

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY CALL IN MEETING

July 9, 2015

Department of Public Safety Blue Room

Atlanta, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Chief Danny Bowman
Mr. Danny Bryant-via conference call
Commissioner Homer Bryson
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan
Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic-via conference call
Sheriff Dane Kirby-via conference call
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.-via conference call
Chief Mark Revenew-via conference call
Mr. Brian M. Rickman
Sheriff Joey Terrell
Chief Craig Tully-via conference call
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS:

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison
Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety
Major Johnny Jones, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Jeremy Vickery, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Mark Lambert, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Mark Perry, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Lt. Kevin Rexroat, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Sergeant Anthony Hughes, Department of Public Safety
Mrs. Amy Stancil, Department of Public Safety
Mrs. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety
Miss Christina Calloway, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Tony Hightower, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Training Center

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the July 9th, 2015, Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

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

Vice-Chairman Wood asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the May 14th, 2015 minutes. Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy and voted approved by the BPS members.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety stated DPS was contacted by the governor's office, to put together a plan specific to the M CCD and as to what is being seen around the state as far as commercial motor vehicle accidents. Commissioner McDonough noted there is already a plan; the strategic plan and with the strategic plan it was reviewed and from this came a 10.2 million dollar increase into the DPS budget to fully implement the strategic plan for the M CCD.

Commissioner McDonough shared the M CCD will be going from 240 officers to 300 officers over the next year and with the funding, the department will focus on hiring existing peace officers so they can be trained properly in the commercial motor vehicle effort and get them out on the road.

Commissioner McDonough noted the TruCAM program will be fully implemented with this group and there will also a rural road initiative for the use of radar, as this is predominately where the accidents are occurring. Commissioner McDonough noted the DPS comes out of a budget thinking one thing and circumstances changes things. Commissioner McDonough stated the focus of the hiring will be predominately in SE GA with three regions along I-16 and I-95 in the port section with 34 officers, around Metro Atlanta with 20 officers and then 6 officers on I-85 in Troup County.

Commissioner McDonough stated the NAACP is putting together a march from Selma to Washington and on August 8 through August 15, they will be marching through the state of Georgia from LaGrange, through Athens to the SC line. Commissioner McDonough shared the DPS will be providing protection for the group from the time they enter the state to the time they are handed off in SC, with the group traveling on US Hwy 29. Commissioner McDonough declared the DPS will be an integral part in the march, along with the GBI who will be providing ID team support and aviation will be involved. Commissioner McDonough stated this is a unique and positive event the DPS will be involved in.

Commissioner McDonough presented a proposed change to the DPS Organization Chart, noting former Comptroller Peter Adams is now with the DOC. Commissioner McDonough proposed having a Chief Financial Officer over finance and budget, and in cooperation with the Chief Financial Officer, also have a Comptroller. Commissioner McDonough asked for approval to change the DPS Organizational Chart by adding a Chief Financial Officer. Commissioner McDonough stated he is reverting back to something that was done in the past, placing a uniform officer in the position as Chief Financial Officer. Commissioner McDonough noted with the last two comptrollers, the connection was lost to uniform supervision and thinks it is important with this change to have the uniform supervision go back in.

Chief Danny Bowman made the motion to approve the position of Chief Financial Officer on the DPS Organization Chart, which was second by Sheriff Joey Terrell and approved by the BPS members.

Commissioner McDonough appointed Mrs. Amy Stancil as the Comptroller. Commissioner McDonough noted Mrs. Stancil, a certified public accountant, previously work for the Department of Driver Services. Commissioner McDonough stated with Mrs. Stancil being a CPA, it is important to the agency that that credential is there because the department is then able to recruit other people in the finance world under her supervision that she is able to provide the training and the environment to further their career and not only is it important that credential is there to support the agency, but also there to help recruit people in that environment so they get the proper training. Commissioner McDonough declared Mrs. Stancil has done a fantastic job, brings order to the chaos and is a professional. On the personal side, Commissioner McDonough commented Mrs. Stancil is a long distance runner, has run several half-marathons and marathons and follows her husband around who is a professional bar-b-que cook who has won nationally televised contests.

Commissioner Homer Bryson made the motion to approve the appointment of Mrs. Amy Stancil as Comptroller for the Department of Public Safety. This was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation stated he was glad the MCCD was getting the funds for the commercial motor vehicle effort and offered the GBI's assistance if needed.

Mr. Kirk stated the GBI will be happy is assist with the NAACP March in August.

Mr. Kirk shared for the 4th of July; there were no incidents, which is attributed to all law enforcement that took part. Mr. Kirk stated the GBI had ID teams at St. Mountain State Park, the Centennial Park and at the race.

Mr. Kirk stated recently there was a graduation of six GBI agents and nine DOC officers for the basic agent class. Mr. Kirk stated this partnership has worked well, second class for the two agencies and thanked DOC Commissioner Bryson for his agency's help. DOC Commissioner Homer Bryson thanked Mr. Kirk for allowing the DOC to partner with the GBI as he thinks it is a win for everyone. Mr. Kirk advised there would be another class starting with 14 GBI agents and 13 DOC officers.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy asked Mr. Kirk what was the purpose of the heroine dealers and church services. Mr. Kirk responded this was a project through the US Attorney's office where the dealers who have outstanding warrants on them, can come in and the purpose is to try to get some of the dealers off the street and get them the help they need.

Mr. Kirk shared the GBI with GSP's help in stopping the vehicle, made a huge cocaine bust of 100 kilos. Mr. Kirk stated the case was handed over to the GBI by DEA, a case they did not think would meet the federal standards; GBI and GSP carried it out and the people arrested could possibly lead to more cases.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Training Center introduced Mr. Tony Hightower as the new Deputy Director of Training at the GPSTC. Director Wigginton shared Mr. Hightower has a long career with the GSP who served as an instructor with the Aviation Unit, who is also fixed wing and rotocraft as a civilian, world and law enforcement, was on the SWAT as an instructor, served as Post Commander and helped with trooper schools, so his instructor background is very deep and rich in law enforcement and very wide in a lot of different areas. Director Wigginton expressed Mr. Hightower will help guide the GPSTC with the direction he has for it, have had a lot of meetings this week after only being in the job for five days and he is very overwhelmed. Director Wigginton wanted to give his word to the BPS that they are working very diligently to get the GPSTC to where it needs to be in 2015 with the material that is being delivered to the end user which is who is important to him. Director Wigginton stated if the GPSTC falls short providing the training they need and the officer goes out on the street and gets hurt, Director Wigginton stated he takes that very personally that he has failed at his job in the position he is in. Director Wigginton stated this is very important to him and thinks with Mr. Hightower coming on board is a huge asset in moving in the right direction.

Director Wigginton shared there are three buildings being constructed at the GPSTC, two of the buildings are at the fire academy and the active shooter building in the mock village. Director Wigginton stated the active shooter building is built to the scale of a school where the ALERRT and active shooter training will take place.

Director Wigginton shared the GPSTC has partnered with DPS/MCCD augmenting classes that the basic police officer and deputy sheriff receives in basic mandate. Director Wigginton stated a lot times the officers are unfamiliar with how and why they can stop the commercial motor vehicle and are improving this block of instruction to let them know they do not have to work for MCCD to stop commercial motor vehicles. Director Wigginton stated he hopes with this information getting out there, in the basic class for all officers will help with that enforcement activity on the commercial motor vehicle side.

Vice-Chairman Wood congratulated Mrs. Tony Hightower on his appointment at Deputy Director of Training with GPSTC.

DONATIONS

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

Four Stalker DSR 2X Radar Units	\$	11,998.00	Cook Co. Bd. of Commissioners
Two Stalker Dual DSR 2X Radar Units	\$	6,190.00	Rockdale Co. Sheriff's Dept.
One Taser X26 Unit	\$	881.94	Webster Co. Sheriff's Dept.
One Kustom Raptor Radar Unit	\$	1,899.00	Holly Springs Police Dept.
One Taser X26 Unit	\$	900.00	Charlton Co. Sheriff's Dept.

180 Bags of Dog Food	\$	10,800.00	Pet Supplies Plus
Ten Digital Cameras, SD Cards and Camera Bags	\$	900.00	Griffin Police Dept.
Ten Gun Belts, Twenty-six Gun Belt Buckles, Twenty-three baton Holders, Thirty-six Magazine Pouches Fifty-one Handcuff Pouches	\$	3,219.47	Richmond County Sheriff's Dept.
One View Sonic DLP HD Pro Series 8200 Projector	\$	3,718.49	GOHS
Two Kustom Raptor Radar Units One Kustom Prolaser IV	\$	6,409.00	GOHS

The motion to accept these donations was made by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell, and voted approved by the Board members.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training requested approval of the following donation:

Whiskey-Liquor	\$	85.54	Zip Hinton
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The motion to accept the donation was made by Chief Danny Bowman, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell, and voted approved by the Board members.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Miss Christina Calloway, Legal Officer, Department of Public Safety presented proposed Rule amendments to Georgia Department of Public Safety Rule 570-32 Retention of Weapon and Badge, for initial adoption.

Commissioner Homer Bryson made the motion to approve the initial adoption of Georgia Department of Public Safety Rule 570-32 Retention of Weapon and Badge. This was seconded by Mr. Brian Rickman and voted approved by the BPS members.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded the BPS members of the upcoming meetings.

Vice-Chairman Wood noted the passing of Montgomery County Sheriff Ladson O'Connor. Chief Mark Revenew asked everyone to remember the family of retired GBI agent Ron Rohlf who passed away after a tragic accident. Mr. Brian Rickman asked everyone to remember retired GBI Agent Frank Baker who passed away.

Vice-Chairman Wood thanked all the BPS members for their service to the state as well as others in the room.

Sergeant Anthony Hughes gave a prayer of protection and guidance for the officers in the room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian M. Rickman
Secretary