

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
August 12, 2011 Special Called Meeting
Department of Public Safety-Blue Conference Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy-via conference call
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III-via conference call
Mr. Daniel M. Bryant-via conference call
Chief Jon Canada
Mr. Kacy C. Cronan-via conference call
Sheriff Steve Cronic-via conference call
Chief Louis M. Dekmar-via conference call
Mr. Patrick H. Head-via conference call
Mr. C. Murray Kight-via conference call
Sheriff Dane Kirby
Commissioner Brian Owens-via conference call
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.
Sheriff H. Cullen Talton-via conference call
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS:

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison
Colonel M. W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety
Major R. D. Powell, Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol
Captain Hank Fielding, Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol
Captain Eddie Grier, Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol
Ms. Jacqueline Bunn, Department of Public Safety
Mrs. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Joe Hood, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Gordy Wright, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Dan Brown, Department of Public Safety
Sgt. Anthony Hughes, Department of Public Safety
Mrs. Brandy Cochran, Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol
Director J. Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Harry Russell
Mr. Terry Drake
Mr. Alan Davis

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the Friday, August 12th, 2011 Special Called Meeting of the Board of Public Safety to order and asked Sgt. Anthony Hughes to give the opening prayer.

Vice-Chairman Wood confirmed a quorum through a verbal roll call. Vice-Chairman Wood asked those present to introduce themselves.

Vice-Chairman Wood stated there were two items to be brought before the BPS and recognized Colonel Mark W. McDonough.

Colonel McDonough came before the BPS quoting state statute 35-2-7 as a reminder to himself and everyone else that the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety is vested with the authority to appoint a deputy commissioner of public safety, who shall have the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Uniform Division of the department. The deputy commissioner may be a member of the Uniform Division of the department and upon removal from office without prejudice he shall revert to the original rank in the Uniform Division which he held when he was appointed to office and most important the appointment shall be subject to confirmation by this board. Colonel McDonough stated that in the past at this point there was a little bit of drama where the door has opened up and somebody that no one expected walked through. Colonel McDonough added that this would not happen here today, his nomination should be no surprise to anyone. Colonel McDonough stated his nominee has been married for 27 years and is a lifelong resident of Calhoun, GA, has a bachelor's degree from Berry College and a Master of Public Administration from Columbus State University and a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA. Colonel McDonough added his nominee has been a trooper, a corporal in a post, an assistant post commander, post commander, has been the Director of the Training Division, served as executive assistant to the Commanding Officer and currently the Commanding Officer of the GSP. Colonel McDonough stated for him personally and in particular for the Department of Public Safety there is no better person for the Deputy Commissioner's job. Colonel McDonough added that Major Powell has a work ethic that is beyond anyone that he can compare to; Major Powell staunchly loves the patrol and bleeds blue and gray and with that said, Colonel McDonough asked the BPS for the acceptance of Major Powell's name and the Board of Public Safety's positive affirmation of Major Powell.

Mr. Jon Canada made a motion that the BPS confirms the appointment of Major Russell D. Powell as the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, which was seconded by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr. and voted approval by all Board members.

Vice-Chairman Wood recognized Lt. Colonel Powell for comments. Lt. Colonel Powell began by thanking Colonel McDonough for giving him this opportunity and stated that he is honored and humbled. Lt. Colonel Powell thanked the members of the Board of Public Safety for their vote of support and appreciates the dedication of the Board members as they are constantly trying to improve the DPS and even more importantly the BPS members strive to improve safety in this state for the citizens of Georgia. Lt. Colonel Powell also thanked members of the Department of Public Safety that have helped him daily and stated he was standing here today because of their help.

Colonel McDonough introduced Captain Eddie Grier who will serve as the Commanding Officer of the Georgia State Patrol with the rank of Major. Colonel McDonough added that Capt. Grier was probably the most kind and compassionate man that he knows and is one of the reasons Capt. Grier was asked to be the Commanding Officer as he will serve as the center point of discipline in the GSP as he disciplines with the heart and love of a father; he looks at troopers as members of his family and he is a

compassionate and fair man. Captain Grier is a person that has 32 plus years on the patrol and has done everything from being a road trooper to being a troop commander.

Colonel McDonough then introduced Captain Hank Fielding who will serve as the Headquarters Adjutant with the rank of Major and Colonel McDonough referred to Captain Fielding as Methuselah even though his resume says he has been around 30 plus years. Captain Fielding is the guy that has run Troop C for years and if it has happened he has seen it and handled it; Captain Fielding has an outstanding work ethic. Colonel McDonough added that the three men on the command staff besides himself have a combined 85 years of experience specifically within the Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol. Colonel McDonough stated he has taken the route of experienced men who have done it and seen it all and thinks this will be a good team and will work under the Board of Public Safety's direction.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked for a motion to congratulate Captain Fielding and Captain Grier for their promotions. Mr. Wayne Abernathy made the motion which was seconded by Mr. Lester Rampy Jr. and voted approval by the BPS members. Vice-Chairman Wood congratulated Captain Fielding and Captain Grier and thanked them for their continuing service to the state of Georgia.

Colonel McDonough added that the promotion of Major Powell would be effective today and the promotion of Major Grier and Major Fielding will be effective August 16, 2011.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Board Attorney, Mr. Joe Drolet to address voting on the salary for the Department of Public Safety Commissioner. Mr. Drolet stated that the statute provides that the BPS can approve the Commissioner but it is silent in regards to the salary and after consultation with the Governor's office as to who actually sets the salary, the Governor's office's indicated that the BPS ought to approve the salary. Mr. Drolet added in keeping with salaries generally and making sure that the salary is in line with other commissioners and so forth a salary has been suggested.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made a motion to set the salary for the Commissioner of Department of Public Safety, Colonel Mark W. McDonough at \$140,000.00 per year. Mr. Wayne Abernathy seconded this motion and all Board members voted approval.

Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

Two Stalker Dual Radars	\$ 3,000.00	Tift County Sheriff's Department
Fuel	\$ 2,000.00/mo.	Wayne County Sheriff's Department
Two spotlights for GSP patrol cars	\$ 800.00	Wilkinson County Sheriff's Department
14 Fuel Cards	\$ 1,400.00	GEMA

Mr. Hood stated he had three donations that were a little bit out of the ordinary:

The American Legion National Convention as Honor Guard Lodging and meals	\$ 1,500.00	The American Legion
Veterans of Foreign Wars Conv. Expenses associated/attendance	\$ 2,000.00	Veterans of Foreign Wars
Chick-Fil-A Ride for the Family	\$12,000.00	Winshape Foundation

Mr. Hood added that in the past the GSP has traditionally gone to these events and participated to represent the state of Georgia for the local VFW or local American Legion and DPS has borne the expense, but this year with times as they are where we have restrictions on fuel, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign War have offered to donate funds to cover expenses that are associated with these trips. Mr. Hood stated this is basically a ceremonial participation where the troopers would go and represent with a GSP car that would be representative of Georgia and in one instance the troopers will actually be the honor guard in some of the events. Mr. Hood stated he brought this up in more detail due to a concern raised by the AG's office, when Mr. Drolet reviewed these donations, the question was asked if the Department would have liability coverage when GSP goes out of state in a marked patrol car. Mr. Hood stated that the Department is going under the authority of the Commissioner of Department of Public Safety, who authorizes the travel to these events as an official work function but there was the question if DOAS would provide liability coverage for them when the troopers leave the state even though they will not be in a law enforcement capacity, they will be in a marked patrol car in these two instances traveling out of state to the convention. Mr. Hood asked Ms. Jacqueline Bunn, Deputy Director for DPS Legal Services to address this issue. Ms. Bunn stated as a result of the concerns raised by Mr. Drolet, she contacted the attorney for the DOAS and he indicated as long as it is an event sanctioned by the Commissioner and it is work related and reasonably within the scope of the troopers employment, DOAS would cover any liability.

Mr. Hood stated the last donation he had to bring before the Board of Public Safety concerned expenses associated with the GSP participation in the Chic-Fil-A Ride for the Family that is sponsored by the Winshape Foundation with the value being \$12,000.00. Mr. Hood went on to relate that at this event, DPS will have 6 marked patrol motorcycles that will participate in a parade type fashion to go to different media spots with the Winshape Foundation and represent law enforcement in a safety message for motorcycle safety in the different states and will combine with other law enforcement counterparts in other states that will provide enforcement or escort that will be appropriate in that state, but again the troopers will be traveling out of state on a marked motorcycle in uniform and basically the same question was raised.

The motion to accept these donations was made by Mr. Lester Rampy, Jr.; seconded by Chief Jon Canada and voted approved by the Board members.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded the Board members that on Wednesday, September 7th, 2011 Board members will meet around 1130 hours for the tour at Ft. Stewart. Mr. and Mrs. Bryant will be hosting

the members for dinner on Wednesday night. Vice-Chairman Wood added that the BPS meeting will be at 1000 hours in the Richmond Hill City Center, hosted by Chief Billy Reynolds and after lunch we will proceed to Daniel Defense Arms Manufacture for a tour of their facility.

Vice-Chairman Wood advised that the Post 3 – Cartersville State Patrol post would be dedicated on September 20th at 1000 hours.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III
Secretary