

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
October 10, 2019
GBI Coastal Regional Crime Laboratory
Pooler, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chief Bruce Carlisle
Mr. Steve D. Cronic
Chief Stacey Cotton
Commissioner Michael Nail-via phone
Chief Mark Revenew
Mr. Rossie Ross
Mr. Charles D. Sikes
Chief Craig Tully
Commissioner Timothy C. Ward
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Kacy K. Cronan
Mr. George Hartwig
Sheriff Dane Kirby
Sheriff Joey Terrell

OTHERS:

Ms. Tina Piper, Attorney General's Office-via phone
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison
Lt. Colonel Russell D. Powell, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
Major Chris Wright, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Chad Riner, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain W. W. Hitchens, III, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Marc Godby, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain T. K. King, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Lt. Randy Wickstrom, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
SFC Chris Nease, Department of Public Safety/GSP
SFC J. K. Crews, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Corporal Joseph Curlee, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Ms. Joan Crumpler, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. John Melvin, Chief of Staff, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mrs. Jaret Usher, Prosecutorial Liaison, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Ross Butler, Coastal Crime Lab Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mrs. Cathy Wood
Mr. Terry Shoop, Assistant Chief, Chatham County Police Department
Mr. Billy Freeman, Chief Deputy, Chatham County Sheriff's Department
Mr. Gary Taylor, Major, Chatham County Sheriff's Department
Mr. Roy Minter, Chief, Savannah Police Department
Mr. Mark Dana, President, 200 Club
Mr. Ashley Brown, Chief, Pooler Police Department
Mr. Jim Ward, Major, Pooler Police Department

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the October 10th, 2019 Board of Public Safety meeting to order. GBI Coastal Crime Lab Director Ross Butler gave the Invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood introduced his wife Cathy and asked Mr. Mark Renew to do some special introductions. Mr. Renew introduced Savannah Police Chief Roy Minter, Pooler Police Chief Ashley Brown and Assistant Chief Jim Ward, Chatham County Police Assistant Chief Terry Schoop, Chatham County Deputy Sheriff Billy Freeman and Chatham County Major Gary Taylor and Mr. Mark Dana of the 200 Club.

Vice-Chairman Wood noted the GBI Crime Lab is where it is and the way it is due to a key component from its first inception which is Mr. Mark Renew and thanked Mr. Renew for his leadership in the Pooler community.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the May 9th and July 11th minutes. Chief Bruce Carlisle made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Mark Renew, and voted approved by the BPS members.

Vice-Chairman Wood introduced Mr. Rossie Ross who was elected to the BPS last month and welcomed him. Mr. Ross shared that he appreciated the opportunity to be on the Board of Public Safety and really appreciates to be able to work with first responders, especially with the law enforcement community.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Deputy Commissioner, Lt. Colonel Russell D. Powell, Department of Public Safety stated the MCCD is graduating their fourth school today and before the schools, the MCCD officers went through local police academies and upon graduation they would then go through five weeks of advance training, not together, often alone. Deputy Commissioner Powell added the MCCD schools began a couple of years ago and not trying to recreate trooper school, but does have some similarities and feels this has had a good outcome and produces a much more prepared officer.

Deputy Commissioner Powell advised there are two trooper schools in progress, one is the 107th who are in their second week of field training and will graduate January 10th, 2020, with 30 cadets, and the 108th is in their second week of school and this week is their first week of driving and have 39 cadets. Deputy Commissioner Powell stated the 109th trooper school will start in February, with 50 cadets.

Deputy Commissioner Powell gave an update on the ransomware attack and stated right now, the CAD is coming back up in all troops and are getting access to most of the mobile forms and thinks by early next week, the heavy lift will be done, will have the broad overall system working again and will be down to looking at individual problems and individual areas.

Deputy Commissioner Powell spoke about the new DPS Headquarters Building and DPS entertained several design firms, have picked one and as a result of picking one, have looked at some designs and seen some that were really liked. Deputy Commissioner Powell advised GBA has been very engaged and this process is moving along very nicely.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center shared the GPSTC continues to grow and are constantly looking at the classes offered and when the classes start to develop a waiting list, have to look at how to minimize the list and get students in the classes. Director Wigginton stated this affects the local authorities all the way up to the state level, have talked about aggressive technology and have talked about blended learning and have a couple of classes to unveil in the blended platform. Director Wigginton added this will give an opportunity for these officers and agencies to keep that officer back at their agency and complete the online portion, so if it is typically a 40-80 hour course, will give them a month to complete the online course which will be college based level courses, some learning, some reports involved and submissions, and will not be a give me course. Director Wigginton noted for the two-week course that individual would be gone from that agency will be back home, work on the online platform in a 30-day window and after the 30-day completion, they will then come to GPSTC for a practical exercise. Director Wigginton stated this will help with the demand or burden on the agency and instead of being 10 days of travel, being away and away from their family, it will be cut down to a minimum time frame.

Director Wigginton advised the GPSTC has expanded a good bit as law enforcement has embraced optics on their rifles and handguns and have developed a three-day transition course to allow agencies to transition with the use of this tool.

Director Wigginton advised the Public Safety Awards Ceremony will be December 6th, 2019.

Director Wigginton stated the GPSTC has been contacted by three countries in help to redevelop and redesign their basic training academy.

Assistant Director Dan Kirk, Georgia Bureau of Investigation shared there are still questions out there about marijuana and what the crime lab can and cannot do. Mr. Kirk stated at the HQ facility they are accepting marijuana at felony levels, 28 grams or greater and will be concentrating on trafficking cases first and are able to analyze marijuana to what the new law says, which is .3% THC. Mr. Kirk advised they are coming online at the regional labs very soon and will be sending out correspondence stating they can accept the marijuana at the regional labs.

Chief of Staff John Melvin, Georgia Bureau of Investigation introduced GBI Prosecutorial Liaison Mrs. Jaret Usher who gave a presentation on Gangs in Georgia.

DONATIONS

Deputy Commissioner Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

One DragonEye Lidar	\$	2,179.75	Hart Co. Bd. of Commissioners
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Two DragonEye Lidars	\$	4,334.75	Franklin Co. Sheriff's Department
One Wall Mirror	\$	605.00	Maner Building Supply
Two Stalker DSR 2X Radars	\$	6,196.00	Bryan Co. Bd. of Commissioners

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

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center requested approval of the following donation:

SWAT Roundup	\$	1,327.50	SRT Supply
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The motion to accept this donation was made by Chief Bruce Carlisle, which was seconded by Mr. Steve Cronic.

RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Joan Crumpler presented three separate Resolutions asking the BPS to authorize the Georgia Department of Public Safety to enter into negotiations for converting the current short-term property lease of Georgia State Patrol Post 41 to a long-term lease, for converting the current short-term property lease of Georgia State Patrol Post 12 to a long-term lease and for converting the current short-term property lease of Georgia State Patrol Post 26 to a long-term lease.

Chief Craig Tully made the motion authorizing the Commissioner of Public Safety to enter into negotiations, agreements and supporting documents necessary to enable DPS to occupy and utilize Post 41 at the location of 1212 North Main Street, LaFayette, Georgia, Post 12 at the location of 4800 U. S. Hwy 84 Bypass, Thomasville, Georgia and Post 26 at the location of 281 Knight Trail, Thomaston, Georgia under a long-term, low-cost lease. This was seconded by Chief Bruce Carlisle and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mr. Crumpler presented a Resolution asking the BPS to declare no further use of certain facilities, which are in the custody and control of the Georgia Department of Public Safety and located on the 900 block of United Avenue, S.E., Atlanta, and to authorize the demolition of those facilities for the benefit of future DPS law enforcement operations.

Chief Bruce Carlisle made the motion to declare no further use of the facilities located on Tract J (Buildings 4, 21 and 22), on the 900 block of United Avenue S.E., Atlanta, Georgia, and further authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to enter into all agreements and supporting documents as necessary to provide for their demolition. This was seconded by Mr. Mark Revenew and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Georgia Bureau of Investigation presented a Resolution asking the BPS to grant easements over certain real property in the City of Thomson, McDuffie County owned currently by the State of Georgia in custody of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to improve the roadway.

Mr. Charles Sikes made the motion to approve the exchange of the property located in Thomson, Georgia and owned by the State of Georgia, State Properties Commission, consisting of 0.193 of an acre in McDuffie County, for McDuffie County to release their reversionary interest over approximately 0.41 of an acre tract vested in the State and will be deemed to be adequate consideration in exchange for the right of way and easement needed from GBI Parcels 22, 23 and 24 to improve roadway. This was seconded by Mr. Steve Cronic and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mr. Kirk stated behind the property of Region 2 GBI Office and Lab in Columbus, GA, there is a sewer line and the Columbus Consolidated Government is asking for an easement to do some work on the sewer line and to put in a new sewer line. Mr. Kirk added the Resolution will be forthcoming, but at this time, they need to go ahead and get started on construction and this will benefit the GBI as GBI will no longer have to maintain the sewer line. Mr. Kirk stated the easement will simply be granted, but so that Columbus Consolidated Government can go ahead and get started on construction, the GBI is asking the BPS to approve a revocable license agreement that would be issued by the State Properties Commission to the Columbus Consolidated Government which will allow them to go ahead and start work on the sewer.

Chief Craig Tully made the motion to approve a revocable license agreement with Columbus Consolidated Government to begin work on a sewer line behind the property of GBI Region 2 Office. This was seconded by Chief Bruce Carlisle and voted approved by the BPS members.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Charles Sikes made a motion to prepare and present former Board member, Mr. Lester Rampy with a Resolution. This was seconded by Mr. Steve Cronic and voted approved by the BPS members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mr. Mark Revenew
Secretary