

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Minutes of Meeting Held April 7, 2004
Georgia Public Safety Training Center, Forsyth

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. David Hal Averitt
Mr. Rooney Bowen, III
Commissioner James Donald
Mr. Patrick Head
Sheriff Jamil Saba
Chief Hubert Smith
Sheriff Cullen Talton
Ms. Lisa Godbey Wood

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Charles "Bud" Black
Chief J. D. Rice
Mr. W. H. "Dub" Harper
Sheriff Bruce Harris
Governor Sonny Perdue

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jayson Phillips, Department of Law
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Colonel George Ellis, Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Colonel Arthur White, Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Terry Landers, Georgia State Patrol
Captain Richard Ashmore, Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Scott Cown, Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Mike Fagler, Georgia State Patrol
Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Assistant Director Chris Ash, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Ray Higgins, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Assistant Deputy Director Bill Holland, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Assistant Director Bob Sanderson, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Consultant with Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Cheryl Greathouse, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Eddie Quinn, Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Vice-Chairman James E. Donald opened the April Board meeting, thanking everyone for coming and asked if there were any guests. He pointed out that Mr. Jayson Phillips was standing in for Mr. Chris Brasher from the Attorney General's office. Chief Lou Dekmar recognized Mr. Jack White, retired Inspector from Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Vice-Chairman Donald started out with requesting a motion to approve the March Minutes. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made said motion, Chief Hubert Smith seconded, and the Board members voted approval.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Vice-Chairman Donald called on Director Vernon Keenan to start the Directors' Reports. Director Keenan reminded the Board members that he had previously reported that the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, in partnership with Georgia State Patrol, Public Safety Training Center, District Attorneys' Association, Sheriffs' Association, Chiefs' Association, and Department of Family and Children Services entered into a project to develop a training video for law enforcement workers, for DFACS workers, for anyone who could potentially come up on a clandestine methamphetamine lab. The training tape is designed to educate those professionals to use certain safety precautions, preventing severe injuries. After showing the videotape, Director Keenan continued his report with stating that GBI is in the process of distributing copies of the tape to every district attorney's office, every state patrol post, every probation office, every parole office, every DFACS office, every sheriff's office, every police department in the state. The High Intensity Drug Traffic Area (HIDTA) provided funding for the mail out, the first one being 1600 copies. Director Keenan addressed several questions concerning the dangers with meth labs.

Director Dale Mann, Director of Public Safety Training Center, started his report with announcing that a room had been set up for Board members to get their credentials, which are required if a board member attends the G-8 Summit.

In May, the Peace Officers Memorial Day will be held honoring law enforcement officers who have died while in the line of duty. Every year the wall is updated with names, recommended to the Training Center, but with final approval from the Board of Public Safety.

As background on the process of the memorial wall, names are recommended from law enforcement offices throughout the state. The process includes, after noting that the criteria is met, being approved by Training Center staff, then reviewed by the Public Safety Memorial Committee, before being brought before the Board for approval. The Memorial Committee is comprised of representatives from Sheriff's Association, Chief's Association, EMS, Firefighters Association, and others, who review the applications. The wall is located on the grounds of the Training Center.

Director Mann brought to Mr. Rooney Bowen, III a list of the names to be placed on the wall. Mr. Bowen made the motion to approve the recommended names, Sheriff Cullen Talton seconded said motion, and the Board members unanimously voted approval. For recording in

the Minutes, the following names were approved: Officer Aaron J. Blount, Officer Micah C. Brown, Deputy Sheriff Kenneth R. Burton, Deputy Sheriff Adam R. Fleshner, Officer John R. Juneau, Deputy Sheriff David P. Land, Trooper Tony M. Lumley, Officer Jonathan C. Martin, Special Agent James T. Moye, Firefighter John R. Patrick, Marshall Will J. Prince, Sheriff Thomas Slade, Officer Herman K. Stein, Fire Chief Bobby Eugene Wilson, and, Deputy Sheriff Timothy W. Woodard.

Mr. Bowen further requested that the Public Safety Training Center Committee be responsible for future review of the names and then bring its recommendation to the full Board. Chief Hubert Smith, Chair of the Committee, agreed that the committee would take on the responsibility.

Director Mann went over the budget for the Board members. The General Assembly was still in session and working on the FY 05 budget. Governor Perdue had recommended that the Training Center not be given the funds for the Basic Subsistence Program. Both the State Senate and the House of Representatives agreed with the recommendation. For FY 05, there will be no funds to continue basic subsistence.

Director Mann stated the Training Center is aggressively working on the HOPE grant funding. If a sheriff or police chief is interested in hiring someone for deputy sheriff or police officer position, the person is encouraged to seek out one of the regional academies. With the assistance of the regional academy, the person will be given an application for HOPE grant funds, which will pay for the person to attend basic training. When the person comes back to the law enforcement agency carrying a diploma, showing that he or she has already completed training. Another item, Senate Bill 426 passed, which will allow background investigations to be done on the pre-service applicants.

Another budget cut is funding of \$147,000 from regional academies. In bringing up to date the status of funding for G-8, the Training Center has spent a little over \$100,000. By the first week of June, the Training Center will have spent almost \$400,000 just in the training for G-8.

Director Mann recently was served with a lawsuit concerning the incident of a Training Center employee involved in a traffic accident. The Attorney General's office is representing Director Mann and the Training Center.

Recently, a weekend training exercise was held at the Training Center. Mr. Bowen and Chief Smith attended the training; both complimenting the staff of the Training Center, State Patrol, and other agencies on the manhours put into the exercise and on how the exercise was handled.

Colonel George Ellis, State Patrol/Department of Public Safety, stood before the Board to cover a few items. First, he complimented Director Keenan on the training video. Colonel Ellis remarked how his troopers, along with all law enforcement people, come in contact with those

kinds of people. Colonel Ellis has decided to buy tasers, because of dealing with violent, aggressive people. State Patrol has purchased 200 tasers, and Colonel Ellis is looking into the assistance of a grant in paying for those tasers. He would like all the working troopers equipped with tasers; statistics show that they cut down on shooting incidents, injuries to troopers, and cuts down on injuries to the violators.

The Board members were invited to the groundbreaking ceremony of a new patrol post in Newnan.

Colonel Ellis brought to the attention of the Board members that back in August, he presented an organizational chart. One part of the organization, the radio room would be assigned to headquarters. It has become more and more apparent that the radio room does more interaction by Troop C personnel. As a matter of streamlining the operation, Colonel Ellis requested approval from the Board of Public Safety to reassign the radio room to Troop C. Mr. Rooney Bowen, III made a motion for the Board approve the reorganization. Ms. Lisa Godbey Wood seconded said motion and the Board members unanimously voted approval.

A recent incident occurred involving a State Patrol pursuit, which was reported by the media. Colonel Ellis stated that he would do a better job in keeping the Board members informed when these incidents occur. With that in mind, Colonel Ellis requested that he be allowed to bring in his staff and make a presentation at a future Board meeting, so the Board members could better understand how State Patrol handles pursuit.

State Patrol has begun discussions again on negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Motor Vehicle Safety (DMVS) about the sharing of facilities. Because there are differences between the agencies, negotiations have stalled. There are twenty-four posts wherein State Patrol and Motor Vehicle Safety share the buildings. Colonel Ellis indicated he would be contacting Commissioner of Department of Motor Vehicle Safety to meet again and discuss the differences. Ms. Lisa Godbey Wood made a motion that the Board give direction to Colonel Ellis to hold those meetings, to sit down with DMVS, and come up with a MOU. It was suggested that the Board capture that directive in the way of a letter to DMVS, letting them know of the Board's support. Mr. Rooney Bowen seconded said motion, and, the Board members unanimously voted approval.

Colonel Ellis reported the manpower situation is at 839 troopers, authorized with 953 positions. State Patrol is authorized at 253 radio operators, but now down to 210 operators. Based on what is going on at the General Assembly session, Colonel Ellis is waiting to see the final budget decision and how it will affect closing midnight shift in patrol posts; funding for new trooper positions and trooper school. Mr. Rooney Bowen, III made a motion to authorize Colonel Ellis to implement the program, when he deems it appropriate. After discussion, Vice-Chairman Donald called for a second on the motion, which was given by Chief Hubert Smith, and unanimously carried by the Board.

Colonel Ellis reported on the concentrated patrols that have been done twice, wherein he brings in troopers from surrounding posts to work the Metro area. There are about 90 troopers working these concentrated patrols, and, the patrols have been very productive.

The garage repairs are coming along; a sprinkler system is being installed. As soon as that is completed, Homeland Security will be able to move into their offices. Colonel Ellis announced that Mr. Jimmy Crump will retire.

Colonel Ellis has filled the position of Public Information Officer, and, after interviewing several uniform officers, TFC Larry Schnall was awarded the position. He will be used as a PIO point person and also as a recruiter.

Colonel Ellis commended Director Mann, Mr. Bob Buffington, and Mr. Don Sperry for the outstanding job done at the recent weekend G-8 training. There have been a lot of questions about the G-8 preparation, so, Colonel Ellis requested to go into Executive Session to make a presentation to the Board members on Mobile Field Forces.

DONATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Terry Landers, State Patrol/Department of Public Safety, presented several donations:

Cash	\$11,000	Mayor Bruce E. Gilbert
Furniture and Security Lockers	\$14,000	Madison City Council
Stalker Radar	\$ 3,000	Terrell County Board of Commissioners
Genesis II Select Radar	\$ 3,000	Colquitt City Council

Mr. Wayne Abernathy motioned approval of these donations, seconded by Mr. Rooney Bowen, III, and unanimously voted approval by the Board.

Mr. Ray Higgins, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, presented one donation:

Microwave Camera System	\$3,961.65	Sheriff Jimmy Camp Sheriff of Calhoun County
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Mr. Wayne Abernathy motioned approval of these donations, seconded by Chief Lou Dekmar, and unanimously voted approval by the Board.

Mr. Scott Cown, State Patrol/Department of Public Safety, presented the following Resolution:

That the Board of Public Safety authorize the Commissioner of Department of Public Safety to proceed through the State Properties Commission to take necessary actions to transfer property, located at 198 Carl Vinson Parkway, Warner Robins, Houston County, to Department of Motor Vehicle Safety.

Chief Lou Dekmar made the motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Chief Hubert Smith, and voted approval by the Board.

Vice-Chairman Donald requested reports on the committee meetings that were held, starting with the Public Safety Training Center Committee. Chief Hubert Smith reported that the committee met with Director Mann this morning. Discussions held were budget issues that the Training Center and the regional academies are facing; the amount of training the Training Center is handling relating to G-8 training; and monies the Training Center might be able to derive from other sources to offset the subsistence funds. Vice-Chairman Donald offered his support and the support of the Board in the concerns of the Training Center.

Chief Lou Dekmar, Chair of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Committee, reported that the committee sat with Director Keenan and his staff. The meeting essentially covered three areas, the crime lab being the most important issue. The crime lab has been the area that has suffered from lack of resources, with backlog of five month to two years. They did receive funding for fifteen additional positions. In addition to those issues, the committee discussed the resources allocated by GBI to the G-8 Summit and the strategies they will use to maintain an investigative component during the G-8 in their regional offices. The committee also discussed the funding and budget expectations for FY 2005. Vice-Chairman Donald expressed the Board's support to Director Keenan in the challenges for his agency.

Mr. Rooney Bowen, III, Chair of the Georgia State Patrol/Public Safety Committee, reported the committee met with Colonel Ellis. The main issues covered were the ones that Colonel Ellis brought before the Board for their support and vote. Those issues being, closing patrol posts at midnight; approval of the organization chart; and authorization of Colonel Ellis proceeding with the MOU with Department of Motor Vehicle Safety. The committee also discussed the benefit of sending troopers to Command College. Another discussion was gas prices, and that Colonel Ellis is going back to regular gasoline; hopefully, helping with the gas situation. The issues of G-8, the budget, and the pursuit policy were discussed at the committee meeting. Also, State Patrol rules and policies are being updated. Mr. Bowen strongly encouraged everyone to attend the next Mobile Field Forces training, which will be held on May 1st and 2nd.

Mr. Rooney Bowen, III made a motion that a Resolution be given to Mr. Scott Cown, in thanking him for all his years of hard work with the Board, with the GBI, and with State Patrol.

Mr. Cown is retiring after twenty years of state service. Mr. Wayne Abernathy seconded said motion and the Board members totally concurred.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND EMERGENCY ISSUES

Vice-Chairman Donald asked if there were any issues that are not on the agenda. Chief Lou Dekmar made the motion that the Board codify the process that was used today for future meetings. Chief Dekmar stated it is an effective way to do business by holding the Committee of the Whole, the sub-committee meetings with agency heads, and then the Board meeting on the same day. Mr. Hal Averitt seconded said motion and the Board members unanimously voted approval.

In further discussion of the motion, Mr. Rooney Bowen III requested that this issue be incorporated into the Board training. Governor Sonny Perdue has made arrangements for state boards to attend a training program, wherein a state board will learn to understand its role and mission. A tentative date is set for August 11th at Kennesaw State University. Mr. Bowen is working on the agenda and the items that will be discussed at training.

NEW AND OLD BUSINESS

The Board members were reminded of the setup by GBI for the Board members to acquire their credentials to attend the G-8 Summit.

Mr. Rooney Bowen, III made a motion to go into Executive Session, Mr. Wayne Abernathy second said motion, and all members present affirmatively voted to go into Executive Session.

After Executive Session, the Board reconvened into Regular Session. There being no further business, Mr. Wayne Abernathy motioned for adjournment, which was seconded by Chief Hubert Smith.

Rooney Bowen, III
Secretary