

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

January 8, 2015

Department of Corrections Board Room – Atlanta, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chief Danny Bowman
Mr. C. Murray Kight
Sheriff Dane Kirby
Commissioner Brian Owens
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.
Chief Mark Revenew
Chief Craig Tully
Mr. Ellis G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Danny Bryant
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan
Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic
Mr. Brian M. Rickman
Sheriff Joey Terrell

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 Hank Fielding, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Lewis Young, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Johnny Jones, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Major William Boulware, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Mark Lambert, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Jason Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Mark Perry, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Buddy Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Jeremy Vickery, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Sgt. Anthony Hughes, Department of Public Safety
Mrs. Amy Stancil, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Joe Hood, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Preston Crowder, Department of Corrections
Mrs. Louise Rampy
Mr. Matt Wood
Mr. Greg Hendrix

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the January 8, 2015, Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Mr. Dan Kirk 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 minutes. Chief Mark Revenew made the motion to approve the December 11th minutes, which was seconded by Chief Craig Tully and voted approved by the BPS members.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety introduced Captain Jeremy Vickery, Executive Officer of the Motor Carrier Compliance Division and shared he has known Captain Vickery for almost 20 years, seeing each other's face a lot at the training center. Commissioner McDonough shared that Captain Vickery lives in Hart County and knows the MCCD regulations like the back of his hand, thankful to have Captain Vickery and to have him as one of the department's true experts for the Motor Carrier Compliance Division.

Commissioner McDonough reminded the BPS members of the Resolution that the BPS members voted on June 12, 2014, authorizing the DPS to establish GSP Post 52 Hartwell in Hart County and to realign Troop and Post boundaries consistent with the establishment of Post 52 Hartwell. Commissioner McDonough stated the construction of Post 52 has been completed and the troopers that were specifically slotted for this post, have been trained, completed trooper school and have been assigned to the Troop B territory. Commissioner McDonough presented DPS General Order Number 2015-001 for the BPS's approval. Commissioner McDonough noted the changes involve Post, 7 Toccoa and Post 17, Washington which will be part of the new Post 52 Hartwell territory, which will consist of Hart County, Franklin County and Elbert County and will shift the troop territories a small amount by one county; Elbert County will be coming out of Troop E into Troop B and will be part of the new territory, Post 7 territory will shrink to Rabun, Habersham and Stephens and then Post 17 will lose Elbert County as one of theirs.

Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr. made the motion to approved DPS General Order Number 2015-001, Creation of Post 52- Hartwell, which was seconded by Chief Craig Tully and voted approved by the BPS members.

Commissioner McDonough advised a trooper school graduation will be held Friday, February 20, 2015, with breakfast at 0800 hours, inspection at 0900 hours, and graduation ceremonies at 1000 hours.

Commissioner McDonough stated the DPS legislative package has been approved and will have several pieces of legislation that DPS will move forward on. Commissioner McDonough stated there will be another pass at a 15 passenger van seatbelt, in memory of Lt. Karl Boerner, who won a national award as to why 15 passenger vans should require seatbelts. Commissioner McDonough noted the passenger van is the class of vehicle known as the church van, the van that takes retirees to different events and kids to summer camp and a lot of times the vans are parked beside the church and end up having dry rotted issues with the tires and then people pile up in the vans and go places. Commissioner McDonough expressed when these type accidents occur, the fatalities are horrendous.

Commissioner McDonough stated DPS will have the annual MCCD bill which essentially brings the state statute into compliance with any changes with the Federal Motor Carrier Regulations.

Commissioner McDonough stated there are two essential issues that will be in one bill with the Department of Transportation, with one trying to remove the DOT as the middle man on two issues. Commissioner McDonough stated one issue concerns the escorted permitted loads, loads that require a permit because they are in excess of regulation to move on the GA roadways, with MCCD officers and GSP troopers that escorts the loads. Commissioner McDonough noted this bill would remove the DOT as the middle man and let DPS take over the administration of this, and in addition, DPS is asking for ownership of the scale houses. Commissioner McDonough acknowledged the DPS are tenants at the scale houses and the DOT does a fantastic job of building and maintaining the roadways, but DPS would like to take on the responsibility of maintaining the scales because this has not been an issue high on DOT's priority, but is high on DPS's priority. Commissioner McDonough noted the SB scales in Region 2 on I-95; it took the DOT almost three years to fix a scale in that scale house. Commissioner McDonough acknowledged DPS would like to take this over and cut their own grass and take care of their own house hopefully do a better job and free the DOT up to do what they do best, build and maintaining the roadways.

In regards to the 15 passenger van legislation, Chief Craig Tully commented that in his 34 years with the fire department, the absolute worst accident scene that he had ever worked involved a 15 passenger church van with dry rotted tires that had a blowout with eight fatalities. Chief Tully noted there was a lot of research done and one would be amazed to find out what putting passenger seats in a 15 passenger van does to the way it is designed and the way the van handles and thinks it is a great idea to pursue seatbelts in the passenger vans. Chief Tully stated if the passengers had on seatbelts the fatality count might not have been as high as it was.

In regards to bringing life flight to Southwest Georgia, Commissioner McDonough stated he spoke to the vendor this morning and this will be up and running on January 15th, with the helicopter being moved into the Camilla hangar this Saturday and then Southwest Georgia will have access to trauma care with helicopters.

Commissioner McDonough shared he and Vice-Chairman Wood went to Augusta a couple of days ago as there is a move in Houston County to come before the BPS next time and present a proposal to build a brand new southern regional hangar facility in Houston County for Aviation.

Director Vernon Kennan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation spoke to the BPS members about legislation coming up that the GBI does not have, but does not mean the GBI will not be impacted by it. Director Keenan stated anytime the legislature is in session, is a very busy time for state agencies even if they do not have legislation, they have to be at the legislature and be prepared to answer questions and to address ridiculous legislation that needs to be put in context and beat down for instance when there was a bill introduced that would require the GBI if there was an unidentified body, to turn that body over to a dog handling school so they could train cadaver dogs. Director Keenan acknowledge they

take care of legislation like this, but there is other legislation that is good and have to put it in context and give valuable information to the legislators so that they can come out with a good law. Director Keenan passed out a document entitled: Costs of Implementing DNA Analysis of Serious Felony Arrestees + Selected Felony Offenses with High Rates of Linkage to Serious Crimes via CODIS. Director Keenan stated when legislators are considering legislation, it is always important that the GBI put in context there is a cost associated with much legislation and how it affects the crime laboratory. Director Keenan stated the GBI manages the DNA database for the entire state of Georgia and if one looked around in law enforcement for the greatest crime fighting tool in the past century, DNA would probably be number one, and believes law enforcement across the spectrum agrees with this. Director Keenan noted in Georgia, the DNA database has over 280,000 DNA samples in it which have been collected from convicted felons. Director Keenan noted the DNA database started out with only taking DNA samples from persons convicted of certain sex crimes, but as the years have gone by, it is to the point that everyone who is convicted of a felony, whether they are incarcerated or given probation, their DNA sample is collected, sent to the crime lab, with the crime lab analyzing the DNA sample, it is then put it into the statewide database which is then connected to a national database. Director Keenan stated since the GBI has had the database up and running, there have been over 4,000 cases solved with DNA, most where the offender was unknown, but DNA has designated who they are and has led to convictions. Director Keenan expressed this is a great crime fighting tool. Director Keenan noted this is only with convicted felons and in 2013; the US Supreme Court handed down a very important piece of legislation as it relates to DNA. Director Keenan stated what the Supreme Court said was that the collection of DNA from persons who have been arrested for serious crimes is not more intrusive than taking a photograph and a fingerprint which solved the issues about taking DNA from persons who were arrested and without question; it was no problem for convicted felons. Director Keenan stated the arrestees got to be a sensitive area, but the US Supreme Court solved this. Director Keenan stated there are 28 states in the federal government which collect DNA from felony arrestees and in the Southeast, only GA and Mississippi do not collect DNA from felony arrestees. Director Keenan stated each year there is a piece of legislation introduced into the Georgia General Assembly which would authorize a mandate collection of DNA for arrestees. Director Keenan noted it is only a matter of time before the legislation passes which Director Keenan strongly supports as it is a great law enforcement tool. Director Keenan stated currently the DNA from convicted felons is collected by the Department of Corrections who do an excellent job, occurs seamlessly. Director Keenan stated there is a cost associated with collecting DNA from arrestees and has done an in depth analysis of what would be involved and the document Director Keenan presented is what this is and has prepared for the purpose of educating the legislature about what is involved in the issue and what the costs are. Director Keenan stated the price tag is 1.7 million dollars, but expressed this is a great crime fighting tool. Director Keenan stated he does not know what will happen this year with this legislation, but will only be a matter of time for it to pass, but has to be prepared and keep everyone educated of what the involved issues are and the associated costs. Director Keenan noted this legislation had passed the Senate two years in a row.

Sheriff Dane Kirby asked who would be responsible for collecting the DNA from the arrestees and Director Keenan stated his recommendation to the legislature would be that the law be written so that the arresting officer or the sheriff in the booking process would be authorized to do the collection of

DNA and at the local level they can work it out as to who is going to do the collection. Director Keenan stated the collection of the DNA sample is very simple, swab a qui tip in the mouth, place in an envelope with a barcode that is sent to the GBI and then goes into the process of analyzing. Director Keenan stated the GBI does over 20,000 convicted offenders' samples each year that the Department of Corrections collects. Director Keenan stated the DNA sample comes to the GBI, the analysis is completed and then the results are entered into a state database which is then connected to a national database; each state has their own database which makes up the national database.

Sheriff Kirby asked Director Keenan how many crimes have been solved with the DNA database that is in place at this time and Director Keenan advised over 4,000 cases have been solved with DNA under the existing laws and another 5,700 investigations aided by DNA in Georgia.

Director Keenan stated most of the cases solved through DNA are sex crimes, but the important part is the crime that is solved as a sex crime, the offender has been convicted of a property crime or a drug offense.

Director Keenan noted it used to take four months to do a DNA test, now they have it down to four days, tremendous strides, and as each year goes by, the process speeds up.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Commissioner McDonough and Director Keenan to update the BPS on the continued movement for emphasis on sex trafficking.

Commissioner McDonough reminded the BPS members of a previous report from Director Keenan who spoke on several occasions, using a traffic stop in Greene County by a Greene County deputy that was supported by a GSP trooper where they interdicted human trafficking in GA, just like Atlanta is the hub of the wheel for drugs, so it is for modern day slavery. Commissioner McDonough stated with an effort through the Department of Public Safety in Texas to do a joint operation this spring, there was training available in Louisiana with Capt. Hambert spearheading this for 50 troopers attending the training. Commissioner McDonough added GSP has made a point of contact with US Customs and will be going through a train the trainer program for all troopers in human trafficking, with this being one of the training objectives for this year in the indicators to interdict sex trafficking. Commissioner McDonough shared he spoke to over 700 boys at the Boys State and during the question and answer period, they asked what the state is doing about human trafficking and stated this is a very serious issue and are moving into this direction to combat sex trafficking in this state.

Director Keenan stated the GBI set up its child sex trafficking unit in 2012 and during this period of time to today, 57 children have been recovered, cases that the GBI has worked. Director Keenan noted the vast majority of the cases have come from information obtained from local law enforcement officers and troopers doing performance of their normal duties. Director Keenan stated they also get information from the Department of Juvenile Justice as part of the youth coming into the DJJ facilities, as part of the intake process, they are asked certain questions that leads to indication as to whether the youth has been a victim of child sex trafficking and leads are then sent over to the GBI. Director Keenan noted information is also obtained from hospitals, social workers, and stated the more training

that is done in this area, the more leads come in to be pursued. Director Keenan stated the GBI works very closely with the federal agencies as human trafficking is a priority for the Department of Justice, everyone works very well together. Director Keenan expressed human trafficking is a hidden crime and takes a lot of hard moving parts to generate the information.

Sheriff Kirby asked Director Keenan when a piece of DNA evidence is sent to the crime lab for testing and they recover a profile from this piece of evidence, does that profile go into the database? Director Keenan stated if the offender was already in the database they will get a match, but the profile will still remain in the database in case the offender is not a convicted felon, but becomes a convicted felon, they will get a hit, which happens routinely.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Training Center shared the GPSTC has updated the email and registration system at the GPSTC, as in the past when registering for a class there was no further correspondence from the GPSTC after the registration. Director Wigginton stated now there is an email that responds to whoever registers for the class, and also if they take classes, it will design a training pattern and as classes become available the GPSTC thinks would interest the students then an email will be sent to the student notifying of those classes that will be available in the future.

Director Wigginton stated a new firefighter basic class began this week at the GPSTC and has just completed an airport runway at the Fire Academy for training.

Director Wigginton presented the Georgia Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative (GPERI) who has a partnership with the Fire Academy to design two new classes for fire fighters for their response to pipeline incidents in Georgia. Director Wigginton stated there are 92 different companies operating pipelines that run through the state of Georgia, transporting some type of hazardous fuel or materials.

In regards to the Police Academy, Director Wigginton advised the GPSTC has redesigned and redeveloped the PORT program (Peace Officers Reference Text Manual) a study guide provided through POST for someone going through basic mandate class. Director Wigginton stated the manual had not been revised for several years until this last revision; it is now available and online for anyone going through a basic mandate class.

Director Wigginton shared the GPSTC is working on a family violence video with the Georgia Coalition on Family Violence on strangulation and should be completed by next week.

Director Wigginton congratulated Ms. Cheryl Greathouse, Division Director of Instructional Services Division at the GPSTC for being elected 2nd Vice-President of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials.

Director Wigginton stated the GPSTC has been working with the Georgia Board of Education on a new program for students called the Career Pathways and helped design 9 new programs and lesson plans. Director Wigginton noted these programs are being implemented in some of the high schools in Georgia, covering law enforcement and correctional type training.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Director Wigginton about the student enrollment and capacity at the GPSTC. Director Wigginton advised the GPSTC has been reaching about 60% capacity of the beds, and the firing range and the driving complex is booked through 2017, for either basic mandate classes or advanced classes. Director Wigginton noted one thing hindering the driver training program, the facility was built as an advanced training facility, and since then POST has mandated the basic police officer receive three days of EVOC, which ties up the track from teaching any kind of advanced training.

Director Wigginton shared there are some supervision classes that are backlogged for at least a year, but the driving program and the firearms program are limited on the resources with the number of ranges and the tracks.

Director Wigginton stated Arkansas will be sending state troopers to the GPSTC in the next couple of weeks taking a driver instructor course for one week.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Director Wigginton if anyone in basic mandate or advanced training receive PIT training and Director Wigginton replied they do not, just the three day basic EVOC course, but it is available to local agencies through the GPSTC.

Chief Craig Tully commented about the Georgia Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative stating in the past, the regulators who had pipelines coming through the counties, they were required by law to come out and give some type of training annually, which consisted of lunch and a 15-20 minute video. Chief Tully noted the first responders recognized along with the pipeline operators, that the first responders were told what to do when it happened, but were not told what to do when the first responders arrived on the scene. Chief Tully stated through the efforts of the pipeline owners, the regulatory commission in Georgia with the pipelines, there was money brought about to start a program for training volunteers. Chief Tully stated classes were designed, with two classes ready and more coming and can take this training throughout the rural cities and counties fire departments throughout Georgia, different levels for the departments who have full-fledged haz-mat teams down to volunteer departments, teaching them what to do when they get on scene. Chief Tully said the Public Service Commission was a big player in coming up with the funds for the training and this particular program is being watched by the entire US. Chief Tully acknowledged several states have already contacted them and are wanting to copy what GA is doing and are extremely proud, already had quite a few classes out with good reviews from the instructors and the participants and feel this will make a difference. Chief Tully noted in 2015, they are offering to the cities the opportunity to send their gas department employees who are required by law to train with their first responders once a year on what to do. Chief Tully stated they are offering a class to each city that wants to sign up for a small fee to cover administrative fees and train both at one time with tremendous savings for the local governments. Chief Tully stated they are extremely proud of the way it is going and thanked the GPSTC for their willingness to put this training together and has been a good coalition between everyone involved.

DONATIONS

Mrs. Amy Stancil, Assistant Comptroller, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

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| One Kustom Signals Golden Eagle IIXE Radar | \$ 2,400.00 | Treutlen County Sheriff's Dept. |
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| Two 24" TVs, One 48" TV, and Three DVD Players | \$ 847.64 | Perry Police Department |
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The motion to accept these donations was made by Sheriff Dane Kirby, which was seconded by Mr. C. Murray Kight, and voted approved by the Board members.

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

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| 1990 Blue Bird Bus | \$ 1,500.00 | Habersham Co. Sheriff's Department |
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| Six 2009 Ford Crown Vics | \$ 30,000.00 | Dunwoody Police Department |
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| 2003 Suzuki Burgman Scooter | \$ 2,500.00 | Swanson's Towing and Recovery |
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The motion to accept these donations was made by Chief Mark Revenew, which was seconded by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., and voted approved by the Board members.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation presented a Resolution to the Board of Public Safety asking for their approval to allow the State Properties Commission to deed to the State of Georgia in the custody of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) certain 1.72 acres of improved real property in the City of Thomson, McDuffie County owned by the City of Thomson/McDuffie County.

Chief Danny Bowman made the motion for the Board of Public Safety to request the State Properties Commission to proceed to transfer the improved real property 1.72 acres, to the State of Georgia in custody of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation from City of Thomson, McDuffie County, by deed in fee simple. This was seconded by Sheriff Dane Kirby and voted approved by the BPS members.

Vice-Chairman Wood thanked Commissioner Owens and the Department of Corrections for allowing the BPS to meet in their Board room.

Vice-Chairman Wood advised the BPS will meet in the DOC Board Room on February 12th, 2015.

Vice-Chairman Wood named a nominating committee consisting of Mr. Lester Rampy, Jr., as chairman, Chief Craig Tully, Chief Danny Bowman and Mr. Wayne Abernathy for the naming of a

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Vice-Chairman and Secretary for the Board of Public Safety to be brought back before the BPS at the February BPS meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian M. Rickman
Secretary