

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

June 14, 2007

South Georgia Technical College, Cordele

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice-Chairman James E. Donald
Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Bud Black
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III
Chief Lou Dekmar
Sheriff Bruce Harris
Mr. Patrick Head
Chief Dwayne Orrick
Chief J. D. Rice
Sheriff Jamil Saba
Mr. Eugene Stuckey
Mr. Ellis Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Dub Harper
Sheriff Cullen Talton

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Joe Drolet, Board Attorney
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Ms. Jacqueline Bunn, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Howdy Hayes, Georgia State Patrol
Mark McDonough, Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Johnny Jones, Motor Carrier Compliance Division
Chief Mark McLeod, Motor Carrier Compliance Division
Ms. Chris Ash, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Mark Jackson, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Gib Heuett, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Bill Maleug, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Butch Beach, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Ray Saxon, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Marty Smith, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Corky Jewell, retired State Patrol
Chief Mike Jones, Chief of Police
Chief Hugh Smith, Chief of Police of Rome
Judge Beverly Collins, wife of Mr. Pat Head
Mr. Ed Stempel, Department of Corrections
Officer Wiley Gammon, Georgia Tech Police Department

Vice-Chairman Donald called the June Board meeting to order. Vice-Chairman Donald began with introducing Dr. John Watford, Vice-President of South Georgia Technical College. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III stated that Dr. Watford and Mr. Jim Posey were extremely kind to allow the Board to meet at the college. Mr. Bowen thanked them both; South Georgia Technical College is a beautiful place to hold the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Donald asked the Board members to introduce any guests. Mr. Bowen recognized Chief Hubert Smith, a former Vice-Chairman of the Board. Mr. Pat Head introduced his wife, Judge Beverly Collins. Mr. Wayne Abernathy introduced Chief Mike Jones.

The Board members presented a Resolution to Ms. Chris Ash, who is retiring from Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Bowen read the Resolution; then stated that he is honored to know Ms. Ash and that it has been a joy to work with her all these years. Vice-Chairman Donald presented his Commissioner's Coin to Ms. Ash as recognition for her outstanding performance. Ms. Ash thanked the Board members for the Resolution, stating that she has had a terrific career and been given a lot of opportunities. Ms. Ash stated she can appreciate the services of this Board, knowing the members are professional people with other responsibilities but willing to serve in this capacity. Several agency people and Board members stood and gave their accolades to Ms. Ash.

Vice-Chairman Donald called for approval of the April Minutes. Mr. Wayne Abernathy made a motion for approval, which was seconded by Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III and unanimously voted approval by Board members.

DIRECT REPORTS

Colonel Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, began with reporting that Ms. Jacqueline Bunn will present a rule for approval. Colonel Hitchens has been out of town and he stated there is little to report.

Colonel Hitchens reported numbers from Memorial Holiday weekend. That is the busiest time of the year; when holidays kick up. State Patrol was astounded that the prediction was for eighteen fatalities, however, there were only eight. One of the things that is very positive is that the rate of seat belt use is up by 90%; this has been positive for Georgia.

Colonel Hitchens reported one unfortunate thing that occurred; last week one of the helicopters went down in Polk County. Three people were aboard the helicopter; two were hurt very extensively and have undergone surgeries but are expected to make full recovery. The third person, a deputy sheriff on board, saved the lives of the other two by cutting them out of the helicopter and dragging them to safety before the helicopter caught on fire. Colonel stated State Patrol would like to honor the deputy sheriff at a future board meeting.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy thanked Colonel Hitchens for the state troopers handling traffic at the dragway event in Banks County. The Banks County Commissioners and Banks County Sheriff sent their thanks for all troopers' assistance.

Assistant Director Chris Ash, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, stood in for Director Vernon Keenan, who is attending IACP committee meetings this week.

Invitations to the graduation of the Agent Class have been mailed; the ceremony will be held on June 29th at the Training Center. There will be fifteen sworn special agents graduating, one of which is Mr. Dan Kirk who is taking the position of Assistant Director of GBI.

Currently, there are 286 sworn agents; the fifteen graduates are filling existing vacancies. Another school of twenty-five agents will begin in September. Twenty-five new positions came out of last legislation session. The new agents come with new responsibilities. Fifteen of the agents will be assigned to Meth Force, which will double the size of the meth force. Three agents will be assigned to the Secure ID Initiative, which is a partnership with Department of Drivers Services. Eight agents will be assigned to Child Safety Initiative, which is working internet crimes against children. That school will graduate December 20, 2007.

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, announced the Training Center will celebrate its 20th Anniversary on June 29th. Director Mann invited everyone to the celebration which will start at 10:30 a.m.

Director Mann pointed out the monthly report reflects the number of 100,000 meals that were prepared during April. This month there will be even more. There are a lot of meals being prepared; such as, the number of inmates was increased to the count of 760 at Burruss Correctional Institute. Director Mann thanked Vice-Chairman Donald for allowing Department of Corrections funds to be used to upgrade the kitchen at the Training Center.

Vice-Chairman Donald added that the goal is to have 200-man basic correctional training class moved to Tift College Campus by summer of 2008. Hopefully, this will help the Training Center with their dorm beds and dining facility.

DONATIONS

Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, requested approval of the following donations:

Ten Stalker DSR 2X Radars	\$26,950.00	Dougherty County Commissioners
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Six Kodak Digital Cameras	\$ 300.00	Baker County Commissioners
Two Stalker Radars	\$ 5,390.00	Tift County Sheriff
Two Kodak Digital Cameras	\$ 500.00	Rincon Wal-Mart
Two Decatur Genesis II Select Radars	\$ 3,340.00	Jenkins County Sheriff and County Commissioners
Gateway Laptop Computer	\$ 2,000.00	Laurens County Sheriff
Akai 52 inch Television	\$ 750.00	Laurens County Commissioners
2007 Dodge Charger Enforcer	\$30,510.00	Dade County Sheriff
One Itronix Gobook XR-1 Laptop Computer One Itronix vehicle cradle One pole mount, Voltage protection, Hardware pack	\$ 6,555.53	Dade County Sheriff
Four Stalker DSR 2X Radars	\$10,840.00	Floyd County Manager
2007 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Package	\$33,000.00	Troup County Sheriff
2007 Dodge Charger Police Package	\$23,000.00	Troup County Sheriff
Panasonic Computer	\$ 3,495.00	Troup County Sheriff
2004 Ford F150 Extended Cab Pickup Truck	\$16,805.00	Brannen Motor Company

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made a motion to approve the donations, seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and voted approval of the donations.

RULES

Ms. Jacqueline Bunn, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, requested approval of Chapter 570-33 for final adoption. This rule addresses definition of Motorcycle Enforcement

Unit and discusses enhancement and maintenance of the Unit and addresses collection procedures. Chief Lou Dekmar motioned approval for final adoption, seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and voted approval of the rule.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy questioned the use of helmets, what is approved and what is not approved. Ms. Bunn and Colonel Hitchens stated the law is that a person has to have a device; this being challenged in court. Board Attorney Joe Drolet stated this has been debated for years and will bring an update at the next Board meeting.

There being no Emergency/Administrative Issues, Vice-Chairman Donald called for Old or New Business.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chairman Donald began with reminding that Director Dale Mann had requested the Board assist with seeking a solution to the needs of the Training Center. At the February Board meeting, a Resolution was agreed upon which addresses basic training. (See attached Resolution).

Since the passing of that Resolution, there have been concerns from Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. On June 13th, a Committee Of The Whole was held, and representatives from the Sheriffs Association and the Chiefs of Police Association addressed the Committee with their concerns.

Vice-Chairman Donald explained that the Committee Of The Whole was held to discuss basic training while meeting future expansion needs. The Committee recommended that a study be conducted to address the needs of the Training Center and the concerns of local law enforcement groups.

Vice-Chairman Donald called on Board Attorney Joe Drolet to explain the current Resolution, and, to hold discussion on how to move forward on the issue. Mr. Drolet stated the issue is whether to change the current Resolution or to pass a new Resolution addressing basic training. Mr. Drolet stated this issue needs to be brought at a regular Board meeting, after notice is placed on an Agenda. This meeting cannot address any major action on the current Resolution, since it has not been posted on an Agenda. Mr. Pat Head requested Mr. Drolet prepare a new Resolution and have it submitted to the Board members prior to the Board meeting. Mr. Bowen stated he would like the Resolution state which agencies are involved in the study of basic training.

Mr. Pat Head made a motion that it be publicized that this issue is an item that will be discussed at the July Board meeting, and, if there is a Resolution, it will be acted on at that time. Chief J. D. Rice seconded said motion, and, said motion was voted approval.

It was established the following groups will participate in the study: Sheriffs Association, Chiefs Association, GMA, ACOG, P.O.S.T., with an advisory member from GPSTC, and with the GPSTC Committee of the Board of Public Safety being oversight chairman. Vice-Chairman Donald requested Mr. Ellis Wood be an additional member of this study group. Vice-Chairman Donald stated a Chairman of the study group will be assigned at a later date.

It was established that the study group will present in-progress reports to the Board on a quarterly basis.

Vice-Chairman Donald requested all Board members submit their choice of which committee to be assigned. The committees are Georgia Public Safety Training Center, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: The current system for training Basic Law Enforcement Mandate students is past capacity for the ten-week Basic Program; and

WHEREAS: The Basic Law Enforcement Mandate student population has grown by eighteen percent from Fiscal Year 2005 to Fiscal Year 2006; and

WHEREAS: The Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council is working on extending the number of hours of Basic Law Enforcement Mandate training; and

WHEREAS: The current Regional Police Academy System evolved over the past thirty-five years and there now exists an unequal workload due to officer concentration; and

WHEREAS: None of the Regional Police Academies currently owns a pistol range, driver training or gym facilities; and

WHEREAS: There are many advantages available at Georgia Public Safety Training Center for facilities needed to provide exceptional basic training, i.e., pistol range, crime scenes, defensive tactics, officer survival, scenario based training; and

WHEREAS: Consolidation of Basic Law Enforcement Mandate Training will result in a reduction in class size. Advantages of this reduction would include increased instructor intensity, improved learning environment, tremendous improvement for Performance Exams and eventual transition to performance based learning; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Public Safety encourages the Georgia Public Safety Training Center to begin conducting Basic Law Enforcement Mandate Training utilizing a hybrid approach where the Center acts as a reliever site by bringing in excess students and promoting more pre-service Basic Training at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the final goal would be to bring all Basic Law Enforcement Mandate Training to the Georgia Public Safety Training Center within +/- three years while pushing most cognitive Advanced/Specialized training into the field.

RESOLVED IN PUBLIC SESSION THIS 8th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2007.