**DUI TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – December 6, 2023**

The Granite County DUI Task Force met on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 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 1:10 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; and MHP Sgt. Zachary Freeman (voting member). Dirk Sichveland (voting member); and Dawn Ries (non-voting), Prevention Specialist for Granite County were not in attendance.

Sheriff Scott Dunkerson noted that a quorum was present for this meeting.

**Reading of the Minutes:** The meeting minutes from September 6, 2023 were reviewed and approved. A motion for approval of the September 6, 2023 minutes was made by Blaine Bradshaw and seconded by Sgt. Zachary Freeman; 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 $10,867.72. Sheriff Scott Dunkerson took some time to clarify for new member Sgt. Zachary Freeman with the Montana Highway Patrol where the money comes from for the task force, specifically, the reinstatement fees and alcohol permits.

**MIP/DUI REPORT:** Sheriff Dunkerson reported that the traffic stops have gone way down now that summer traffic has calmed down. He also stated that there are 2 new DUI’s and that the sheriff’s office is currently working a new drug case and didn’t provide any further detail.

There was further discussion about the DUI patrolling that is being done and Sheriff Scott Dunkerson complemented Trooper Jack Rhodes efforts within Granite County to Sgt. Zachary Freemen.

Current DUI Patrol logs were passed around for members to review and will be included on the email sent to all members. The members discussed the great job that the Granite County Sheriff’s Office is doing on the DUI patrols specifically. The Granite County Attorney’s office will prepare and provide an updated list of the 2023 DUI’s for Granite County.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was discussion about the any upcoming school speakers, where Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw shared the contents of an email from Dawn Reis. The email will be forwarded to all members.

Sgt. Zachary Freeman asked the members about any upcoming events where MHP could have a presence. They discussed Yule Night, which is scheduled for Friday, December 8, 2023. Sgt. Freeman believes that the Butte Division is almost back to full strength and will be able to help out in this area more than in recent months. Sheriff Scott Dunkerson stated that he would send an email to Sgt. Freeman in regards to any event where it would be good to have additional support from the Montana Highway Patrol.

Sheriff Scott Dunkerson asked Sgt. Zachary Freemen if the Montana Highway Patrol had anything that they could use as an educational tool at the area schools. Sgt. Freeman stated that as he is new to this position that he wasn’t aware of anything but would look into it. Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw stated that he would email Dawn Reis, Tri-County Addiction Specialist and Jackie Bolster, DES/PHEP Coordinator, and ask them to be prepared to give an update to the task force any plans they have for educational activities at the area schools.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Sheriff Dunkerson then moved to New Business and began discussing upcoming events.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**  Yule Night was again discussed as it is scheduled for Friday, December 8, 2023. There was also discussion regarding any hockey tournaments that may be happening. Sheriff Scott Dunkerson stated that he would be scheduling additional DUI patrols for these events.

Recruiting new membership was discussed in which Sheriff Scott Dunkerson stated that he had emailed both school superintendents without much luck but would again send another email. Sheriff Dunkerson also requested that Granite County Commissioner Assistant, Billie Ann Kulaski be asked to again put an ad in the local paper for any community volunteers.

The discussion turned to the by-laws, specifically, the members in attendance discussed the possible membership that could be included, specifically, area ambulance crews. It was decided that Coast to Coast Ambulance Crew would be asked to join the task force.

Additionally, Sheriff Scott Dunkerson said that upon review of the by-laws, there should have been officer election the first meeting of the fiscal year, which would have been the September 2023 meeting. The election was tabled until the next meeting to include any new members. Sheriff Dunkerson stated that there is a coordinator position that should be filled through appointment from the Granite County Commission. It was agreed that for the time being, things would stay they way they are, without a coordinator.

Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw moved to approve $150 toward additional gift cards for the Sheriff’s Office Deputies once the current gift cards are depleted. The Motion was seconded by MHP Sgt. Zachary Freeman and all voted in favor of the motion.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**  Election of officers and new membership

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, March 6, 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 1:35 p.m. by Motion from Granite County Attorney Blaine Bradshaw.