

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

June 23, 2020

Virtual and Call-in Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chief Bruce Carlisle
Chief Stacey Cotton
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan
Mr. Nicholas D. Ellis
Mr. George Hartwig
Mr. Richard Hyde
Commissioner Michael Nail
Mr. Rossie Ross
Mr. Charles D. Sikes
Sheriff Joey Terrell
Chief Craig Tully
Commissioner Timothy C. Ward
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sheriff Dane Kirby

OTHERS:

Ms. Tina Piper, Attorney General's Office
Ms. Cheryl Buie, Board Liaison
Commissioner Gary Vowell, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel Christopher C. Wright, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
Major Kevin Rexroat, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Mark Perry, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Billy Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Mark Lambert, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Jeremy Vickery, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Major Billy Boulware, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Wayne Mobley, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Miss Kaycee Larson, Department of Public Safety
Director Vic Reynolds, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. John Melvin, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Tony Hightower, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mrs. Cindy Jones, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Tim Fleming, Chief of Staff for Governor Kemp
Mr. Dan Kirk, former GBI Assistant Director

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the June 23rd, 2020 Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Major W. W. Hitchens, III give the Invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood shared with the group former Board member Mark Renew is an exceptional person, an outstanding law enforcement officer with a resume that is second to none. Vice-Chairman Wood added that Mark's knowledge base, expertise and his ethics are beyond reproach and has been an instrumental leader and a member of the BPS since May 2013 and served as secretary during most of those years. Vice-Chairman Wood advised Mark is now employed by the GA Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner and will be unable to serve on the BPS due to his state employment. Vice-Chairman Wood expressed the Board owes him a great deal of gratitude for his service to the state, his leadership to us personally and to the agencies he has served.

Chief Craig Tully made a motion to prepare and present a Resolution to former Board member Mark Renew. This was seconded by Mr. George Hartwig and voted approved by the BPS members.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Vice-Chairman Wood opened the floor for nominations for the Secretary of the Board of Public Safety. Sheriff Joey Terrell nominated Chief Craig Tully, which was seconded by Chief Bruce Carlisle. The Board members voted to approve for Chief Craig Tully to serve as Secretary of the Board of Public Safety.

Chief Craig Tully opened the floor for nominations for the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Public Safety. Mr. Charles Sikes nominated Mr. Ellis Wood, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell. The Board members voted to approve for Mr. Ellis Wood to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Public Safety.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the March 12, 2020 BPS minutes. Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion to approve the March 12, 2020 BPS minutes. This was seconded by Mr. Charles Sikes and voted approved by the Board members.

Vice-Chairman Wood welcomed Mr. Tim Fleming, Chief of Staff for Governor Kemp. Mr. Fleming shared Governor Kemp asked him to come to the BPS meeting and deliver some remarks. Mr. Fleming stated during the past several months the state has faced challenging and unprecedented times from the Covid-19 pandemic, to the civil unrests over the past several weeks. Mr. Fleming stated during the Covid-19 response, Governor Kemp is very appreciative and proud of the response from state agencies and is very grateful for the leadership of all of the agency heads that have helped and reflecting back over the past several weeks of the civil unrests in the country and in Georgia, Governor Kemp is very appreciative of all agencies that have been a part of these responses. Mr. Fleming added that he and Governor Kemp spent a lot of time with the DPS Command staff the past several weeks at the SOC and watching the leadership of this group has been great as they have dealt with unprecedented times and accepted the challenge and have done it in a way that has been very respectful and in a way that Georgia can be proud of. Mr. Fleming declared Governor Kemp is extremely proud of how the state agencies have responded during the past several months to the challenges they have been faced.

Mr. Fleming read a letter from Governor Kemp stating Colonel Gary Vowell and Lieutenant Colonel Chris Wright have been the right leaders at exactly the right time, who have demonstrated the integrity and strength that Georgia desperately required during unprecedented times. The letter was emailed to the BPS members.

Mr. Fleming introduced and welcomed new Board member Lt. Nicholas D. Ellis of Jesup PD.

Lt. Ellis thanked Governor Kemp for the appointment and thanked those for the work they do and looks forward to being a part of this team, being a part of how public safety is going to look in the future. Lt. Ellis told the group he respects and appreciates the work they have put in over the years.

Director Vic Reynolds, Georgia Bureau of Investigation recognized Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation who has retired. Director Reynolds shared during the short time he has been at the GBI, Mr. Kirk was great help to him, always somebody who conducted himself with principal, with integrity, always told him the truth no matter what the question was and sincerely appreciated that. Director Reynolds noted not only was Mr. Kirk a great colleague that he had a great deal of respect for, but a friend and will miss him and wish him nothing but the best, he is a good man, really did the GBI proud of the time he was employed, did a tremendous job.

Mr. John Melvin, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation thanked Mr. Kirk for the way he took him under his wing and brought him into the GBI, guided him each step of the way. Mr. Kirk is a great man of integrity, great faith and will miss him at the GBI and thanked Mr. Kirk.

Mr. Kirk thanked the Board and appreciates what they do and appreciates their friendship over the years.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Since the March BPS meeting, Commissioner Gary Vowell, Department of Public Safety shared during Covid-19, a lot of the civilian employees were able to tele-work and DPS only had two employees to test positive. Commissioner Vowell advised during the Governor's Executive Order for the Covid-19, DPS and DPH were tasked to enforce infractions and coordinated over 2200 relays of PPEs, test kits, ventilators, medicine, and other items. Commissioner Vowell added DPS ran approximately 800 of the relays and also assisted with the Dobbins Air Force base, setting it up when the cruise line passengers were brought in and also assisted with setting up Hard Labor Creek State Park on March 10th for patients that needed to be isolated from the communities. Commissioner Vowell stated DPS helped close Tybee Island and St. Simons' beaches on March 20 and then helped reopen the islands, April 4th. Commissioner Vowell stated the Communications Centers were tasked with receiving calls from the public to report violations of the Governor's Executive Order and troopers responded to those complaints. To this date, Commissioner Vowell advised DPS has answered 2,367 calls from citizens for violations of the executive orders. Commissioner Vowell advised 12,512 hours have been expended to the Covid-19 response. During this time, Commissioner Vowell advised DPS has dealt with tornadoes in April and responded to Troops A, G, H, and I due to the damage with major damage in Odom and Chatsworth GA. Commissioner Vowell noted since May

and currently, DPS has been responding and monitoring protests across the state, Chatham County, Atlanta, Cuthbert, Cordele, Glynn County, Baxley, Irwin County and Eastman. Commissioner Vowell shared Troops H and G were detached to the Atlanta details twice, Troop F detached to Atlanta once, and Troops A, B, D and E have been detached to assist Troop C in Atlanta on multiple occasions. Commissioner Vowell stated DPS has expended 11,883 hours to riot and protest response. Commissioner Vowell stated the DPS currently has 817 troopers and 249 MCCD officers and the 108th trooper school was sworn in by Governor Kemp on May 14th at HQ, with a small ceremony where the troopers received their patrol cars. Commissioner Vowell added the 109th trooper school is due to graduate on November 6th and will have a combined graduation ceremony for the 108th and 109th trooper schools. Commissioner Vowell stated there are currently 15 cadets in 109th trooper school, which started with 40.

Regarding the budget, Commissioner Vowell advised the budget has been reduced by 11% which is 18.1 million and the General Assembly is ongoing at this time and are working closely with the legislators, OPB and the governor's office and will find out this week where the department stands on the FY21 budget.

Vice-Chairman Wood shared a group of volunteers that he was involved in helped in Odom for tornado clean-up and appreciates the assistance of Major Hitchens and Lt. Colonel Wright helping with issues at the location.

Director Vic Reynolds, Georgia Bureau of Investigation commended Commissioner Vowell and Lt. Colonel Wright as they have done a great at the SOC as well as the GEMA, DOC, DNR, everyone there, and was very honored to play a small part in that and appreciate their leadership and their service as they did the state proud.

Director Reynolds advised everything at the GBI is good, very busy and the COVID-19 situation has certainly affected the GBI to some extent and implemented a tele-working situation and pretty fortunate the three divisions and the GCIC division already had a plan in place for tele-working in effect and did a good job managing their work in a tele-working environment. Director Reynolds stated the agents, the lab personnel, the medical examiners their work must be done regardless, and the medical examiners must be in the lab at HQ or other labs around the state to conduct their work. Director Reynolds shared they adjusted work hours including work hours in the evening and on weekends, and they managed it well and very proud of the work they did. Director Reynolds stated the GBI is slowing integrating back to normal operations and expect all the divisions apart from GCIC to be back up running normal situations by June 29th and expect GCIC back up running from HQ like a pre virus environment by July 13th.

Director Reynolds stated the protests kept the GBI somewhat busy with presence through intelligence sectors and some undercover personnel who were working downtown and at various other locations around the state, did a very good job and worked very closely with other state partners and local partners.

Director Reynolds stated the case in Brunswick has developed a good bit of media attention and is very proud of the work the agents did and have done on this case and anticipate an indictment in the case later this week. Director Reynolds stated the GBI just got involved in the 50th officer involved shooting recently in Coweta County and noted a few officer involved shootings get more attention than others and obviously the one that is being worked in the City of Atlanta at the Wendy's location has a great deal of media attention on it and being worked out of Region 10. Director Reynolds stated the agents are doing a good job on the investigation and have told them all along we work the cases just like we work any other case, do it with integrity, in principal and tell the truth and that is what they are doing.

Director Reynolds expressed he is very proud of the work of the men and women at the GBI, they do it diligently, do it professionally and do it with integrity and am very proud of them.

Director Reynolds stated the budget situation is working its way through the legislative process and initially submitted a budget with a 14% reduction and have cut that down to 11% just recently and will see hopefully this week, the turnout with the budget process and are prepared to adjust and do what is needed to be done accordingly.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center advised GPSTC is back operational with basic and advance classes back teaching and before the Covid-19 safety precautions were put into place, the majority of classes are in person classes so that hindered the amount of students the GPSTC was able to effect during those couple of months. But during the month of April, Director Wiginton advised the GPSTC reached a little over 60,000 students with the online platform and are still able to impact some of the public safety professionals. Director Wigginton shared the GPSTC is still able to operate the center with the isolation area at the back of the GPSTC where there are currently patients in the isolation area, working with GPH and GEMA to keep the area up and running.

Director Wigginton stated the GPSTC has received a lot of requests from the National Guard and local agencies asking for requests on less lethal training, riot control and civil unrest training and have been able accommodate these requests.

Director Wigginton expressed the GPSTC strives to teach best practices and follow the guidelines within the state and the national standards. Director Wigginton advised the curriculum is currently updated and are looking at best practices throughout the nation anytime case law drops and Supreme Court decisions are delivered and wanted to ensure the Board the GPSTC is on top of these issues and training is updated relevant to what is going on today.

DONATIONS

Major Mark Perry, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

One Stalker DSR 2X Radar	\$	3,186.50	Treutlen Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Three BlueCheck2 Fingerprint Scanners	\$	5,928.00	Cook Co. Bd. of Commissioners

Five Laser Labs Enforcer II Window Tint Meters, Twelve Krylon Handheld Marking Applicator Wands and One Nexgrill Deluxe Gas Grill	\$	1,245.72	City of Dawsonville
Two Kustom ProLaser 4 LIDARS	\$	4,300.00	Douglasville Police Dept.
Monthly Cable TV and Pest Control Services for One Year	\$	1,920.00	Tift Co. Bd. of Commissioners
Training Costs and Lodging for Three Personnel to Attend a Three-Day Law Enforcement Accountability Training Course	\$	7,750.00	Man in the Arena Consulting LLC

The motion to accept these donations was made by Sheriff Joey Terrell, which was seconded by Mr. Charles Sikes, and voted approved by the Board members.

Mrs. Cindy Jones, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center requested approval of the following donation:

SCBA/Bunker Gear	\$	3,150.00	Jones Co. Fire/Rescue
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The motion to accept this donation was made by Chief Craig Tully, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell, and voted approved by the BPS members.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Director Chris Wigginton, GPSTC presented a Resolution requesting the Georgia State Properties Commission to transfer a 5.71 acre section of real property located in Forsyth, Monroe County, Georgia from the custody of the Georgia Public Safety Training Center to the custody of the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

Chief Bruce Carlisle made the motion for the Board of Public Safety to approve the relinquishment and transfer of custody of a 5.71 acre section of real property located in Forsyth, Monroe County, Georgia in the custody of the Georgia Public Safety Training Center to the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Furthermore, the Board of Public Safety requests approval by the State Properties Commission via Executive Order to transfer custody between state agencies to proceed with the surplus of the stated property. This was seconded by Mr. George Hartwig and voted approved by the BPS members.

Commissioner Vowell presented an updated DPS Org Chart for approval. Commissioner Vowell noted in the updated DPS Org Chart there will be two Lt. Colonels instead of three Lt. Colonels on the previous DPS Org Chart.

Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion to approve the updated DPS Org Chart. This was seconded by Mr. Charles Sikes and voted approved by the Board members.

Vice-Chairman Wood thanked the agencies as some of things the entire leadership of our state has been facing are beyond his comprehension and appreciated Major Hitchens prayer and certainly shares the concern for God's leadership for everyone and certainly their protection. Vice-Chairman Wood shared he can not imagine some of those being in the positions they are in and told Mr. Fleming in the last few days how grateful he was for the governor's public support of law enforcement and proud that we live in a state where the leadership is very supportive of the law enforcement community. Vice-Chairman Wood stated he knows law enforcement is dealing with things that can not be taught and planned and appreciates all law enforcement.

Regarding Covid-19, Department of Corrections Commissioner Timothy Ward shared the DOC is in the confinement business, 24/7 and while he was making his rounds, one of the offenders told him we do not have any Covid-19 in here, so he has to keep it out of here. Commissioner Ward stated the prison system has community transmission as the officers, food workers and counselors have to go in and out each and every day and right now there are 528 positive cases system wide, but of the 528 cases there are 431 in recovery, 82% recovery rate which is really good for DOC. Commissioner Ward shared the prison system has a little over 52,000 population, 90 secure facilities and to keep the Covid-19 number at 528, the staff has done an awesome job. Commissioner Ward stated the DOC facilities have followed what they have done for the nursing home facilities, done several facilities 2 and 3 times and have produced almost 125,000 of the costs need masks for the offender population as well as the staff and give each offender three costs need masks and make sure they have those to wear. Commissioner Ward shared at the high-water point, DOC averaged about 33 offenders in the hospital at one time and yesterday there were 14 offenders in the hospital and pretty much the high-water mark has been reached. Commissioner Ward said if you put a map over the DOC system, everywhere there is a hot spot around the state and there is a prison in that location, there is pretty much what is called a community transmission with staff coming in and out. Commissioner Ward stated DOC has done an awesome job protecting the front entry of making sure the staff are screened with thermal temperature reads, also sanitizing the masks for those individuals. Commissioner Ward added of the 528 cases, unfortunately there have been 20 deaths and all the 20 deaths had underlying medical conditions, some had terminal illnesses. Commissioner Ward declared he is proud of the team, each day coming in and fighting the silent enemy that cannot be seen and have done a great job responding to this epidemic.

Lt. Colonel Chris Wright, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety thanked the state partners during the civil unrest and Director Bryson was very gracious and allowed DPS to use his SOC to operate out of. Lt. Colonel Wright declared in his 26 year career, he acknowledged he has never seen so many state agencies come together, work together very cooperatively in coordinating all of the state assets and have never seen a governor and his staff so engaged in such unprecedented times and are very much appreciative and very thankful for them being engaged with the state agencies. Lt. Colonel Wright stated he wished the citizens of this state could see the care and concern that he sees and has witnessed out of the governor and his staff that they have for citizens of this state and wanted

to thank all of the state partners for all of their hard work and cooperation. Lt. Colonel Wright shared that no state agency told them no anytime they asked for an asset or manpower, they were there.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Craig Tully
Secretary