

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

April 10, 2008
Glennville, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice-Chairman James E. Donald
Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III
Chief Lou Dekmar
Chief Jack McElfish
Chief Dwayne Orrick
Sheriff Cullen Talton
Mr. Ellis Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Bud Black
Mr. Dub Harper
Mr. Pat Head
Sheriff Steve Cronin
Sheriff Bruce Harris

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Joe Drolet, Board Attorney
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Colonel Fred Snellings, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Major Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Major Stewart Hicks, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mike Fagler, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Chief Mark McLeod, Motor Carrier Compliance Division, DPS
Major Billy Boulware, Motor Carrier Compliance Division, DPS
Major Wayne Beck, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Lee O'Brien, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Dan Brown, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Jeff Succi, Florida Highway Patrol
Ms. Angie Holt, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Kevin Rexroat, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Captain Kirk McGlamry, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant William Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Mike Fordham, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Dan Kirk, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Deputy Director Paul Heppner, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Butch Beach, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Ed Stempel, Georgia Department of Corrections
Captain Willie McGee, Houston County Sheriff's office
Warden Don Jarriel, Smith State Prison

Ms. Ceci Jordan, Smith State Prison
Ms. Sandra Moore, Unit Manager at Smith State Prison
Deputy Warden Fred Brown, Smith State Prison
Chief of Security Jeff Coleman, Smith State Prison

Vice-Chairman James Donald welcomed everyone to the April meeting. Vice-Chairman Donald then requested Chief Lou Dekmar open the meeting with prayer. Vice-Chairman Donald noted there are several guests today. Director Keenan introduced his wife, Joan, of 37 years.

Vice-Chairman Donald introduced new Board member, Chief Jack McElfish, Fire Chief of Sandy Springs. Chief stated he was the Fire Chief of Clayton County from 1990 to 1995; then to Richmond, Virginia from 1995 to 2002; back to Gwinnett County; and then as the first Fire Chief in Sandy Springs in July of 2006. Chief McElfish stated he has had a great relationship with police enforcement and sheriffs. Chief McElfish stated it is an honor to be on the Board.

Mr. Dan Brown introduced Jeff Succi, with Florida Highway Patrol, who has made available today an automobile with the system that Georgia State Patrol is looking at. The Florida vehicle is parked out in front of prison for the Board members to view. Vice-Chairman Donald welcomed Mr. Succi to the Board meeting; it speaks volume about the relationships between agencies. After the meeting is over, everyone will have an opportunity to see the vehicle.

Vice-Chairman Donald requested Warden Don Jarriel to talk about Smith State Prison. Warden Jarriel introduced his staff members, and, explained that Smith State Prison has 1,257 close security inmates in a high security prison. This year the work release program through a transitional center has been implemented inside the prison with 192 residents. The residents go to Claxton Poultry and work every day; pay restitution back to society and also pay for room and board. Warden Jarriel stated this is working very well and keeping every bed filled. Smith State Prison is staffed with 252 correctional officers; with administrative assistants, counseling, maintenance, and GCI Industries staff, they are right at 312 full staff members on hand. By November of this year, Warden Jarriel will have 30 years. Warden stated that today is set in history that this is the first time that the Public Safety Board has ever met inside a prison, and, he is glad to have that under his belt. Warden Jarriel welcomed everyone to Smith State Prison. Commissioner Donald added that Warden spent his entire adult life in prison; cutting his teeth on some tough situations. Warden Jarriel has worked at Georgia State Prison and then Dodge State Prison. Warden Jarriel pointed to Ms. Angie Holt, whose mother, Ms. Becky Miller, was the only female staff member at Georgia State Prison when Don Jarriel started working. Commissioner Donald invited everyone to tour the facility after the meeting. The new construction out back is a state-of-the-art 192-bed building. This will be manned with a centralized control center and the ability to see four different dormitories in 360°. This will be a huge savings to taxpayers. Commissioner Donald is very proud of Warden Jarriel and his staff with the fine job they are doing.

Vice-Chairman Donald requested everyone to stand and give the pledge of allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Donald requested a motion to approve the March Minutes. Mr. Wayne Abernathy made a motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Chief Lou Dekmar, and voted approval by the Board members.

DIRECT REPORTS

Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, began with explaining that his initial assignment on State Patrol was in Savannah, and, troopers could come up to Tattnall County pretty quickly. Colonel stated that while in the middle of a riot at the prison in Reidsville in 1970, troopers marched in the kitchen with riot sticks and helmets. Inmates were in the kitchen boiling water and one guy was standing there with a meat cleaver. The guy in charge of the detail told them to put it down or have severe consequences. They all put them down and left. It was very endearing to State Patrol when the Department of Corrections came up with their riot squads; as everybody knows Reidsville was the state prison and anybody who was challenging was at that prison.

Colonel Hitchens stated he had a brief report and the first he wanted to talk about was the budget. There were not a lot of issues this year and it went fairly well. Colonel Hitchens stated one thing he was very pleased about was the technology piece, that was talked about extensively at a previous board meeting, did pass. The first step is a step in the 21st century. That is something that State Patrol is very proud of and will be a great legacy for the agency. This will give interoperability with Florida; South Carolina is on the verge, and this will give three states with opportunity to share information.

The second thing Colonel wanted to talk about is legislation. State Patrol has passed legislation last couple of years; there has been only one piece this year. There is one other piece with Department of Revenue but that did not work out. The one bill that State Patrol sponsored was a vehicle pursuit bill. State Patrol actually handled the bill and was done in conjunction with Chiefs Association and Sheriffs Association. Colonel Hitchens stated what it does is allow State Patrol have law enforcement authority in border states that have similar law. All the states that Georgia borders, with the exception of Alabama, already have law in place. What happens is if a trooper runs a car over to Tennessee or Florida or South Carolina, the same authority is there, as what is in the home state, until somebody in that state arrives on the scene to take charge. It is matter of reciprocity, so the bill grants those states to have the same enforcement to come in Georgia and do the same thing.

Colonel Hitches stated he has two reports, one being the Criminal Interdiction Unit 2007 Annual Report that shows statistics to look at. Reflecting back to a previous Board meeting, Colonel Hitchens stated the CIU team came to a board meeting. CIU won the award for being the Best

Criminal Interdiction Unit in the country last year. These figures in the report pretty much speak to themselves. Colonel Hitchens stated the amount of \$2.5 million of confiscated money in drugs was taken out of organized crime in the last four years. This is a significant unit that has done a great job. With the 2007 Pursuit Summary Report, Colonel Hitchens stated that when State Patrol first started four years ago with P.I.T. maneuver, Colonel promised State Patrol would provide a summary every year of pursuit activity. Colonel Hitchens stated he went over this extensively and the one thing that will be done in the future is get a comparative analysis; look at what occurred in the last three years. Colonel Hitchens had notes from last year's statistics and the numbers are almost identical. As an example, last year there were 329 pursuits and this year 385. For Drivers Under the Age of 25, this year there were 16 and last year there were 12. For age of 25 – 30, this year there were 83 and last year there were 81. For Ages 31 – 35, there are 111 and last year there were 102. For Ages 36 -40, this year is 107 and last year there were 69. Colonel Hitchens stated this goes on and on through the report; under Patrol Posts, Days of Week, Number of Pursuits By Time of Day, the numbers come out almost identical. Colonel Hitchens responded to several questions.

Vice-Chairman Donald introduced several community leaders who had just joined to the meeting. Mr. Wayne Dasher, with the group, welcomed everyone to Glennville. Mr. Dasher introduced Sheriff Quentin Rush, Sheriff Don Martin, and Mr. Jimmy Johnson, Manager of Piggly Wiggly. Mr. Dasher invited everyone to the Law Enforcement Appreciation Cookout which will be held tonight. Mr. Dasher gave the Board members a vehicle tag, which were made here at Smith State Prison. Vice-Chairman Donald added that Mr. Dasher is the Chairman of Board of Corrections and is a great supporter of law enforcement.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigations, began with reporting that GBI did very well in this year's legislative session with the budget. In fact, GBI picked up additional funding in the budget to the tune of about \$3.3 million, and, that is after Governor Perdue cut agencies' budgets in response to the reduced revenue. The GBI picked up additional positions and the legislature gave additional funding. Through Governor Perdue's Identity Theft initiative, GBI picked up eight new staff positions; that is a combination of agents, computer forensic specialists, analysts, and investigative assistants. That will give staffing in order to proceed on with Governor's program for GBI to put together a state plan to address identity theft. Also, as far as Governor's legislative package, he had proposed legislation which would give GBI original jurisdiction in identity theft and give GBI administrative subpoena power to work in the theft cases, which is critical to working these types of investigations. The Governor's legislation basically removed the responsibility of working identity theft from Office of Consumer Affairs and putting it over to GBI. Director Keenan stated the identity theft legislation was the first piece of Governor Perdue's legislation to make it through both houses and over to his desk; so, GBI is quite proud of that. Director Keenan stated the GBI intends to put together a plan to handle all these cases.

Director Keenan stated that what is very important here is that the General Assembly provided funding for GBI to increase salaries for agents and scientists. Director stated that he has briefed the Board periodically of the problems that GBI has had with retention of scientists and agents. In one of the budget hearings that Director Keenan testified for, he was asked the question of how many scientists did GBI need to keep the backlog in Crime Lab reduced. Director Keenan stated he responded that he could not answer at this point because the turnover rate of the scientists in the Crime Lab in a five-year period of time was 48%. The GBI is in a constant training mode. The salary increases will help dramatically as the GBI addresses the issue of scientists. In fact, during the legislative session, the GBI lost three scientists in one week. Director Keenan responded to the question of what jobs scientists are taking, in that they go to private laboratories, or Food and Drug Administration, or to a military crime lab. Director stated the GBI is very pleased with the salary package for agents and scientists that the legislators put forward.

Director Keenan stated that the legislators also put in the budget the bonds to build two Bomb truck garages. As Board has been briefed before, the GBI manages a statewide Bomb Disposal Unit; some of the trucks cost up to \$1million and have been housed in fire department facilities. What has happened is those fire departments have received new equipment, so the Bomb Disposal trucks are being pushed out. The bonds will allow building new garages as permanent facilities.

Director Keenan reported that in the State Crime Lab, the GBI picked up funding to fill a toxicology position in Summerville. The toxicology position is very important in death investigation processes because a medical examiner cannot complete their cause and manner determination until the toxicology results are in on the victim's tissues. This will keep toxicology in positions critical of turning around death certificates.

Also, Governor Perdue recommended and the legislature funded, six new positions for DNA scientists. These positions will be used to take care of the additional work loads, which has developed, because legislation will require a DNA sample given by felons who receive probation sentences for certain felony crimes. That is an additional workload, which will be about 18,000 cases a year.

One of the things that Director Keenan is very proud of, that Governor Perdue has recommended and General Assembly has funded, is \$671,000 to pay for the Criminal History Records System maintenance. As the Board knows, the GBI completed \$12 million upgrade of the Criminal History Records System, and, the upgrade was done with Homeland Security funds that belong to the Chiefs and Sheriffs of this state. That project was completed but Homeland Security funds could not be used to work the maintenance of the system. Governor recommended and General Assembly has funded the re-occurring maintenance costs, and, the GBI was very pleased.

Also received in the budget is \$965,000 for bond funds to pay for improving the electrical system at GBI headquarters and food and maintenance around the state for different facilities. The GBI desperately needed to improve the electrical system for headquarters, which was built in 1985; and as law enforcement well know, when electrical outage and the GCIC goes down, that impacts every law enforcement agency in the state and every officer on the street. Director Keenan stated they were very pleased with the outcome of GBI budget.

Director Keenan stated that at several agency head meetings the problem of State Purchasing Cards was discussed. This is the issue that some state employees have used for P-Cards for personal gains. The Governor made it very clear that he wanted a zero tolerance over the use of the P-Card for fraudulent purposes. To that end, the GBI has received several cases involving fraud of P-Cards, and, last week GBI made five arrests on different cases. Governor's staff had been asking for updates on how the cases were coming; GBI is working with Attorney General's office to prosecute. The cases run the gauntlet of anything from employees using purchasing card to obtain \$50 worth of merchandise up to one employee who had nearly \$300,000 worth of illegal purchases with the card. All of these cases thus far came from the University System; they are not in any state agency but in the University System. Director Keenan reported to Governor's staff the analysis of what happened is that some of the smaller purchases were by an employee testing the system to see how far that person could get away with it. What the GBI concluded is that none of these cases would have occurred if there had been a supervisor looking over the P-Card purchases. At the Governor's agency head meeting, it was made very plain that the agencies are to hold supervisors accountable for not doing their job, if there is fraud associated with this. Director Keenan stated he is seeing very much a standard set by the Governor that he is not going to tolerate employees stealing from the state and if the GBI can build a criminal case, Governor expects an aggressive prosecution of individuals fully responsible for this crime.

Director Keenan stated the last point he would like to make is that he has scheduled a meeting next week with representatives from different Sheriffs' departments in metro Atlanta, Mr. Terry Norris of Sheriffs Association, Mr. Stan Cooper with Probation Office of Corrections, and Ms. Beth Oxford of Parole Board. This meeting is to come together and discuss the issue of those sex offenders who have failed to register or those who have registered once and never reported back. Director Keenan stated he will keep the Board updated on how the group proceeds.

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, began with stating that in the Training Center budget there is \$1.7 million for replacement of burn building. The burn building is essential for training firefighters; if they don't have a place for class, they cannot get certified as firefighters. The reason it is in there is because of the Georgia Fire Chiefs and Georgia Firefighters Association. Governor Perdue put the amount in the recommended package, but actually did not put it in at full funding level. The Training Center got the green light when other folks went to the members of General Assembly. Director Mann thanked the fire chiefs and firefighters for what they did.

Director Mann stated that Department of Technical Adult Education is going very well. They have not yet announced the six sites simply because they are in the application process. Director Mann talked to Commissioner Ron Jackson at the agency head meeting, and, Commissioner Jackson assures that they are taking applications in May, and, by the end of May, DTAE will announce the six sites. Everything is right on track; next month may be the perfect for Board Member Ellis Wood to move forward with the resolution; this will be a win/win for everybody. Director Mann stated there are some folks questioning whether or not it is a good idea but it is a scattered number of chiefs and sheriffs who have some concern about DTAE. Training Center has been very realistic and blunt with folks at DTAE; they will have to put their A team up and do it right. If they want to be a certified P.O.S.T., they are going to have to call the rules and do quality training. Director Mann stated that Commissioner Jackson assures that that is the way it is going to be, and, the Training Center is cooperating every way. In fact, Training Center is allowing some of their folks to come to Instructor Training class; not charge them tuition; partner with them and help get folks trained to be P.O.S.T. certified instructors.

Director Mann reported that he and Board Attorney Joe Drolet have communicated about an issue. In O.C.G.A. 35-5-7, the Training Center has the authority to have a security police force for the Training Center. Specifically, the law reads on any property owned and controlled by Georgia Public Safety Training Center. Director Mann stated he has instructors who are certified P.O.S.T. peace officers. They are not currently sworn because they do not act and represent any local agency. If the Training Center could swear them in, under the authority of a security force under Title 35-5, these instructors can then allow them to join Peace Officer Annuity Board. And that would become a recruiting tool for the Training Center. Director Mann stated that unless there are corrections or objections, he intends to swear in those who are interested in becoming sworn peace officers so they can get under P.O.A.B. Vice-Chairman Donald added that the Department of Corrections did something similar for the Food Service Supervisors and Food Service Staff, who work around inmates, and allow them to go back to be trained as correctional officers; therefore, enjoy the benefit of being a member of P.O.A.B. Director Mann stated that it is a great thing to do; need to be competitive and a good recruiting tool. Director Mann addressed questions on his report. Director Mann responded to a question of positions; Director Mann told Merit System that the Training Center has some critical positions, primarily Instructor 3 and Instructor 4. In Governor's Recommendation, there is funding for raising Instructors of lowest pay scale and bring them up to mid-grade. Director Mann intends to create a paper pressure; because other agencies got an increase, Director Mann hopes that next year will be the year to receive increases for instructors. Director Mann responded to a question of comprehensive P.O.S.T. at the DTAE academies, and, Director stated that Mr. Ken Vance assures that they will put together an exit exam. Mr. Rooney Bowen, III added that for this work like it should, all this needs to be in place. Director Mann stated that he believes P.O.S.T. will become the one that administers the certification exams and not the academies; for the Training Center academies and technical school academies to prepare the student, and, the student will have to go to P.O.S.T. to take the certification exam. Discussion was held of those

students from out-of-state and coming to Georgia and becoming certified. Director Mann will look into that and bring an answer at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy requested Director Mann research the commitment of oath taken by volunteer firefighters and whether it is any different from the oath taken by a regular fireman. Director Mann stated that because of a senate bill from two years ago, there is a requirement that all volunteer firefighters have to register with Firefighters Standards and Training. The Training Center is tightening up who can attend classes; checking the ones who are signing up as a volunteer firefighter to attend the program. If the volunteer is not registered with Firefighters Standards and Training, the volunteer is not eligible for free lodging, free meals, free tuition. The Training Center will tell the volunteer no until that person is registered. Director Mann stated that the registration process will lead to tighter controls on volunteer firefighters. Director Mann stated that he did not think there is an oath of office for a volunteer firefighter; simply because they are volunteers, they can walk out whenever they want to.

DONATIONS

Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, requested approval of the following donations:

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| Labrador Retriever | \$ 400.00 | TFC M.C. Moorman |
| Cash Donation | \$ 1,000.00 | Swainsboro Wal-Mart |
| Garmin NUV166D GPS | \$ 375.00 | Wilkinson County Sheriff |
| Three Pro Laser | \$ 8,730.00 | Murray County Commissioners |
| One Stalker DSR Radar | \$ 2,895.00 | Early County Commissioners |
| One Stalker DSR 2X Radar | \$ 2,310.00 | Wilcox County Commissioners |

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III motioned approval of the donations, seconded by Sheriff Cullen Talton, and voted approval by the board members.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chairman Donald invited the Board members to walk through Smith State Prison with him and tour the facility. Vice-Chairman/Commissioner Donald stated that this is a Close security

prison; the building being constructed will house almost 200 Medium security inmates; this representing the addition of almost 2,000 new beds this year. One building houses residents, who leave the facility and work at the poultry business. There are 3,000 beds across the state devoted to programs like that. Vice-Chairman Donald stated he would like to share the tour with the Board members.

Vice-Chairman Donald reminded the Board members to stop outside and talk with the Florida trooper and view his vehicle.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made a motion that the June meeting will be held in Cleveland. Mr. Bud Black has invited the Board to hold the meeting in his area. Chief Jack McElfish seconded the motion and the Board members voted approval.

Mr. Rooney Bowen noted that a picture of Major Mark McDonough was in the Atlanta Journal Constitution; picture taken on the last day of the General Assembly session.

Everyone was reminded of the Law Enforcement Supper at Wayne Dasher's pond house.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III
Secretary