

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Minutes of Meeting Held July 10, 2003
Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Sheriff Jackie Barrett
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III
Sheriff Greg Coursey
Mr. W. H. "Dub" Harper
Sheriff Bruce Harris
Ms. Lydia Sartain
Chief Hubert Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Governor Sonny Perdue
Mr. Charles D. "Bud" Black
Sheriff Jamil Saba

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Chris Brasher, Georgia Department of Law
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Colonel George Ellis, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Terry Landers, Department of Public Safety
Major Tommy Tomlinson, Georgia State Patrol
Major Arthur White, Georgia State Patrol
Captain Richard Ashmore, Georgia State Patrol
Captain Curtis L. Daniel, Georgia State Patrol
Sergeant R. D. Hayes, Georgia State Patrol
SFC Tommy Waldrop, Georgia State Patrol
Ms. Chris Ash, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Ray Higgins, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Paul Heppner, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Gib Heuett, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Jon Paget, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Angie Holt, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. John Prekelsimer, Georgia Crime Information Center
Acting Director Jimmy Dean, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Kevin Rexroat, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Bob Gaylor, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. J. Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. David Pritchett, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. John Garner, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Alan Adams, Georgia Department of Corrections
Mr. Terry Norris, Georgia Sheriffs Association
Mr. Joe Stiles, Police Benevolent Association of Georgia

Chief Hubert Smith called the July meeting of the Board of Public Safety to order. In pointing out special guests, Mr. Wayne Abernathy acknowledged and complimented Sgt. Tommy Waldrop, who drove Mr. Abernathy to the meeting.

At the call to order, there was not a quorum, therefore, Chief Smith asked to start with the Directors' Reports.

Department of Public Safety/State Patrol

Colonel George Ellis had a few items to report to the Board members. During the Independence Day holiday weekend, there were some 14,300 arrests, 14 fatalities. The Seatbelt Overtime program is still in effect, expending some 3,000 hours of overtime, those hours being administered under a federal grant. They have done 10,563 arrests for seatbelt violations and child restraint violations.

As far as the military activations, the Department is still at 15. Currently, there are 92 trooper vacancies and 22 communications officer vacancies. Hopefully, there will be a trooper school next year, but it will take supplemental funds from the legislature. Colonel Ellis believes the Department will make it alright under the budget; the Department is maintaining the vacancies.

Colonel Ellis gladly reported that the Georgia Building Authority sent the \$3.1 million check to Department of Public Safety; that situation was explained in a previous board meeting.

Colonel Ellis reported that the Department has taken the initiative and asked Dr. Archie Rainey of the Columbus State University to put together an Incident Command School, a 40-hour class, training lieutenants and captains their part in a multi-agency incident command system in case of a disaster. The pilot class will be held July 27-August 1st.

Colonel Ellis responded to questions concerning vehicles and concluded his report.

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Ms. Chris Ash, Deputy Director, stood in for Director Vernon Keenan, who is working on a project for the Governor's staff. Ms. Ash had three significant issues to present.

Currently, there are approximately 40 agent vacancies, but in looking at the budget, the Bureau will go ahead and fill a few positions. Director Keenan is pushing as many resources to the lab, thereby filling the most critical positions the lab requires.

As for a training program, many of the sworn supervisors have been sent to Command College. The Bureau is working with Dr. Archie Rainey of the Command College to come up with a program called Professional Management Program, which is tailored to GBI supervisors. Director Keenan is directing asset forfeiture monies towards training of people, which is the Bureau's most valuable resource.

Ms. Ash invited the Board members to the Terminal Agency Coordinator Conference, which will be held August 25-28, 2003 at Jekyll Island. This is sponsored by Georgia Crime Information Center, and, usually there are about 800 attendees. This conference evolved from something that started out as a training session to tell people how to run terminals and straighten out problems, but turned out to be the most significant meeting every year to discuss new emerging criminal justice information system.

Ms. Ash responded to several questions concerning vacancies, coroner transport, and backlog of requests at the lab.

Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Acting Director Jimmy Dean brought to the Board's attention the Training Center's report that included the issue of Tift College. The Training Center continues maintaining security and the grounds keeping of the campus, with re-establishing electricity and water. The Office of Planning and Budget is meeting with several agencies to discuss use of the resources on the campus.

As for budget, Mr. Dean announced that Mr. Richard Guerreiro and his staff worked on the close of the fiscal year end. The Training Center is able to take care of the absolutely necessary items with the budget, however, the Center is also waiting to see what will happen in the next six months. Mr. Dean is working on contingency plans on how to handle possible additional cuts, if required.

Mr. John Garner, head of General Instruction division, conducted a pilot program, based on requests from sheriffs and chiefs, concerning the PIT maneuver and use of stop sticks. This is a 40-hour course dealing primarily with stopping perpetrators with possible use of force on the road. This pilot program has been well received and the Training Center is currently conducting an evaluation of the program. Once the findings of the evaluation are presented to the sheriffs and chiefs, the Training Center will appeal to them for their support in obtaining funding at the next General Assembly.

Mr. Dean announced special guests, the Police Corp class, were in attendance. Mr. Bob Gaylor, who heads up the Police Corp, introduced Mr. John Roberts, an instructor with the class. Each cadet stood and announced his or her name and the agency he or she will be employed.

Mr. Dean announced that the Police Corp and the Board members are invited to lunch after today's Board meeting.

In response to a question, Mr. Dean explained that the Training Center will be under a new contract concerning Tift campus, and that the Training Center will be paying the utilities for the campus.

There being a quorum, Chief Smith then requested approval of the Minutes of the June Board meeting. Mr. Wayne Abernathy made the motion, Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made the second, and the Board members unanimously voted approval.

DONATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Mr. Jon Paget presented the following resolutions to the Board members:

That the Board of Public Safety hereby declare 0.265 of one acre in Chatham County, Georgia, as surplus to the needs of Georgia Bureau of Investigation for their reverting the property to the Board of Regents.

That the Board of Public Safety request the State Properties Commission grant a revocable license to Chatham County over property of 1326.75 square foot as easement for the purpose of improvements.

Sheriff Jackie Barrett made the motion to approve both resolutions, Mr. Wayne Abernathy made the second, and the Board members unanimously voted approval.

Department of Public Safety

Mr. Cown then presented several donations for approval to the Board members:

42" Plasma Computer Monitor/TV Seven (7) Gateway Notebook Computers And Accessories	\$20,796.20	Sheriff Donny Turner Troup County, Georgia
Funds for troopers to attend DIAP Conference	\$ 5,971.67	Georgia DPS Historical Society
Funds for troopers to attend DIAP Conference	\$ 950.00	Mr. Pete Stuart Ocmulgee Drug Task Force

Minutes of Board of Public Safety

July 10, 2003

Page 5

Funds for trooper to
attend DIAP Conference

\$ 950.00

Sheriff Robert Markley
Morgan County, Georgia

Sheriff Jackie Barrett made the motion to approve the donations, Mr. Rooney Bowen made the second, and the Board members unanimously voted approval.

RULES:

Mr. Mark Jackson, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, brought before the Board a proposal to change the following rules relating to the changes in O.C.G.A. § 16-12-51, § 16-12-60, and § 16-12-61 concerning rules on Bingo:

Rule 92-2-.02(1)
Rule 91-2-.02(9)(10)(11)(12)(13)(14)
Rule 92-2-.08(1)
Rule 92-2-.16(b)
Rule 92-2-.16(c)
Rule 92-2-.20
Rule 92-2-.21
Rule 92-2-.29

Sheriff Greg Cousey made the motion that these rules be posted for thirty days and then brought back before the Board for final approval. Said motion was seconded by Sheriff Bruce Harris and the Board members unanimous voted approval.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III brought up a previous issue of the GCIC policy on running a driver's history on employees. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III asked Georgia Crime Information Center to make a presentation concerning complaints from the Georgia Sheriffs Association and the Georgia Chiefs of Police Association on the issue of local departments not being able to run driver's history on their law enforcement employees through GCIC terminals in their offices. Mr. Chris Brasher, Board Attorney, is still working with Department of Motor Vehicle Safety concerning the status of a rule or status change and will bring a report back to the Board at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Hubert Smith asked for any new business. There being none, Chief Smith moved on to another issue. That being the location of the August Board meeting. After consulting with members of the Board, Chief Smith announced that next month the Board meeting will be held at the Training Center.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III indicated that the strategy session will be held at the September Board meeting.

Sheriff Jackie Barrett made a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session. Said motion was seconded by Ms. Lydia Sartain. All members present affirmatively voted to go into Executive Session.

After Executive Session, the regular session of the Board meeting reconvened and there being no further business, Sheriff Greg Coursey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Dub Harper, and the meeting was adjourned.

Chief Hubert Smith
Secretary