certified specialist for law enforcement canine training.

Lieutenant Lange presented two proposals from two companies providing canine training and one proposal from Ray Varner. The proposals were for \$8,500.00 and \$13,000.00 and \$6,000.00. The proposal for \$8,500.00 did not include drug training or a guarantee. The proposal for \$6,000.00 from Ray Varner included Mr. Varner coming to Page to do the training and customary guarantees.

Chief Balkcom spoke to the board on the work done to keep the purchase as cost effective as possible and verification of former Captain Ray Varner's valid credentials as a trainer and certification specialist for law enforcement canine training. Lieutenant Lange then presented other proposals from 2 other companies providing canines and training. Their proposals were \$8,500.00 and \$13,000.00 respectively. The \$8,500.00 dog did not include drug training or a guarantee. The proposal for \$6,000.00 from Ray Varner was then introduced. Ray will come to Page and do the training, as well as provide the other customary guarantees.

There was discussion with City Attorney, Joe Estes, on how to accommodate payment.

Member Zube' made a motion to use Substance Abuse Task Force funding to purchase and maintain a dual purpose dog with training from Ray Varner. Included in the motion; Chief Balkcom would look at the department's canine needs in six months to see if another canine unit was needed. The motion was duly seconded by Member Cochran and passed upon a vote.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Funding applications from Desert View Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), Page Middle School SADD and Page Dance Ensemble for travel expenses to the Fredonia, AZ school district to be part of a Fredonia School District prevention presentation

In discussion it was revealed that Page Middle School, due to AIMS testing, will not be able to take part in the Fredonia presentation. Dance Ensemble has not made a decision. Todd Glasenapp of Desert View SADD attended the board meeting.

A motion was made by Member Zube' and duly seconded by Chair Macdonald to approve \$320.00 for travel expenses for Desert View SADD to travel to Fredonia. The motion was passed upon vote.

2. Present and future impact of Federal Government's decision that marijuana can be grown and used on tribal lands

It was reported that marijuana use is up and bolder in nature at the middle school. Page High School sees a drop in use. There is no change among juvenile probationers. Marijuana use is steady for both juvenile and adult probation populations. It was reported that alcohol continues to be the major drug of choice among adults with marijuana, prescription opioids, meth and heroin in use in that order. There were no reports of positive heroin testing in November and December of 2014.

Steve Gaethje reported that the Exodus Program that specializes in rehabilitation from heroin is being used in the jails. Medical treatment is being considered for a component in the City's Drug Court Program. The judicial system is becoming more geared to treatment for drug use than incarceration.

3. Marketing illegal drugs in Page

There was discussion concerning how some drug users are paying for their drugs through bartering. Lieutenant Lange confirmed that this behavior is tied to burglaries for items with which to barter. It was suggested that high school students may be being approached by organized dealers to sell drugs in Page. It was also suggested that SATF Members might speak with Judge McCullough to keep juvenile probationers on campus during lunch.

ADJOURN: 6:05 p.m.



Bunny Cochran
Secretary



Ron Macdonald
Chair