

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
May 25, 2022
Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Forsyth, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Willie C. Bolton
Chief Bruce Carlisle
Chief Stacey Cotton
Capt. Nicholas D. Ellis
Chief Leonard "Dee" Meadows
Mr. Rossie Ross
Chief Craig Tully
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Richard Hyde
Sheriff Dane Kirby
Commissioner Michael Nail
Mr. Samir J. Patel
Mr. Charles D. Sikes
Sheriff Joey Terrell
Commissioner Timothy C. Ward

OTHERS:

Ms. Tina Piper, Attorney General's Office
Mrs. Jennifer Pendarvis, Board Liaison
Lt. Colonel Billy Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Josh Lamb, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Kendrick Lowe, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Robert Balkcom, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Thornell L. King, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Dean Allen, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Steve Harrison, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Wayne Mobley, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Clay Kicklighter, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Brandon Dawson, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Ryan Renner, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Andrew Montgomery, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Lieutenant Craig Singletary, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Lieutenant Lance Greene, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Ms. Clare McGuire, Department of Public Safety
Mr. John Melvin, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Cheryl Greathouse, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Bruce Stanford, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Ara Baronian, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Ike McConnell, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Hal Braswell, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Jeff Dean, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Roger Carroll, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mrs. Sharla Shockley, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Cory Thomas, City of Colquitt
Mrs. Lana Lane

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the May 25, 2022 Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Mr. Adam Ham gave the Invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Craig Tully introduced his guest, City Manager Cory Thomas, City of Colquitt. Vice-Chairman Wood asked the other attendees in the room to introduce themselves. Chief Stacey Cotton introduced his wife, Lana Lane to the room.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the April 14, 2022 BPS minutes. Mr. Rossie Ross made the motion to approve the April 14, 2022 minutes. This was seconded by Captain Nick Ellis and voted approved by the Board members.

Captain Clay Kicklighter read a speech from Former President Ronald given in 1982 in reference to Memorial Day, encouraging everyone to remember the day and what it represents.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Lt. Colonel Billy Hitchens, Georgia Department of Public Safety, updated the Board on Trooper School graduations, indicating the 111th Trooper School graduated on April 29th with 41 new Troopers and the 112th graduated on April 8th with 27 new Troopers. Lt. Colonel Hitchens noted the new Troopers allowed the Department to backfill some of the specialty jobs in the field.

Regarding the 113th Trooper School, Lt. Colonel Hitchens reported there were 907 applications, with 77 still active. Lt. Colonel Hitchens also reported there are 22 Cadets in the 8th MCO School, after starting with 26.

Lt. Colonel Hitchens advised the crime suppression details in the Atlanta area are still ongoing and is very successful with the assistance of Atlanta PD, Department of Community Supervision, Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and the multi-agency task force.

Lt. Colonel Hitchens reported there has been a slight uptick in protests over the leak of the possible Roe V Wade decision, but so far all have been peaceful and there have been no issues around the Capitol, noting the new fence around the building has been very helpful.

Lt. Colonel Hitchens provided updates on the Department's current constructions projects, reporting the Headquarters project is still in place to be completed on schedule; Post 16, Hazlehurst has a temporary certificate of occupancy and should have a move in date soon; Post 33, Milledgeville is under construction and should be completed by August, after starting around January; and Post 18, Reidsville is in the design phase.

Mr. Willie Bolton asked if the Motor Carrier Compliance Division staffing levels is at the maximum, to which Lt. Colonel Hitchens stated there is no cap number, but the goal is to have 300 Motor Carrier Officers.

Assistant Director John Melvin, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers following his crash in March.

Assistant Director Melvin reported to the Board that the Legislature and Governor have been good to the Bureau and their focus the last few months has been to increase staffing. Assistant Director Melvin indicated there will be a Special Agent class set for September. Assistant Director Melvin stated he is excited about the direction and vision Director Reynolds has for the Bureau to be one of the leading forensic pathology programs in the country by partnering with Mercer University, Morehouse, and Emory to get into their forensic pathology programs to fill positions with the Bureau.

Assistant Director Melvin reported the numbers on the Crime Lab have crept up just a little bit, but along with the number of Special Agents added, there will also be an increase in the number of Scientists hired, whose main focus will be on firearms testing.

Mr. Willie Bolton asked about the Cold Cases, to which Assistant Director Melvin reported numerous cases have been solved, including a 40-year old case and a 16-year old case, and are very close to solving a couple others.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, reported the Training Center is on track to host over 300,000 students. Director Wigginton noted the Legislature provided funding for 10 new positions at the Center which will be for Use of Force Instructor positions to be spread throughout the state to allow instructors to go to communities and teach at local agencies.

Director Wigginton reported the student and instructor who were accidentally shot at the Training Center by another student this past Monday during firearms training are recovering and expected to be okay. Director Wigginton explained the student who had the accidental discharge is retired military, a competitive shooter, as well as an assistant chief at a Metro-Atlanta agency. Director Wigginton noted, regardless of your experience and training, there are hazards in all of the training spectrums at the Training Center.

Director Wigginton reminded everyone of the Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony the next morning, indicating there are 50 individuals being honored. Director Wigginton recognized Ms. Sharla Shockley for her hard work on the ceremony.

Director Wigginton also recognized and thanked his staff for their quick response immediately following the shooting incident.

DONATIONS

Major Josh Lamb, Georgia Department of Public Safety, requested approval of the following donations:

One (1) Pair of Rear Window Bars and Installation for a 2021 Dodge Charger	\$294.00	Alma Police Department
Ten (10) Tactical Pocket Knives	\$5,000.00	Mr. Trey Welker
Two (2) DragonEye Lasers	\$4,156.00	Lamar County Sheriff's Office
Four (4) DragonEye Lasers	\$8,312.00	Bibb County Sheriff's Office

The motion to accept these donations was made by Mr. Rossie Ross, which was seconded by Chief Stacey Cotton and voted approved by the Board members.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Clare McGuire, Georgia Department of Public Safety, presented a Resolution requesting the Board of Public Safety to authorize the Georgia Department of Public Safety to transfer a Revocable License and Permanent Non-Standard Easement of improved land to Georgia Power to accommodate construction of a new Georgia Power transmission line on the property of Georgia State Patrol Post 8, Madison, 1060 Monticello Highway, Madison, GA.

The motion to accept this Resolution was made by Chief Stacey Cotton, which was seconded by Mr. Willie Bolton and voted approved by the Board members.

Assistant Director John Melvin, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, presented a Resolution requesting the Board of Public Safety to authorize the Revocable License and Non-Exclusive Easement to the Georgia Power Company for 0.112 acres of land on the GBI Coastal Regional Crime Lab and GBI Special Operations Building located in the City of Pooler, Chatham County, GA for the installation and maintenance of electrical transformers and distribution lines.

The motion to accept this Resolution was made by Mr. Willie Bolton, which was seconded by Chief Stacey Cotton and voted approved by the Board members.

Assistant Director John Melvin, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, requested issuance of \$11,140,000 in aggregate principal amount of State of Georgia General Obligation Bonds.

Captain Nick Ellis made the motion to adopt the Bond Resolution for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, which was seconded by Chief Dee Meadows and voted approved by the Board Members.

Minutes of Board of Public Safety

May 25, 2022

Page 5

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Craig Tully
Secretary