

## **BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

January 9, 2014

Department of Natural Resources Board Room, Atlanta, Georgia

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chief Danny Bowman  
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan  
Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic  
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. Wayne Abernathy  
Mr. Daniel M. Bryant  
Mr. Murray Kight  
Sheriff Dane Kirby  
Commissioner Brian Owens

### **OTHERS:**

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison  
Lt. Colonel Russell D. Powell, Department of Public Safety  
Major Eddie Grier, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Hank Fielding, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Gene Davis, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Captain Lewis Young, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Jason Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Johnny Jones, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Sergeant Anthony Hughes, Department of Public Safety  
Lt. Wayne Mobley, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Mr. Peter Adams, Department of Public Safety  
Mrs. Amy Stancil, Department of Public Safety  
Mr. Joe Hood, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget  
Mr. Seth Taylor, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget  
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mr. Keith Howard, Assistant Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Louise Rampy

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the January 9, 2014, Board of Public Safety meeting to order. Vice-Chairman Wood thanked Deputy Commissioner Homer Bryson, Department of Natural Resources for allowing the BPS to meet in the DNR Board room, for his friendship to the BPS, and his service to the state. DNR Deputy Commissioner Bryson welcomed the BPS to the DNR Board room.

Sergeant Anthony Hughes gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the December 12, 2013 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.

### **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Deputy Commissioner, Lt. Colonel Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety, began the DPS report stating Commissioner McDonough is out with the flu and sends his regards. Lt. Colonel Powell shared the 94<sup>th</sup> trooper school is currently in session with 18 cadets remaining who are in field training at this time and will graduate on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Lt. Colonel Powell advised the 95<sup>th</sup> trooper school started this past Sunday with 94 candidates and as of late yesterday there were 73 cadets remaining in the 95<sup>th</sup> trooper school who will graduate on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Lt. Colonel Powell stated the 96<sup>th</sup> trooper school will begin on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Lt. Colonel Powell stated there has been a big push on advanced training for the troopers out in the field, training above and beyond what they received in trooper school. Lt. Colonel Powell advised all sworn members completed ALERRT, which is aimed at active shooters, school shootings and is a two day class that builds on any active shooter training the trooper may have had in the past. Lt. Colonel Powell noted the program has been selected on the federal level by the Dept. of Homeland Security and the FBI as the uniform training they would like all sworn law enforcement officers across the country to have. Lt. Colonel Powell added the DPS has several instructors for ALERRT and have trained many other agencies at all levels and continue to do so. Lt. Colonel Powell stated the troopers have also completed ARIDE training, which is a two day class that builds on the basic DUI enforcement classes that is received in trooper school; a very difficult class and deals not with just alcohol, more so with drugs and impaired driving for a variety of reasons. Lt. Colonel Powell stated the Below 100 training has been a nationwide push for the last four years and shared the name Below 100 is an effort to have the line of duty law enforcement deaths below 100 and the deaths have not been below 100 since 1944 and some of the totals from recent years have been in the 170s-180s for quite a few years. Lt. Colonel Powell shared the push involves areas as to how officers drive, safety practices, involves officers' use of force actions and is aimed at lowering deaths and targets things that kill officers. Lt. Colonel Powell stated they really thought there was a chance this year as in December, the deaths were in the 90s in the country, but finished the year at 111 deaths which is a huge improvement and shows Below 100 is achievable.

Lt. Colonel Powell shared the holiday patrol periods were successful with both of the holiday periods falling in the middle of the week, two day periods. Lt. Colonel Powell stated during the New Year's holiday patrol there were five fatal accidents in the state and during the Christmas holiday patrol there were none. Lt. Colonel Powell advised in 2012, there were 1199 fatalities, and on a figure that is about two weeks old there have been 1127 fatalities for 2013. Lt. Colonel Powell stated the DPS is aware of about 30 fatalities that will be added to 1127, as some of the information is coming from the DOT and some of the accidents may have not been reported yet. Lt. Colonel Powell stated they believe they are in the 1157 range and possibly higher and the last thing that could affect the numbers are fatality

accidents that have not been reported from local agencies. Lt. Colonel Powell stated DPS hopes they will be below 1199 in 2013, but if not, it appears the count will be right at it and pointed out over the last 7-8 years, they have managed to bring traffic fatalities down about 500 a year over the period; DPS is very proud of that and hopes to get by with a reduction in fatalities this year.

Chief Mark Revenew commended the Nighthawks unit and the Post 42 troopers who assisted the GOHS and Pooler PD with a safety check right before Christmas and made 17 arrests mostly for DUI and drugs, which also contributed to the lack of fatalities in his area over the holidays. Chief Revenew stated his department attended the ARIDE training and two of his officers made the MADD list for prolific DUI officers.

Mr. Lester Rampy asked Lt. Colonel Powell if there were any unusual circumstances as to why some of the cadets have left trooper school and Lt. Colonel Powell stated he was not aware of any unusual circumstances and noted it is the sign of the times as has been seen in recent trooper schools, the attrition rate has continued to climb and seems the cadets start leaving when asked to do anything. Lt. Colonel Powell noted there was one no show out of the 94, and out of the mix, there were 7 that left the first day and out of a crowd this large, it is not alarming as this is typically seen and the rest have trickled out a few at the time, with two leaving late yesterday and two left right after breakfast yesterday morning. Mr. Rampy asked Lt. Colonel Powell if most of the cadets leaving are the ones hired off the street and Lt. Colonel Powell stated for the most part and added there is still one female in trooper school as the department has actively tried to recruit females.

Chief Craig Tully stated on behalf of the GA Fire Association, he thanked the DPS for their assistance with their line of duty death and funeral. Chief Tully noted he spoke with Major Grier and it was set up and it was the first time in the history this had ever happened in the state of Georgia and the state of Alabama, as the death was in Waycross and was taken to northern Alabama. Chief Tully added both state fire agencies are very appreciative and very impressed that all went without any problems and the GA Fire Association appreciates the DPS doing this for them. Chief Tully thanked Major Grier for putting this together.

Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation stated last Friday, the Commercial Gambling Unit working with the Warner Robbins Police Department, the Centerville Police Department and the Houston County District Attorney executed six search warrants in Warner Robbins for video poker machines after an undercover operation and investigation. Director Keenan advised about \$70,000.00 in cash was seized, several arrests were made and there will be an ongoing asset forfeiture process of seizing all of the assets and the property associated with the people who were running the operation. Director Keenan stated what is interesting about this is they seized the computers that operated forty video poker machines and the GBI agents are trained with the Dept. of Revenue to do an analysis of the machines and can tell by doing the analysis how much cash is going through the machines. Director Keenan noted a little over \$300,000.00 went through the forty machines last month and is evidence of how much money is involved in this commercial gambling operation. Director Keenan advised as the GA Lottery Commission continues with their regulation process, it is going to make the GBI's work and law enforcement work much easier because under the

new law, within a year all video poker machines have to be connected electronically to the GA Lottery Commission and will be able to tell which machines are legal and which machines are not legal because if the machine is not connected to the GA Lottery Commission, they are contraband and will be very easy for law enforcement to find a machine that does not have the proper certification nor the connectivity and will be seized. Director Keenan stated the GBI is looking forward to when this process is completed.

Director Keenan reported the backlog in the crime lab is 50% less than what it was a year ago. Director Keenan stated with the pay raises the scientists have received has significantly closed down the turnover rate in the crime lab. Director Keenan shared the scientists that have been trained are staying with the GBI and are now behind the bench doing the work the state wants them to do. Director Keenan stated all of this has come together so that the backlog has been reduced significantly and believes will stay steady at that for a while.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation reminded the BPS members several years ago, the GBI began working to replace the old Intox 5000 units which have reached the end of their life time; no longer can they be maintained through the company, no parts for them anymore. Mr. Kirk advised they have transitioned to the Intox 9000 and noted calendar year 2013 was a volunteer time for law enforcement agencies to start purchasing the Intox 9000, which has worked out really well as more than 190 of the Intox 9000 units have been shipped to law enforcement agencies across Georgia, which is a little under half of the units in the field. Mr. Kirk advised there have been 60 transition training classes and trained over 1650 officers from over 200 agencies. Mr. Kirk noted the GBI has over 100 classes scheduled for 2014, which is the year the agencies with the old Intox 5000 must begin replacing their units. Mr. Kirk advised there has been a schedule out for quite some time, so everyone is aware when they have to switch units. Mr. Kirk advised they have not heard any complaints that he is aware of, except the factory cannot produce the machines fast enough.

Mr. Kirk advised the BPS members the West Metro Regional Drug Enforcement Office just outside of Atlanta came about through the combination of state assets and local drug task forces that came together to create a regional drug enforcement office which has worked out very well with a combination of state and local assets, with state assets being paid by the state while the local assets were paid through a grant funded through CJCC. Mr. Kirk stated the money has been shrinking over the years and that is why some of the task forces have gone away. Mr. Kirk stated with the idea that West Metro has done very well, it was decided to try this again in the Savannah area with the Savannah REDO that is already in existence, which will now be called the Southeastern Regional Drug Enforcement Office and again will have a combination of state and local assets. Mr. Kirk stated the Southeastern Regional Drug Enforcement Office will cover an area of 27 counties, to include Savannah up to Bulloch County and down south and will combine two of the local task forces, the East Central Task Force and the Tri-Circuit Task Force. Mr. Kirk advised there will be 7 GBI special agents who will be paid by the GBI and 6 drug task force agents and two administrative staff personnel whose salaries will come through the local CJCC Byrne Jag grants. Mr. Kirk advised they are looking for this task force to take off like the West Metro Task Force did and a force multiplier, which will

allow the agents to do everything from street level, which is not done much anymore to mid to upper level drug enforcement.

Mr. Kirk reminded the BPS the DEA for several years, has paid for the meth lab clandestine cleanup which is very expensive, and running about \$600,000.00 a year in meth lab cleanups. Mr. Kirk stated as all pots of money eventually dries up, this one has dried up and the DEA will no longer pay for the program as it is. Mr. Kirk stated the DEA has put in place or offered a new type of way to deal with the meth lab cleanups and have provided money for the cleanup, which is called the container program and explained there would be areas across the state that have special containers where when one does a meth lab cleanup, will gather up the stuff, and take it and put in this special container until the container is full. Mr. Kirk added the DEA will pay for the container to be picked up and disposed of properly and there is a need for 6 volunteers across the state to maintain the container areas. Mr. Kirk stated so far Gilmer, Greene, Ware and Gwinnett have agreed to maintain the sites where the containers can be secured and are looking for something off I-16 and southwest Georgia for other container sites. Mr. Kirk believes the container sites will be secured by early February or March and once the program kicks off, thinks it will be very successful; it is either that or the locals will have to pay for the removal of the cleanup themselves which can be very expensive.

In the absence of Director Tim Bearden, Assistant Director Keith Howard, Georgia Public Training Center highlighted a few things from the GPSTC Board report by stating in December, the GPSTC broke a record as 11,000 officers took online classes; for the 2013 calendar year in Due Regard Training there were 6,675 officers who attended class, some of them in the fire service, but the majority on the law enforcement side. Mr. Howard advised the legislative update has been put online and when doing it the old way, there were less than 500 people to take the course throughout the year, but with the legislative update on line, there have been 5,095 officers who have taken the course. In regards to Use of Deadly Force, which was presented in a 2 hour program to satisfy the needs for the officers to get their Peace Officers certification, 7,705 officers took the course. Mr. Howard shared the GPSTC is working to include more courses to make sure the GPSTC expands to all law enforcement and to the fire services as well. Mr. Howard advised the GPSTC will have a signing ceremony with Middle Georgia State College engaging in a partnership with them in a number of different facets, and one facet will be trying to get credit for the public safety training college recognition. Mr. Howard stated he hopes this will be a model in the university system as there are a number of private schools that offer this; some public but are trying to get a greater foothold for that as well. Mr. Howard noted with the exchange, the GPSTC will engage in a bigger online version of this. Mr. Howard shared when the online program was started, the GPSTC was very fortunate that CJCC provided the GPSTC with grant money that only covered about two years and the GPSTC had to come up with a another \$150,000.00 + out of the GPSTC budget for the third year and were able to migrate the online system now in our system, with minimal costs, almost zero costs. Mr. Howard advised the partnership with Middle Georgia State College will allow the GPSTC to offer a one week class of some type on line, as right now the GPSTC is limited to 1-2 hour classes. Mr. Howard stated GPSTC is trying to expand this and give the officers an opportunity for the college and training credits.

Mr. Howard stated the ALERRT is extremely important and hopeful with the governor's recommendation, again will be able to get a type of shooter building in the mock village, as right now if ALERRT is done at the GPSTC, it is offered after 3:00 pm to midnight and on the weekends using the empty academic building once the regular students have left at 5:00 pm. Mr. Howard noted the GPSTC is trying to balance this off and is using the local school system as well, which can only be used during their holiday period or when the students are out through the summer.

Mr. Howard shared with the GOHS and the CJCC grants of \$400,000.00 to the GPSTC, the GPSTC purchased 20 Intox 9000 systems that the GPSTC uses for training and has the responsibility for the upkeep on the Intox 9000 systems.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Mr. Howard with the GPSTC's initiative to include Middle Georgia State College in regards for transferring credits, if the technical schools that have mandate training have the same potential for transferrable credits. Mr. Howard advised there are a number of different approaches that can be taken and the way the GPSTC is looking at with Middle Georgia State College would be if an officer enrolls in one of their classes that whatever they have taken at the GPSTC, they would give an equivalent. Mr. Howard noted Phoenix University and Thomas University has this rule; private institutions with a triple tuition payment, but the public system does not blanket recognize the GPSTC and this is what the GPSTC is trying to accomplish. Mr. Howard advised another caveat the GPSTC is working on and are in the preliminary stages of partnering with them to offer the cognitive part of the GPSTC's mandate law enforcement training and about one third of the GPSTC's program, believe a student who is enrolled at Middle Georgia State College could say that he is in the criminal justice program and wants to be a police officer, if they take that third of those courses with the college on line then they would come to the GPSTC for the two-thirds of the courses that are more hands on. Mr. Howard stated POST would have to recognize this and stated this was a greater picture. Vice-Chairman Wood asked Mr. Howard if GPSTC had any interaction with the technical schools and Mr. Howard advised there was minimal interaction and may get a call or request in regards to change in curriculum, and shared the GPSTC began a mandate class with over 300 officers at GPSTC academies around the state and have had a couple of sheriffs pull some of the students out, stating the PT was too tough and they are looking at going to the technical schools and do communicate in that sense, but not necessarily holding hand in hand moving forward. Vice-Chairman Wood confirmed with Mr. Howard the only schools that are generating transferrable credits are the technical colleges, until the GPSTC gets the relationship established with Middle George State College. Mr. Howard stated any other relationship of transferrable credit is on the officer through the college he is attending.

**DONATIONS**

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

Two X-26 Tasers	\$	1,587.40	City of Bainbridge
One Genesis 2 Directional Radar	\$	2,170.00	Emanuel County Sheriff's Office

One Raptor RP1Radar	\$	1,999.00	Treutlen County Sheriff's Office
One Alco Sensor Intoximeter	\$	545.00	Treutlen County Sheriff's Office
One X-26 Taser	\$	1,099.89	Treutlen County Sheriff's Office

The motion to accept these donations was made by Chief Danny Bowman, which was seconded by retired Sheriff Steve Cronic, and voted approved by the Board members.

Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center requested approval of the following donations:

One 6" Grinnel Sprinkler Valve	considered scrap	GA Power Company	
One 4" Grinnel Sprinkler Valve			
Twelve G-Force Nozzles 1.5 and Gated Wye	\$	5,820.00	GA Fire Rescue

The motion to accept these donations was made by Chief Craig Tully, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell, and voted approved by the Board members.

### **RESOLUTION**

Mr. Keith Howard presented a Resolution for the dedication of the Georgia Public Safety Training Center's Fire Prevention Lab to be dedicated to Mr. George M. Lanier who has over 50 years in the fire service and whose health is declining. Mr. Howard reminded the BPS members the GPSTC is building a fire prevention lab and would like to name the lab after Mr. Lanier for recognition of his service.

Chief Craig Tully stated Mr. Lanier has been in the fire services a long time, starting with Rome Fire Department; he left and worked for the Fire Marshall's Office for several years and started the largest overall training in the fire services, which is called the Fire Safety Symposium. Chief Tully noted it was Mr. Lanier's idea and was first called a Public Education Seminar and grew from that, which is where all the investigators, inspectors and educators are trained, a week conference held at the GPSTC and feels like Mr. Lanier is deserving of the honor.

Chief Craig Tully made the motion to accept the Resolution dedicating the Georgia Public Safety Training Center's Fire Prevention Lab to George M. Lanier for 50 years of service to the citizens of Georgia and for helping make the state a safer place to live. This motion was seconded by Mr. Kacy Cronan and voted approved by the BPS members.

Vice-Chairman Wood advised there is a unique situation with some of the BPS members' tenures; seven of the members' term expires in the next week. Vice-Chairman Wood stated the governor's

office is aware of the situation and asked Board Attorney Drolet to explain the situation to the BPS members.

Mr. Drolet advised five of the members, who have membership in the Georgia Sheriffs Association, Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, District Attorneys Association of Georgia, Georgia State Fireman's Association, and the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs have a unique provision where they must be approved by the Georgia Senate. With this, Mr. Drolet advised those that have to be approved by the Georgia Senate, they cannot carry over once their term ends, the other members that do not have to be approved by the Georgia Senate, by statute can continue to serve until their successor is appointed. Mr. Drolet stated there are six positions expiring on January 20<sup>th</sup> and one on January 21<sup>st</sup>, and if there is not a reappointment by the governor by the next meeting, the members could not vote at such meeting which would affect a quorum.

Vice-Chairman Wood advised normally the officers for the BPS would be elected in January or as soon as practical thereafter, and in light of the information regarding the BPS members' tenure, felt it was proper to postpone the election of the officers until the BPS receives confirmation from the governor's office. Vice-Chairman Wood appointed Mr. Brian Rickman to serve as Chairman, Mr. Lester Rampy and Mr. Wayne Abernathy to serve on the nominating committee for the officers of the BPS.

Chief Danny Bowman asked if the reappointments would be for three years and Mr. Drolet replied yes they would be three year terms.

Vice-Chairman Wood advised the February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 BPS meeting will be held in the DOC Board room.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked everyone to please keep Mr. and Mrs. Abernathy, Mr. Kight, Mr. Bryant and Commissioner McDonough in their thought and prayers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Brian M. Rickman  
Secretary