

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

February 12, 2015

Department of Corrections Board Room, Atlanta, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Chief Danny Bowman
Commissioner Homer Bryson
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan
Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic
Mr. C. Murray Kight
Sheriff Dane Kirby
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.
Chief Mark Revenew
Mr. Brian Rickman
Sheriff Joey Terrell
Chief Craig Tully
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Daniel M. Bryant

OTHERS:

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison
Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel Russell D. Powell, Department of Public Safety
Major Tommy Waldrop, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Billy Boulware, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Mark Lambert, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Lewis Young, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Jason Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Mark Perry, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Jeremy Vickery, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Wayne Mobley, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Lt. Clint Durrence, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Sgt. Anthony Hughes, Department of Public Safety
Sgt. Hamilton Halford, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Mrs. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety
Miss Christina Calloway, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Peter Adams, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety
Mr. William Ruffin, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Deputy Director Rusty Andrews, Georgia Bureau of investigation
Mrs. Connie Buck, Fiscal Officer and Treasurer, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Keith Howard, Assistant Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center

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Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mrs. Sharla Shockley, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Director Harris Blackwood, Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Mr. Jim Andrews, Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Dr. Bill Coates, First Baptist Church, Gainesville, GA
Mrs. Joyce White, State Director, Senator David Perdue's Office
Mr. Dwayne Garris, State Fire Marshall
Mr. Gordon Henderson, Director, Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Council
Mr. Chris Grimes, Deputy Director, Forsyth County EMA
Mr. Greg Dozier, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Corrections
Mrs. Louise Rampy
Mr. Jimmy Cotty, Executive Director, GA Ready Mixed Concrete Association
Mr. David Moellering, Georgia Highway Contractors Association
Mr. Tommy Stalnaker, Chairman, Houston County Commissioner
Mr. Tom McMichael, County Commissioner, Houston County
Ms. Gail Robinson, County Commissioner, Houston County
Mr. Larry Thomson, County Commissioner, Houston County
Mr. Jay Walker, County Commissioner, Houston County
Sheriff Cullen Talton, Houston County
Mayor Jimmy Faircloth, City of Perry, GA
Police Chief Steve Lynn, City of Perry, GA
Mayor Randy Toms, City of Warner Robins, GA
Police Chief Brett Evans, City of Warner Robins, GA
Mayor John R. Harley, City of Centerville, GA
Police Chief Sid Andrews, City of Centerville, GA
District Attorney George Hartwig, Houston County
Mr. William Jerles, Chairman, Houston County Airport Authority
Ms. Patsy Goff, Airport Manager, Perry-Houston County Airport
Mr. Robbie Dunbar, Director of Operations, Houston County
Mr. Patrick Ivey, Executive Director-Career Services, Central GA Technical College

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the February 12, 2015, Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Commissioner McDonough introduced new Board member and DOC Commissioner Homer Bryson and stated Commissioner Bryson is someone who brings good ole country common sense, nothing flashy, what one sees is what one gets. Commissioner McDonough noted Commissioner Bryson has spent his life on the coastal waterways and in the woods and knows law enforcement, a caring person and his wife Lisa works for the Department of Juvenile Justice, they are a common sense good old folk dynamic duo and could not have been a better person for the governor to pick for an incredible job with a huge responsibility. Commissioner McDonough welcomed Commissioner Bryson and thanked him for allowing the group to use his DOC Board room.

Commissioner Bryson stated it was an honor to serve on the BPS and is no stranger to law enforcement, it has been his whole life, it is what he knows, what he believes in and understand the importance of the mission before him and shared he told the DOC Board last week, the only commitment he can make is that he will leave the DOC better than he found it.

Vice-Chairman Wood congratulated Mr. Brian Rickman for being re-appointed to the BPS and congratulations to his wife, Maggie, who was appointed to the Judicial Qualifications Commission and thanked them both for their service to the state.

GOHS Director Harris Blackwood introduced Dr. Bill Coates; pastor of the Gainesville First Baptist Church who gave the invocation. Dr. Coates asked everyone to remember the family of Lt. Randy Parker of the Macon-Bibb County Fire Department who lost his life last night in a fire and to keep the three others seriously injured in the fire in their prayers. After a moment of silence for the firemen and prayer, Dr. Coates led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood introduced Mrs. Joyce White, State Director for Senator David Perdue.

Chief Craig Tully introduced Executive Director of Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Council, Mr. Gordon Henderson and State Fire Marshall Dwayne Garris.

Chief Danny Bowman introduced Mr. Chris Grimes, newly appointed Deputy Director of Forsyth County EMA.

Vice-Chairman Wood welcomed Mr. David Moellering of the GA Highway Contractors Association.

Sergeant Hamilton Halford of GSP Aviation introduced the Commissioners of the Houston County Commission, Mayors and Police Chiefs of Houston County cities, members of the Houston County Airport Authority, the DA of Houston County and the Director of Operations for Houston County, along with Houston County Sheriff Talton.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked those present to introduce their selves.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the January 8th, 2015 minutes. Chief Mark Revenew made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Chief Craig Tully and voted approved by the BPS members.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Wayne Abernathy advised the nominating committee has nominated Mr. Ellis Wood to serve as Vice-Chairman. This was seconded by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., and voted approved by the BPS members. Mr. Brian Rickman added there is not a more humble, kind, hardworking or finer man than Mr. Ellis Wood.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy stated the nominating committee has nominated Mr. Brian Rickman for the Secretary of the BPS. This was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the BPS members.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety began by congratulating Mr. Jim Andrews for his new position as the Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. Commissioner McDonough stated Mr. Andrews brings 28 years of law enforcement to a key position where in the past had not had that influence. From personal experience working with Mr. Andrews, Commissioner McDonough stated Mr. Andrews is a ticket riding traffic fool and refers to the hard road as the slab. Commissioner McDonough stated Mr. Andrews believes in traffic enforcement and this could not have been a better pick for the Deputy Director at GOHS.

Commissioner McDonough reminded the BPS members that in December he asked for the BPS members' support in a regulatory authority that he has that was extended for a particular group of commercial motor vehicles, the ability to extend their hours on the roadway. Commissioner McDonough stated during the past 90 days there have been zero significant incidents as far as that class of commercial vehicles with the extension of that time. With caution, Commissioner McDonough informed the BPS that as of Friday, he will extend the extension for another 90 days.

Commissioner McDonough advised the 96th Trooper School graduation will be held Friday, February, 20th, with breakfast at 0800 hours, inspection at 0900 hours, to follow with graduation at 1000 hours.

Commissioner McDonough shared there will be a dedication and open house of Post 52 – Hartwell, sometime in March.

Commissioner McDonough wanted to put a disclaimer and stated everyone knows his background in Aviation, noting he flew for the GSP Aviation Division, but before talking about aviation, he emphasized this is not what the patrol does. Commissioner McDonough declared Aviation is a support entity of what the patrol does. Commissioner McDonough stated there are troopers that work the hard road at all hours of night in dangerous situations and the troopers support local law enforcement, this is what the patrol does. Commissioner McDonough reminded the BPS members that his priority is not to Aviation, but to the trooper that works the hard road and in what they do under difficult circumstances. Commissioner McDonough stated Aviation is a support element that is important to the troopers' job, but also important to the rest of law enforcement in the state.

Commissioner McDonough shared the enterprise for life flight operations and partnership in Camilla, GA, in the first 14 days of their operation; they have made 11 life flights. Commissioner McDonough stated he thinks the governor's vision of what needed to be done in this area and what services could be provided is right on the money. Commissioner McDonough noted the Lord has a way of having unique circumstances occur and shared Chief Craig Tully was on scene for the first flight. Chief Tully stated with the first flight, there was a vehicle accident with four teenagers and one young lady was partially ejected from the vehicle and once the life flight service was notified in Camilla, put on stand

by and the paramedics arrived and saw that the injuries were serious enough, the called was made and in 9 minutes, a helicopter was on the ground in Miller County and the 14 year old girl is at home healing because they were able to get her to a trauma center in 32 minutes from the time of the call to the helicopter to a Dothan, AL hospital. Chief Tully stated this really makes a difference and are so appreciative of what is going on, as this area of the state has never had life flight operations. Chief Tully thanked Commissioner McDonough and the governor for their vision in making life flight operations in SW GA.

Commissioner McDonough reminded the Board that the majority of the facilities that GSP uses are provided by local entities, a unique relationship in that when a trooper writes a citation on the roadway, not a dime goes into the DPS organization, but because the GSP is in support of the local agencies, the money goes to the local entities and in turn all of those local entities have built patrol posts and hangars. Commissioner McDonough noted when this occurs, DPS has to allow and have the local entity come to DPS and say they have a proposal and by policy it has to be in writing and then when this occurs, Commissioner McDonough stated he is required to come before the BPS and ask for their support to move forward in the relationship.

Commissioner McDonough presented a letter from the Houston County Board of Commissioners offering to negotiate a long term lease with the GSP Aviation Unit and offer financial assistance for a new hangar at the Perry-Houston County Airport in Perry, GA for GSP's regional public safety use. The letter also stated the proposal and partnership is due to a collaborative effort by the Houston County Commissioners; the cities of Warner Robins, Perry, and Centerville; all law enforcement agencies in Houston County, the District Attorney's office; and the Perry-Houston County Airport Authority. Commissioner McDonough stated that with a couple of meetings with the Houston County group, there are a couple of places in the state where the relationship with law enforcement and the community is very unique, one of them being, Statesboro, GA. Commissioner McDonough stated in Statesboro, there has been built a relationship between the GBI, the GSP and local law enforcement which is unique and is not that way everywhere and this is the same thing mirrored in Houston County.

Houston County Commission Chairman Tommy Stalnaker stated it was an honor and pleasure to be in attendance today and to come as a unit asking for something or telling the BPS members what they would like to do in a partnership with GSP. Chairman Stalnaker commented they are greatly appreciative of what has been happening in Perry, GA/ Houston County with the GSP Aviation Unit for a number of years, but see a need for enhancing this service in Middle Georgia. Chairman Stalnaker stated they have come forward with an offer to build a hangar to accommodate the pilots and hopefully on a round the clock basis for the pilots to be there and had the opportunity to go and look at the Augusta/Richmond County hangar and promised the hangar planned for Houston County will be as good if not better than the one in Augusta/Richmond County. Commissioner Stalnaker shared when the Colonel came down the first time, he fit right in with the Houston County group, because what you see is what you get, he is a fantastic person, have an awful lot of respect for him and there is no better individual in the state of Georgia than Mr. Ellis Wood. Commissioner Stalnaker added Mr. Ellis is a fine gentleman and has been around him 2-3 times and are proud to be represented by these two men as well as the rest of the BPS members. Commissioner Stalnaker asked the BPS to consider the

Houston County partnership with the state of Georgia in particularly, the DPS and allow them to go forward with building the hangar to accommodate the Aviation Unit at the Perry/Houston County Airport. Chairman Stalnaker stated he called Mayor Toms, Mayor Faircloth, Mayor Harley and DA Hartwig and asked them to come together as a collaborative effort to put this project together and can work out all the details as to how much money each one puts into it, but the main thing is that it gets done. Chairman Stalnaker declared there was no discussion, we are on board, when are we going to do it. Chairman Stalnaker advised they were all here today to show they are united on this project and look forward to doing it and getting into the hangar just as quick as we can if the BPS sees fit to allow us to do this. Chairman Stalnaker advised Sheriff Talton called him and told him that Houston County needed to get involved and help with the hangar and that is all Sheriff Talton needed to say and from then on the ball was in motion. Chairman Stalnaker declared Sheriff Talton is the best sheriff in the state of Georgia. Sheriff Talton shared that he goes to a lot of Sheriffs' meetings and a lot of people ask him how he gets along with the county commissioners and he tells them he gets along with his county commissioners great, never have a problem. Sheriff Talton stated they meet and discuss things and work together and this is the way we work with law enforcement in Houston County, GSP, GBI, and OSI on the base and appreciates the BPS considering the partnership for the hangar. Sheriff Talton noted he served on the BPS for 8 years, enjoyed every minute of it and singled out Mr. Wayne Abernathy, who has been on the BPS for 30 years. Sheriff Talton stated he asked Mr. Abernathy how he has stayed on the BPS this long and Mr. Abernathy replied that he supports all the governors that win.

Chief Craig Tully made the motion to authorize Commissioner McDonough to enter into negotiations with the Houston County Commissioners for a hangar to be placed at the Perry-Houston County Airport in Perry, GA for GSP's regional public safety use and a long term lease with the GSP Aviation Unit. This was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the BPS members.

Chief Mark Renew commented the level of cooperation in Houston County is a model for the rest of the state leaders.

Vice-Chairman Wood shared he has been in a lot of political environments, but has never been in one that had the cohesive relationship the Houston County group has and commended the Houston County group and hoped the group realizes this is exceptional and not the norm for their cohesive relationship. Vice-Chairman Wood thanked the group for the opportunity to help GSP and thanked them for the example the Houston County group sets for the rest of the state.

Chief Tully shared that Mayor Toms is a very close dear friend and serves as the Chaplain for the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation thanked the Houston County law enforcement officials present today for the support they give to the men and women of the GBI.

Director Keenan stated he just left a press conference at the Depot regarding child sex trafficking, noting Lt. Governor Cagle, the Attorney General and other legislators were present, meeting with a

large group of child advocates over the issues of child sex trafficking. Director Keenan noted there has been legislation introduced today which is actually being debated as he speaks, Senate Bill 8 which provides or enhances services for child sex trafficking victims and also has a component in SB 8 that was uncovered by the GBI child sex trafficking unit. Director Keenan stated he recently met with them in the fall and asked them if they needed anything to help them with their work and efforts in recovering child victims and they said the state law needed to be changed because under current law a person that is convicted of trafficking a child for sex is not required to register as a sex offender when they are released from prison. Director Keenan noted this is one of these things where a loophole was created as when the sex offender registry was created, there were no laws on the books that related to child sex trafficking and there are now and the laws were never adjusted; this is part of Senate Bill 8 to correct this. Director Keenan stated today in the house and the senate, the GBI Sex Trafficking Unit is being recognized for their work since their creation, and noted the unit has recovered 52 children that were being sold for sex. Director Keenan stressed they work very closely with federal partners and local law enforcement in the efforts to investigate and prosecute these types of cases and there is great work going on by law enforcement all over Georgia in protecting children.

Deputy Director Rusty Andrews of Investigations with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation briefed the BPS on two projects that are underway at the GBI. Mr. Andrews stated the GBI is in support of the initiative by IACP, Below 100, which is an effort to try and reduce law enforcement fatalities, through traffic crashes, use of force, confrontations and basically through everything law enforcement faces each day. Mr. Andrews stated the GBI has taken this initiative to heart and have done a number of things where the GBI is concerned; sending all the agents back through EVOC refresher training to enhance their driving skills and to make them more conscience of what is going on when on the road and have also organized a number of training programs which deal with making them safer when out on the streets. Mr. Andrews noted the GBI has gone back and ordered new body armor for all agents, upgrading the type armor that is being carried, putting rifle plates in the armor, kind of the reflection of what we are facing in society today. Mr. Andrews stated most GBI agents know what they are walking into and do not necessarily have to have the soft armor that uniform officers wear, so this has been upgraded and have upgraded to a point where every agent that wants to, is assigned a patrol rifle, trained in its proper use. Mr. Andrews stated they have upgraded warrant service training and just trying to do everything to make things safer for the agents and has been extended out to all GBI Supervised Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces and Combined Regional Drug Enforcement Offices where there are GBI agents working with state and local officers, trying to push this initiative throughout with what is being done within the GBI.

Mr. Andrews stated the other task the GBI is working on concerns investigations of Officer Involved Shootings. Mr. Andrews stated the GBI investigates on average 1 to 5 officer involved shootings/use of forces around the state a week. Mr. Andrews stated that if anyone thinks that what happened in Ferguson, Missouri has not shifted the paradigm of how these things have to be investigated and what has to be done, they would certainly be incorrect. Mr. Andrews noted within the GBI, since they are the primary agency around the state that is charged with the investigations, the GBI is ahead of the game because the GBI already has an officer involved use of force investigation manual, basically a step by step process for the agents to follow when they do the investigations, but have gone back and

taken steps to upgrade the manual, looking at best practices. Mr. Andrews stated the GBI has entered into a partnership with the Association of State Investigative Agencies (ASIA) which is the sister agency around the country and on an initiative to go back and extract data from each of these agencies to enhance a use of force investigations manual, looking at best practices for what everyone around the country is doing, trying to bring the best practices to bear with regards to what the GBI does in GA. Mr. Andrews expressed the GBI wants to ensure all law enforcement and members of the BPS, that when the GBI is called to do the investigations, the GBI is going to do them as effectively and thoroughly as can be done, because the GBI knows what is on the line for everyone that is involved. Mr. Andrews reminded everyone that Director Keenan is ever so fond of saying, the best thing we can do for a chief or a sheriff, for an officer, a DA or for anyone else that is involved in these type of investigations is a thorough and complete finding of the facts and then to collect information, document the information, turn it over to the DA for them to make a recommendation on what they need to do from there. Mr. Andrews emphasized this works hand in hand with the Below 100 initiative, trying to go forward within the GBI in reducing use of force incidents or danger to law enforcement, but when these occur to make sure they are investigated properly and the GBI is doing its part.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, began his report by thanking the Prosecuting Attorneys Council and their partnership that is now providing district attorneys and people from the PAC office to come out and teach report writing from the prosecution standpoint to the officers in basic mandate. Director Wigginton noted he receives a lot of complaints from police chiefs and sheriffs that concerns lack of report writing skills of someone who has completed basic mandate training.

Director Wigginton stated the Ferguson issues mentioned earlier has affected training a great deal throughout the country and the state. Director Wigginton stated the GPSTC is opening the doors of the judgmental shooting simulator throughout the state at the regional academies to the county commissioners, district attorneys, police chiefs, sheriffs, the BPS members which will put one in the situation of officers responding to different situations, a different perspective to responding to a call, either a burglary alarm, traffic stop and how one responds or reacts to the situations. Director Wigginton declared once a person has experienced the simulator they will have a different perspective on things. Director Wigginton noted the regional academies will be reaching out to the DA's offices, sheriff's offices throughout the state and to community leaders that are involved. Director Wigginton stated WSBTV will be doing a special next Tuesday at the Cherokee County shoot house regarding the shoot house and the simulator.

Director Wigginton advised the new fire truck has arrived and there is a basic mandate training class going on, who has burned two times this week and the new fire truck is in use and operational at the burn house this week.

Director Wigginton shared some new online courses have come online that pertain to the fire service, public health and EMS.

Director Wigginton noted the partnership with Columbia County; another regional academy had its grand opening last week and have already run one session through this regional academy.

Mr. Kacy Cronan stated he tried out the new shooting simulator, touring the facility and said it is a very realistic situation that can be changed throughout and noted it is a very neat asset.

Vice-Chairman Wood thanked Commissioner McDonough and Chief Revenew for their state wide support to the Savannah-Chatham County area, pending the verdict of the grand jury.

DONATIONS

Mr. Peter Adams, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

One Hand Held-Pro Laser Device	\$	2,459.00	City of Colquitt
One X26 Taser	\$	900.00	Habersham Co. Sheriff's Office
One TruSpeed S Laser	\$	1,495.00	GOHS-MATEN
One 12'x20' Utility Shed	\$	3,645.00	City of Trenton
Five Plantronics CA12CD-S PTT Headsets	\$	1,695.00	Troup Co. Sheriff's Office
Sixteen iPhone-6 Mobile Devices	\$	11,497.90	Troup Co. Sheriff's Office
Five Taser X26 Devices			
Six E-Seek Model 260 Driver's License Readers			
One 6'x10'x6' Chain Link Dog Kennel	\$	229.00	The Home Depot, Carrollton
Re-Certification Fees for 30 troopers to Attend the National Child Passenger Safety Certification Course	\$	2,550.00	Atlanta Fire Rescue Dept.
One DragonEye Speed Lidar Unit	\$	1,907.43	Lenox Police Dept.

The motion to accept these donations was made by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and voted approved by the Board members.

FISCAL REPORTS

Mr. Peter Adams, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety presented the DPS fiscal report stating the DPS's target is 50% for the half-way point of the year and are sitting at 42.40% and reminded the Board in the first quarter, there are pre-paid expenditures that are paid for such as leases and also have

bond items for the cars that have been purchased. Mr. Adams noted the budget will even out by the end of the fiscal year and will be back on target for the third quarter.

Mrs. Connie Buck, Fiscal Officer and Treasurer, Georgia Bureau of Investigation presented the GBI fiscal report stating the GBI is at the 50% mark through the end of December and are on track to spend at the appropriate rate.

Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Training Center presented the GPSTC fiscal report stating at the end of December 31, 2014, the GPSTC is at 45% overall budget remaining, and the majority of that being below 50% is due to bond projects that are ongoing and will balance out closer to the end of the year.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Miss Christina Calloway, Department of Public Safety presented Rule 570-6-2 Transportation – Tire Chains for final adoption to the BPS.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy made the motion for the final adoption of Rule 570-6-2 Transportation – Tire Chains, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the BPS members.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center presented 12 nominees for the 2014 Georgia Public Safety Memorial Wall to the BPS for approval.

Chief Danny Bowman made the motion to approve the 12 nominees for the 2014 Georgia Public Safety Memorial Wall, which was seconded by retired Sheriff Steve Cronic and voted approved by the BPS members.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded the BPS to complete their affidavit of a public officer.

Vice-Chairman Wood advised the BPS will meet March 12th, in the DOC Board Room in Atlanta, GA, and the school event board meeting will be in Effingham County this fall.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy stated he appreciated the unity of the Houston County people.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian M. Rickman
Secretary