

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

February 14, 2008

Atlanta, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice-Chairman James E. Donald
Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Bud Black
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III
Sheriff Steve Cronic
Chief Lou Dekmar
Sheriff Bruce Harris
Mr. Pat Head
Chief Dwayne Orrick
Chief J. D. Rice
Sheriff Cullen Talton
Mr. Ellis Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Dub Harper

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Joe Drolet, Board Attorney
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Colonel Don Chastain, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Fred Snellings, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Ms. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Chief Mark McLeod, Motor Carrier Compliance Division
Mr. Lee O'Brien, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Ms. Lisa Maier, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Dan Roach, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Dan Brown, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Ms. Angie Holt, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Sergeant Russell Hayes, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Ms. Allison Hodge, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Ms. Sandy Bryan, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Major David Brack, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Sergeant Randy Martin, 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
Ms. Lisa Urich, Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Deputy Director Paul Heppner, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Gib Heuett, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Patrece Kerner, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Dr. Teresa Resch, Department of Technical and Adult Education
Mrs. Kathy Wood, wife of Mr. Ellis Wood
Mrs. Hollie Chastain, wife of Lieutenant Colonel Don Chastain
Mrs. Janice Mann, wife of Director Dale Mann
Director Terry Norris, Georgia Sheriffs Association
Ms. Wendy Angelety, Office of Planning and Budget
Mr. Geronald Bell, Office of Planning and Budget
Colonel Willie McGee, Houston County Sheriff's Office
Mr. Ed Stempel, Department of Corrections

Vice-Chairman James Donald called the February meeting to order. Vice-Chairman Donald requested if the Board members had special guests attending today. Sheriff Cullen Talton stated Colonel McGee is with him today. Mr. Ellis Wood introduced his wife, Mrs. Kathy Wood.

Vice-Chairman Donald stated today is a bittersweet day. On one hand, it is a day of celebration. On the other hand, it is a day to recognize a Board member who passed away. Vice-Chairman Donald called on Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III to comment on Mr. Gene Stuckey. Mr. Bowen stated that, as everyone knows, Mr. Stuckey was killed in a tragic accident. Everybody loved Gene; he was a man of lot of humor and a lot of wisdom. At the eulogy for Gene Stuckey, everybody from the former President of United States to a childhood sweetheart said good things about Gene. Mr. Bowen requested everyone to stand for a moment of silence and then delivered a prayer. Several people shared stories of humorous times with Gene Stuckey. Vice-Chairman Donald shared one scripture, Micah 6:8, "what does the Lord require of us but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God." When thinking about Gene Stuckey, he did all those things; loved people and loved mercy and was always walking with his God. Gene Stuckey will be missed.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III stated that because it is Valentine's Day, the Board gave Ms. Laura Jones a beautiful plant and candy in appreciation.

Vice-Chairman Donald requested a motion to approve the January Minutes. Mr. Bud Black made a motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Sheriff Steve Cronic, and voted approval by the Board members.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy requested special recognition of Sheriff Steve Cronic. The Hall County Sheriff's Office is participating in the 287G program, which is a very beneficial program for all sheriffs. Sheriff Cronic described the program as a partnership with the Immigration Enforcement Division. Sheriff Cronic stated that Hall County started seeing disturbing trends; 90% of the drugs are illegal drugs being brought in from Mexico by illegal aliens; about 85-90% of gangs are Mexican street gangs; and also seeing a spike in violent crimes associated with youth segment in the gangs. Sheriff Cronic explained this program will enable his officers to work with ICE folks and have access to database; will be able to verify checks that normally would have gone through ICE and would have taken time. This will allow direct contact with ICE. Nine people are trained, including two who are assigned to the Gang Task Force and the Narcotics Unit.

DIRECT REPORTS

Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, began with stating that the Honor Guard handles all state funerals; has handled funerals for two Board of Public Safety members, for many retirees, and for those killed in the line of duty. On December 22, State Patrol was involved in the funeral for former Speaker of the House. Mr. Tom Murphy was the longest serving Speaker in the history of the United States. Colonel Hitchens stated Judge Mike Murphy, son of Speaker Tom Murphy, wrote a letter of thanks for State Patrol's involvement in his father's funeral. Judge Murphy wrote in his letter of the family's appreciation for State Patrol's great job and work professionalism.

Every ten years on anniversary date, State Patrol does a yearbook; one is in the process of being wrapped up and being sent out. Colonel Hitchens took the opportunity to put pictures of the Murphy funeral procession, along with the letter, in the yearbook. Colonel Hitchens thanked Vice-Chairman/Commissioner Donald because the bagpiper is a member of the Department of Corrections. Mr. Dan Bray adds a lot to the funerals; many people are impressed with the bagpipes.

Colonel Hitchen stated the one issue that requires approval by the Board is the transition of job title Communications Equipment Operators to Customer Service Agents. O.C.G.A. § 35-2-37 gives the DPS Commissioner, with approval of the Board, the ability to employ communications officers and divide them into such ranks or categories as are deemed necessary. Colonel Hitchens knows from long experience that the salary offered to communications officers is a barrier to hiring and retaining employees, as it relates to competition. The agency worked with State Personnel Administration to identify solutions. One of the identified solutions was the change of salary range on the existing job, Communications Equipment Operator; which has turned out to be impossible because other departments utilize this job. What serves State Patrol's needs may not serve the other departments. Another option was to find a suitably defined job on a more appropriate pay range. The Department believes it has been successful in this option. A Customer Service Agent job title was just incorporated in the pay system in the last year or two,

and is located with the pay grades of 11, 12, and 13. The Department believes this description fits what Department's communications personnel do; because in each patrol post, the communications officer is the first line of contact for callers or visitors to the post. Colonel Hitchens stated that in re-naming these positions as Customer Service Agents it gives the Department a better ability to hire and retain the caliber of individual needed to discharge this vital role. This is also in support of Governor's program to emphasize the improvement of Customer Service in all areas of state government. Colonel Hitchens stated the State Personnel System approved the change of the status of Communications Operators to Customer Service Agents. Colonel Hitchens requested Board approval of this change. Chief Lou Dekmar motioned approval of the positions, which was seconded by Chief J. D. Rice, and voted approval by the Board members. Colonel Hitchens addressed questions and comments; one question on the salary, wherein Colonel Hitchens responded the starting salary will go from \$20,000 to \$24,000.

Colonel Hitchens announced he would like to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Don Chastain for his service to the agency. Colonel stated that those who have been around Don Chastain know that he is a firm individual. He is often called the Bear; in some circles called The Polar Bear, because he likes to be at about 45° all the time. Colonel Hitchens stated Don Chastain has done a great job and is a compassionate person. He has always been somebody who believes that State Patrol is more than just a job, and, he expects people to do the job right. Colonel Hitchens introduced Hollie Chastain, Lieutenant Colonel's wife. Colonel Hitchens then read the Resolution. Lieutenant Colonel Chastain stood before the Board members to say that he gives thanks to God for his career. Lieutenant Colonel Chastain stated he had pride in his heart when wearing the shirt. He appreciates it when someone recognizes when troopers do something good. Lieutenant Colonel Chastain thanked Colonel Hitchens; adding that he has learned a lot from Colonel Hitchens. Lieutenant Colonel Chastain also thanked his wife, Hollie, and Ms. Sandy Bryan, his assistant/secretary.

Colonel Hitchens announced one more small item, today is Mr. Ellis Wood's birthday. State Patrol brought a birthday cake to celebrate today.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigations, began with stating that he and Lieutenant Colonel Don Chastain have been friends since 1986. Both gentlemen were supervisors and worked together on the command staff. Not only is Don Chastain professional and a man of integrity, but when asking Don Chastain for his assessment of a situation, you better be prepared for the unvarnished truth. Director Keenan thanked Lieutenant Colonel Chastain for his friendship and has enjoyed working with him over the years.

Director Keenan called on Assistant Deputy Director Gib Heuett to come forward and give the Board a ten-minute presentation on the Governor's new initiative to transform the Georgia Technology Authority and the state technology systems. Governor Perdue is moving the program forward where the state agencies, which have the largest technology footprints in state

government, will be working with Georgia Technology Authority to have all the technology services outsourced to private industry. The state is on a fast track to have this done within the next year. The final budget for having the state's technology outsourced to private industry will be over \$1 billion contract. Director Keenan stated Mr. Heuett is here to update the Board on what the process is and where the GBI is headed.

With a powerpoint slide, Mr. Heuett began with explaining the background on the project. Back in the summer, Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) hired a contractor, Technology Partners International, to do a comprehensive assessment of where the state is with information technology. From August to November, agencies collected data and reported it back to GTA. This has involved eleven agencies, but down the road this will impact all the other agencies.

The results were presented in December, and, based on the results, Governor Perdue made the recommendation that the state should proceed toward outsourcing IT operations. The decision was made to consolidate where the agencies could and that GTA needed to be the managing role. It will be handled through three major contracts. The state is looking at three contracts; the Mainframe and Server Managed Services; Managed Network Services, which is the infrastructure that supports the agencies as well as all the computers on desks; and Local Telecommunications Service Support, which is the data lines.

Mr. Heuett explained this will be a self-funding solution. This will not cost the state anything in addition with what is being paid for Information Technology. Georgia Technology Authority will manage the infrastructure, consolidate all the equipment, and then manage the outsource relationships with the vendors. As Director Keenan previously stated, this is a huge contract involving five to seven years with value of \$1.2 to \$1.4 billion. The winning vendors are required to commit to disaster recovery capabilities. Right now, the state does not have a backup site for all data centers. Therefore, the vendors will have to put in funds of their own to get this started, which will include: a second data center, disaster recovery capability, better tools and better practices to manage IT altogether.

Mr. Heuett continued with explaining the goal. This Initiative will result in reduction in spending of overall; a reduction of fulltime equivalence of positions from 1,095 to 170, which will be achieved through transitioning existing personnel to the vendors as well as layoffs; and renegotiation of telecommunication contracts that are used to support data lines.

With a chart, Mr. Heuett explained Project Timelines, noting three streams, i.e., Infrastructure Services, Managed Network Services, and Local Telecommunications Services. Currently, the state is in the middle of Building Request For Proposals for each stream. The timeline is very tight. With the next slide, Statewide Resources In Scope, the chart reflected the resources that are now considered In Scope. The chart listed the agencies, the dollars involved, the number of personnel involved, servers, laptops, and facilities that will be covered. Mr. Heuett stated he is becoming infinitely familiar with his counterparts in these agencies as they work tightly together. He pointed out the figure of \$249 million in resources. The questions that come up are how can

this be done with the same amount of money. The idea is that because over the years there has not been the kind of support needed for IT operations, the agencies did their own thing. With consolidating servers and bringing together of resources, the state should see a lot of savings plus the telecommunications savings.

Mr. Heuett stated that specific to GBI, there are 26 fulltime positions; the Help Desk area, CJIS Data Center support, Network Engineers, the infrastructure type people. GBI has \$6.3 million worth of resources; 67 servers; and over 2,500 desktops and laptop machines. Mr. Heuett stated that all internal infrastructure, everything that supports GBI's network, such as offices, labs, regional offices, fall under In Scope. The GBI's internal support personnel, about 50% of IT staff and CJIS Data Center staff are included.

Mr. Heuett stated that the Application side will be Out of Scope. That will be the actual applications managed by GBI programmers that manage Criminal History, Message Switch, Protection Order Registry, Sex Offender Registry. The actual hardware of those applications will be In Scope. What is being looked at is the data center where most of the systems reside. Mr. Heuett stated that is one of the big challenges since there is a lot of stuff there and is connected to a lot of different systems.

Mr. Heuett continued with explaining the Next Step. Right now, GBI is working with other agencies, therefore, teams are in place. The GBI has fulltime people and a lot of part time people working to actually pull this information together for the RFP to make sure the GBI's, as well as every agency's, needs are properly articulated in the requirements. Mr. Heuett showed the Timeline; once the bid process is complete that is when personnel transitions will actually be seen. There are a lot of details in that process because there are issues relating to people who have many years of service versus those who do not have many years. There are a lot of issues that have to be dealt with on the human resources side. Human resources is a big part of this; finance is a big part of this; it is a huge project. Mr. Heuett addressed several questions on this project.

Director Keenan added that the purpose for having this presentation is this will have a major impact on criminal justice system. The law enforcement system, with the GBI on behalf of every law enforcement agency and all the prosecutors, will be moved over into the contract managed by private companies. Director Keenan stated he has had direct conversations with GTA Commissioner and senior staff, and they are well aware that when the GBI represents all law enforcement agencies and all the prosecutors, and when something impacts the GBI, it impacts all criminal justice system. The key to this operating the way it must operate is the contract and holding the private companies to that contract. That is why the work that Mr. Heuett is doing in developing and working with the contract is so important. Director Keenan stated it is his intent to do periodic updates to this Board on where GBI is in the process.

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, began with congratulating the birthday person, Mr. Ellis Wood. Director Mann congratulated Lieutenant Colonel Don Chastain for his retirement; Don Chastain was a student of Director Mann's at Command College.

Director Mann stated that the Public Safety Memorial Committee met last week; about 26 members are on that Committee. The Committee reviewed six nominations; five support law enforcement and one firefighter. Of the five law enforcement, there were none who were put on the list for the Memorial Wall. Basically, those nominations were tragic automobile accidents, all these fall under the on-duty but not under in-the-line of duty. The one nomination that was approved was a Fulton County firefighter, Felix Roberts, who was fighting a structural fire. Director Mann requested approval of nomination of the deceased firefighter. The Firefighter Recognition will be held in March. Vice-Chairman Donald requested a motion to accept the one recommendation by the Public Safety Memorial Committee. Said motion was made by Chief J. D. Rice, seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and voted approval by the Board.

Director Mann called on Dr. Teresa Resch, who has been tremendously involved in the entire process of the Ad Hoc Committee looking at what to do with Basic Training. Director Mann asked Dr. Resch to come forward and give an update of what the Department of Technical and Adult Education has been doing.

Dr. Teresa Resch began with stating that this continues to be a team working process. The process could not be done without the work of Director Mann and his staff, Executive Director Ken Vance and his staff, and Mr. Ellis Wood. Dr. Resch stated everyone will be proud of this when it is all done and put together. As an update, Dr. Resch stated that she met with Commissioner Ron Jackson and Deputy Commissioner Freida Hill to explain where DTAE was going with this project. During a January 24th meeting, Commissioner Jackson, along with eleven College Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Criminal Justice Instructors described the process that has been going on since last March; explaining how DTAE came to the process of trying to move forward with Basic Training in the technical college system. Dr. Resch had explained in that meeting an overall view of what it would take to become an academy; as far as hiring personnel and meeting the requirements. Dr. Resch and Commissioner Jackson wanted the college presidents to be able to have enough information to make a choice in the matter of being part of a pilot project. So far, Dr. Resch has heard back from most of the colleges with accepting the challenge to be an academy pilot. Today, Dr. Resch will be meeting with Executive Director Ken Vance to review the academy application process. The colleges that have been invited to be a part of this project will apply and send in their information to the system office. There will then be a grading group for six pilot sites to be chosen from the top six sites geographically located across the state. DTAE hopes to have this finished by late spring. DTAE is moving forward; sees it as a great opportunity and appreciates the continued work with the agencies. Dr. Resch offered time to address questions and comments.

Director Mann stated that the Ad Hoc Committee sent out a Letter from Mr. Ellis Wood and a Draft Resolution. Director Mann stated this has the potential to help the system, with getting the non-traditional daytime student in a technical school. Those six pilot technical schools will be under the same Rules as GPSTC, because they would be post-certified academies. Director Mann does not see a negative in this; this will transform the whole business of basic training.

Director Mann stated that Executive Director Ken Vance has appointed a committee to study rule changes in the P.O.S.T. rules. Director Mann described how regional academies are bogged down with Basic Training. Currently, there are not enough resources in the way of staff and facilities and time to continue to offer all the advanced and intermediate courses, all the things that are voluntary certifications which P.O.S.T. has approved. Director Mann has asked P.O.S.T. to re-visit the rules. Director Mann gave the following example. Currently, Sheriff Ted Paxton of Forsyth County has trainers; they are P.O.S.T. certified instructors. If having to do Officer Survival for 40 hours at one of the academies, GPSTC would get some of Sheriff Paxton's folks to come help teach that course. Under the current P.O.S.T. rules, Sheriff Paxton cannot do that training with the instructors GPSTC produce. It has to currently go through a P.O.S.T. certified academy. Director Mann stated he is asking Executive Director Vance why not let an agency that has the capability to teach those courses to teach them at their location. When the academies used to belong to P.O.S.T. and P.O.S.T. had delivery and quality control issues as part of what they did, this system that is being managed would make a lot more sense. Now that P.O.S.T. is not in the delivery business, the quality refers only the way that course should be an issue with P.O.S.T. and it should not be something that takes an academy to stamp the certificate to hand it to somebody. Sheriff Paxton's instructors are not under any different rules than any GPSTC instructors. It just makes sense that those rules be opened up to let agencies do more of their training. Director Mann addressed questions and comments.

Mr. Ellis Wood addressed the question of the proposed Resolution from the Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Wood stated that each group has gotten the proposed Resolution, with background of criteria included with it. The Ad Hoc Committee would like to receive any comments, constructive or negative, about that Resolution within the next sixty days. By the May Board meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee will have reevaluated the comments that have been received and at that time will propose that the Resolution be considered. A vote on the Resolution will be at a later date. Mr. Wood stated that Dr. Teresa Resch and Executive Director Ken Vance will come back to the May meeting and give an update.

FISCAL REPORTS

Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, described the Fiscal Report for July 31 through December 31 of the first six months of the fiscal year. It is broken down by programs; with one column shows Actual 2008 Total budget expenses. Next to that is Adjusted Budget; the third column is Surplus/Deficit, and last column is Percent Remaining in budget for

each of these programs. When looking at Percent Remaining, it is around 50% since this is halfway through the first six months of the fiscal year. Mr. Hood noted some of the programs have a higher percentage, such as Field Offices and Services; this is primarily due to the raise having taken effect in January. A couple of percentages are below, such as Aviation which has 38% remaining; this is primarily due to a lot of expenses that the agency had in the first quarter of the fiscal year for maintenance to aircraft, helicopters. Mr. Hood stated everything else is on target for the most part for each program.

Ms. Lisa Urich, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, described the Fiscal Report. The far right column is the Percentage of Budget, which should be around 50%. Ms. Urich stated the agency is right on target with the state dollars at 50%. A couple of months ago, the Board asked about Motor Fuel expenditures where overall the agency is doing good. Funds were moved into that area; if money had not been moved in that area, the agency would be spending at 70%, which means there would only be 30% left for the fiscal year.

Ms. Patrece Kerner, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, described the Expenditure Report. GPSTC only has one program so it is broken down by Object Class. With six months into the fiscal year, the agency is doing well at about 48% - 49%. Ms. Kerner responded to a question of amount of Postage, wherein the agency has not moved money into that class yet. Director Mann also responded that the agency does not start with as much money as needed for the entire year; classes are amended as needed.

DONATIONS

Ms. Patrece Kerner, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, requested approval of the following donation:

62 Sets of Nomex station ware

Fire Chief Mark Herendeen
Morrow Fire Department

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made the motion to approve the donation, which was seconded by Sheriff Steve Cronic, and voted approval by the Board.

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

Five Streamlight UltraStinger Flashlights	\$ 440.00	Johnson County Commissioners
Three Garmin 340 GPS Navigation Units	\$ 696.00	
Six Stalker DSR 2X Radars	\$16,170.00	Peach County Commissioners
Three Dell Latitude Computers	\$ 5,238.90	Peach County Commissioners
Three Stalker DSR Radars	\$ 8,220.00	City of Jackson
Cash Donation For Meals and Lodging For March Race Activities	\$11,475.00	Atlanta Motor Speedway
K-9 Vehicle Kennel For Dodge Charger and Free Installation	\$ 3,500.00	C-Comm 911
11 Stinger Flashlights	\$ 1,429.89	Piedmont Multi Agency Drug Task Force
Nine Kodak 8.2 MP Digital Cameras	\$ 807.93	

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III motioned approval of the donations, seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and voted approval by the board members.

RESOLUTION

Mr. Lee O'Brien, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, stated the agency has a proposal from Columbia County Board of Commissioners to build a new state patrol post in their county. The current state patrol post that serves that area is Post 25. Patrol Post 25 is located in Thomson, McDuffie County, Georgia. For the past several years, negotiations have been attempted to build a new patrol post in connection with some other construction. Those plans or proposals have come to fruition. On February 5th, Columbia County passed a resolution to build a new patrol post on four acres of property, which is essentially behind the north side of the weigh station in Grovetown. The building would be 10,500 square feet with the cost not to exceed \$2 million. The county is going to build that post under an agreement with State Patrol to determine the type of building and the particular construction. At the completion of the

construction and occupancy being allowed, State Patrol would move Patrol Post 25 from Thomson over to Columbia County to that new facility. Also, Columbia County will convey that property to the state with no reservations to them. Mr. O'Brien noted two letters, the second one clarifying the fact that the county will convey the property along with the post to the State of Georgia, and, they will correct their resolution at their meeting which will be held on February 18. That will give State Patrol a four-acre tract with appropriate facility which should be adequate to serve the needs of Patrol Post 25 and Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol for a number of years to come. Mr. O'Brien stated today's Resolution authorizes Commissioner of State Patrol to enter into negotiations to develop the agreements and final deeds to allow Columbia County to go forward with the construction; this Resolution then allows State Patrol to move that patrol post from Thomson over to Columbia County. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III questioned the two parts of the Resolution; wherein Mr. O'Brien stated it is his purpose to incorporate all necessary requirements into one Resolution. Mr. Bowen motioned approval of the Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and Board members voted approval.

Mr. Bud Black questioned the status of the situation at Hall County; if anything is moving there. Mr. O'Brien responded that he expects correspondence from the Attorney General's office with the final documents that will be ready for signature. Mr. O'Brien anticipates these documents to be delivered any day. After the documents are signed, this will give Hall County the go-ahead to set up the bonds; hire an architect; and a design person to finalize the design plans. Hall County has the set of plans that State Patrol uses; but their architect has to go in and re-do those plans. Mr. O'Brien stated those are all in the works; State Patrol is about four to six months from beginning construction once the agreement is signed. Colonel Hitchens expressed his appreciation to Mr. Abernathy, Mr. Black, and Sheriff Cronin in helping make this process work, despite many barriers.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chairman Donald asked for any Old Business. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III reminded the Board members they received an e-mail explaining a trip to Florida to meet with Florida Highway Patrol to view their interoperability communication system. The plans for this visit are that a group will be going Tuesday/19th and Wednesday/20th. The group will go into Tallahassee Tuesday evening and then meet with Florida Highway Patrol on Wednesday morning. Mr. Bowen stated this will be a good trip to learn about Florida's system. Vice-Chairman Donald requested a report be brought back to a Board meeting.

Vice-Chairman Donald called on Colonel Bill Hitchens to bring good news. Colonel Hitchens began with explaining that as Official Code of Georgia specifies, the Commissioner of Department of Public Safety recommends a successor for Deputy Commissioner, subject to approval of the Board. Colonel Hitchens recommended Mr. Fred Snellings as Deputy

Commissioner, effective March 17, 2008. Colonel has known Mr. Snellings for about 35 years. Mr. Snellings is a native Georgian from LaGrange; a former Marine and Vietnam veteran. Mr. Snellings joined the Georgia State Patrol in 1972; went through 42nd Georgia State Patrol Trooper School. He spent seven-and-half years before opting to leave and accept a position with Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Snellings worked several field office assignments until 1991, when he was selected to be a Supervisory Special Agent in Washington, D.C. headquarters. He later left and was a Senior Supervisory Special Agent in Youngstown. In 1994, Mr. Snellings had the opportunity to come back to Georgia and accept a position at Federal Bureau of Investigation office in Atlanta with purview over entire State of Georgia. Right after 9-11, Mr. Snellings was promoted again. He was Senior Agent In Charge at the largest field office in FBI office in New York City. He retired in 1995. Mr. Snellings has an undergraduate degree in psychology and Masters in Public Administration. He has been married to Evelyn for 40 years; has two grown children. Chief Lou Dekmar motioned approval of the recommendation, which was seconded by Mr. Ellis Wood, and voted approval by the Board members.

Vice-Chairman Donald invited Mr. Fred Snellings to come forward. Mr. Snellings stood before the Board members, thanking for the opportunity to be here today and to be back in Georgia. Mr. Snellings said he looks forward to working with Colonel Hitchens and everyone.

The March meeting will be held in Atlanta. The April meeting will be held at Smith State Prison in Glennville; a timeline will be provided to the Board members.

Vice-Chairman Donald stated he gave everyone a copy of a CD on methamphetamine epidemic; it is a five-minute presentation that shows the footprint of how meth has spread over the State of Georgia. Vice-Chairman Donald used this CD in the Corrections Budget presentation. Department of Corrections is asking for eight new day reporting centers to address this phenomenon of locking everybody up who has a meth problem. Corrections is locking up 250-300 meth people a month. The philosophy is if afraid of the offender, then lock him up; but if drug problem, rehabilitate the offender first in the community and then lock him up.

Everyone stood and sang Happy Birthday to Mr. Ellis Wood. Collection was made for Flower Fund.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III
Secretary