

## **BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

February 10, 2022

Virtual and Call-in Meeting

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Willie C. Bolton  
Chief Bruce Carlisle  
Mr. Richard Hyde  
Chief Leonard "Dee" Meadows  
Commissioner Michael Nail  
Mr. Samir J. Patel  
Mr. Rossie Ross  
Sheriff Joey Terrell  
Chief Craig Tully  
Commissioner Timothy C. Ward  
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Chief Stacey Cotton  
Captain Nicholas D. Ellis  
Sheriff Dane Kirby  
Mr. Charles D. Sikes

### **OTHERS:**

Ms. Tina Piper, Attorney General's Office  
Mrs. Jennifer Pendarvis, Board Liaison  
Commissioner Christopher C. Wright, Department of Public Safety  
Lt. Colonel Billy Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Lt. Colonel Stephanie Stallings, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Kendrick Lowe, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Robert Balkcom, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Josh Lamb, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Steve Harrison, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Wayne Mobley, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Captain Andrew Montgomery, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Lt. Mark Riley, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
SFC Michael Burns, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
SFC Shange' Hodo, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Sgt. Dustin Jones, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Ms. Lorri Smith, Department of Public Safety  
Ms. Clare McGuire, Department of Public Safety  
Mr. Jacob Taylor, Department of Public Safety  
Ms. Kaycee Larson, Department of Public Safety  
Mr. John Melvin, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Sharla Shockley, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Erik Christensen, Georgia Movers Association  
Mr. Lee Lemke, Georgia Movers Association

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the February 10, 2022 Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Lt. Col. Billy Hitchens gave the Invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the December 9, 2021 BPS minutes. Mr. Willie Bolton made the motion to approve the December 9, 2021 minutes. This was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the Board members.

### **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Commissioner Wright, Georgia Department of Public Safety, reported the 111<sup>th</sup> Trooper School is in field training with 41 cadets and the 112<sup>th</sup> Trooper School is in the 5<sup>th</sup> week of training with 29 cadets. Commissioner Wright advised both Trooper Schools will graduate in April. Commissioner Wright noted this past Friday, the 7<sup>th</sup> Motor Carrier School graduated with 12 new Motor Carrier Officers.

Regarding the new headquarters project, Commissioner Wright reported it is continuing to move forward and on track for a January 2023 completion date.

Concerning new patrol posts, Commissioner Wright noted the Hazlehurst Post is complete but upon inspection by the State Fire Marshal, it was discovered the firewall was not properly constructed. Commissioner Wright shared the Fire Marshal has verbally approved the corrected architectural plans and the hopes are the city will move forward quickly with the needed corrections. Commissioner Wright advised footings were supposed to be poured this week at Post 33-Milledgeville, but crews ran into contaminated dirt on the back portion of the property, and Facilities personnel are meeting with those involved this week. Commissioner Wright is hopeful construction will begin within the next couple of weeks. Commissioner Wright reported the Post 18-Reidsville construction is with the Legal Division and State Properties Design Group and hopes are to have the project under construction within the next few weeks as well.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Commissioner Wright what would become of the old Reidsville Post once the new Post was in place, to which Commissioner Wright and Commissioner Ward stated it would be turned back over to the Department of Corrections.

Assistant Director John Melvin, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, advised the Board with the three resignations in the Medical Examiner's office within the past few months, he is pleased to announce Dr. Geoffrey Smith has been brought on board with the Agency. Assistant Director Melvin stated Dr. Smith is out of DeKalb County but started his career with the Bureau. Assistant Director Melvin shared Dr. Smith has a vision for the Medical Examiner's Office, which is consistent with Director Reynolds' vision of being able to provide autopsy services but also being the lead medical examiner's office the country in not only performing services but also expanding partnerships with Mercer University, Morehouse, and Emory in order to increase the fellowship programs due to the huge gap between the number of available forensic pathologists and the actual number of pathologists.

Assistant Director Melvin noted Dr. Smith filled one of the three vacancies within the Medical Examiner's Office and the Agency has a very good lead on a second forensic pathologist. Assistant Director Melvin advised he is going to the Macon Medical Examiner's office tomorrow morning to meet with a doctor out of Pinellas County, Florida who successfully recruits for medical examiners. Assistant Director Melvin stated he is hopeful the vacant medical examiners positions will be filled quickly.

Assistant Director Melvin also shared the Department of Forensic Science has approved two outside agencies to test firearms, whose backlog is most pressing due to them being connected to the most violent cases. Assistant Director Melvin explained the firearms backlog suffers because personnel in that single area requires more training, upwards of 18-24 months, before they can be released to do their own testing.

Assistant Director Melvin announced last month he and Prosecutor Liaison Lindsay Gardner traveled to Hall County with a 56-defendant indictment for a drug trafficking organization and of the 56 defendants, 50 plead guilty, receiving sentences.

Regarding the Gang Database, Assistant Director Melvin shared it will be released for beta testing the last week of March and should be fully operational within the next six months after that.

Mr. Samir Patel thanked Assistant Director Melvin and the Bureau for their forensic pathologists' assistance in some murder cases his office has been working through, indicating they are top notch. Mr. Patel asked if the firearms examination will be a process similar to the drug identification where it is outsourced to another agency, to which Assistant Director Melvin responded it is, they will go out to the two agencies identified.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, updated the Board on three major construction projects at the Training Center that will be completed soon; one is at the Fire Academy with the addition of two classrooms; the Use of Force building; and the kitchen.

Director Wigginton shared during the first quarter of this year, there are over 50 offerings statewide of the new Narcan program where the Training Center will train, provide/replace Narcan to local agencies. Director Wigginton also noted last year there were over 10,000 officers enrolled in gang related classes and by the end of this month, the Center will be partnering with DPS to instruct every Trooper and Motor Carrier Officer.

### **DONATIONS**

Ms. Lorri Smith, Georgia Department of Public Safety, requested approval of the following donations:

Two (2) DragonEye Speed LIDARs	\$4,211.48	Dooly County Sheriff's Office
Two (2) DragonEye Speed LIDARs	\$4,211.48	Crisp County Sheriff's Office

One (1) DragonEye LIDAR	\$2,100.00	Madison County Sheriff's Office
One (1) Kustom Raptor RP-1 Radar Units	\$1,689.00	Emanuel County Sheriff's Office
Two (2) Stalker DSR 2X Dual Antenna Radar Units	\$6,800.00	Locust Grove Police Department

The motion to accept these donations was made by Sheriff Joey Terrell, which was seconded by Chief Dee Meadows and voted approved by the Board members.

Assistant Director John Melvin, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, requested approval of the following donation:

Two (2) Samsung 55 Inch Televisions	\$1,095.98	Walmart, LaGrange, Georgia
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The motion to accept this donation was made by Sheriff Joey Terrell, which was seconded by Mr. Willie Bolton and voted approved by the Board members.

Director Wigginton presented the names for the Georgia Public Safety Line of Duty Deaths Memorial for approval by the Board of Public Safety.

The motion to accept the names was made by Chief Craig Tully, which was seconded by Mr. Willie Bolton and voted approved by the Board members.

Major Wayne Mobley, DPS/Motor Carrier Compliance Division, requested preliminary approval of a 10% increase to the Georgia Department of Public Safety's Maximum Rate Tariff for Carriers of Household Goods in Intrastate Transportation, with the Final Adoption on April 14, 2022 after a public hearing on March 16, 2022.

Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion for the preliminary approval of a 10% increase and the notice of a public hearing on March 16, 2022. This was seconded by Chief Dee Meadows and voted approved by the BPS members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Craig Tully  
Secretary