

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY CALL IN MEETING

June 12, 2014

Department of Public Safety Blue Room

Atlanta, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Chief Danny Bowman-via conference call
Mr. Murray Kight-via conference call
Sheriff Dane Kirby-via conference call
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.
Mr. Brian M. Rickman
Sheriff Joey Terrell
Chief Craig Tully-via conference call
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Daniel M. Bryant
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan
Retired Sheriff Steve D. Cronic
Commissioner Brian Owens
Chief Mark Revenew

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 Eddie Grier, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Hank Fielding, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Gene Davis, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Joe Hamby, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Tommy Waldrop, 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
Mrs. Amy Stancil, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Doug Mangum, Department of Public Safety
Ms. Joan Crumpler, Department of Public Safety
Mrs. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Tim Bearden, Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center-via conference call
Mr. Joe Hood, Office of Planning and Budget
Mr. William Ruffin, Office of Planning and Budget

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the June 12th, 2014, 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 held a roll call for BPS members calling in.

Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety advised the DPS had three distinct things of business to go over that requires Board of Public Safety approval. Commissioner McDonough reminded everyone that anytime the DPS builds, establishes or moves any of DPS facilities, it is something that has to be brought before the BPS and the circumstances that surround it, has to be explained and then receive BPS approval.

Commissioner McDonough began with the Camilla/Mitchell County Airport Resolution. Commissioner McDonough advised the intention is to move the Albany Hangar location to the Camilla Hangar in Southwest Georgia. Commissioner McDonough noted Camilla is more centrally located for the aviation territory in SW GA and it is a proposal where the City of Camilla has a hangar and has proposed to enter into a relationship with DPS, with the hangar being retrofitted for DPS purposes and for the purposes of attracting a private carrier to help with the function of trauma care. Commissioner McDonough reminded the BPS members this had been discussed as to what some of the plans are, but the specific directions has GSP partnering through a grant process to enter into a negotiation with a private carrier to provide trauma care in the combined facility. Commissioner McDonough noted the hangar would have a law enforcement component that would do everything that the other entire hangars do; provide a helicopter and law enforcement services the helicopter provides and then it would also have a private carrier/company that would provide access to trauma care through a life flight type of operation. Commissioner McDonough stated the Resolution is simply to move the existing hangar facility in Albany and enter into a relationship with the City of Camilla and move it to the Camilla airport in SW Georgia.

Ms. Joan Crumpler, Deputy Director of Legal for the Department of Public Safety, presented a Resolution asking the Board of Public Safety to authorize the Department of Public Safety to relocate its current aviation operations situated at the Southwest Georgia Regional Airport aircraft hangar in Albany to an aircraft hangar located within and leased from the City of Camilla, and to enter into negotiations and all agreements with the City of Camilla, including deeds, property interest transfers and lease agreements, for the purpose of providing for aviation operations and the use of such aircraft hangar by the Aviation Division of the Georgia State Patrol.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy made the motion for the members of the Board of Public Safety to authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to enter into such contracts and or memoranda of understanding with the City of Camilla and prepare the appropriate agreements, contracts and supporting documentation for conducting aviation operations for use of a hangar, including physical enhancements and modifications of such hangar, by the Georgia State Patrol and its Aviation Division at Camilla/Mitchell County Airport. This was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the BPS members.

Commissioner McDonough stated his second issue was the realignment of Post 29 in Paulding County and reminded the BPS members a few years ago, Post 29 occupied a post in Cedartown, Polk County that was built by the county and the county desired to take the facility back to put their county police department into the facility that GSP occupied. Commissioner McDonough advised Post 29 personnel evacuated the facility and consolidated the people into the Rome post and shared when one county does not want you, another county steps forward and says they need the GSP. Commissioner

McDonough stated that previously the BPS had been asked to allow the GSP to move forward on an offer from Paulding County to build or retrofit a facility in Paulding County and is ready to move forward with the relationship, but will require a realignment of Post territories within Troop A. Commissioner McDonough stated Troop A as a whole will remain the same, and permission of the BPS is required when there is a realignment of post territories or troop boundaries. Commissioner McDonough advised with Paulding County's offer, Post 29's post territory will be realigned to Paulding County and Haralson County, and Bartow County and Polk County will be Post 3 Cartersville. Commissioner McDonough noted the old relationships were the two counties, Bartow and Paulding, North and South for Post 3 Cartersville and for Cedartown Post 29, Polk and Haralson County. In the realignment, Commissioner McDonough stated the posts would be going from a north and south relationship to an east and west relationship, which will marry up two counties that are growing counties that are more urban, and with rural counties which will make a more workable relationship where GSP can concentrate on the two counties that have the wrecks and the two rural counties that need more of just patrolling. Commissioner McDonough stated the new post will be called GSP Paulding and Post 3 Cartersville will remain the same.

Ms. Joan Crumpler, Deputy Director of Legal, Department of Public Safety presented a Resolution asking the BPS for their approval to authorize the Department of Public Safety to reorganize Post territories and boundaries consistent with the establishment of Post 29 in Paulding County.

Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., made the motion for the members of the Board of Public Safety to authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to realign Post 29 in Troop A to include the Counties of Paulding and Haralson, and to realign Post 3 in Troop A to include the Counties of Bartow and Polk, as will provide the appropriate capability of enforcement in that geographical area. This was seconded by Sheriff Dane Kirby and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mr. Rampy asked Commissioner McDonough when GSP expected to make the changes for Post 29 and Post 3. Commissioner McDonough stated he expects the changes early to mid-fall, probably sometime in October, early November. Commissioner McDonough added in the governor's budget, the governor included additional funds for the transition in that when troopers are transferred out of Cartersville, for the realignment to the Paulding post to meet the needs, there is funding for additional five positions at Cartersville, which will mean no loss in manpower when the realignment is completed.

Commissioner McDonough reminded the BPS members that the Board had already authorized the DPS to enter into a relationship with Hart County to build a new post facility with additional personnel. Commissioner McDonough noted this is not the moving of a Post, this is adding a Post to a section of the state that does not have a Post presence on the interstate, from Gwinnett County to the SC line. Commissioner McDonough stated when taking a look at the DPS troop and post boundaries map and take a look at Troop A and a look at Troop B, one can see the person that designed Troop A had a lot of wisdom, in that they have seven post territories, with two counties per post and historically that structure alone has enabled the patrol to meet what it is supposed to do statutorily and provide working wreck services, but have the right amount of personnel for the right size territory.

Commissioner McDonough added when looking at Troop A in comparison to the rest of the state, for years and years, Troop A has worked more wrecks than anyone else traditionally. Commissioner McDonough noted Troop B has pretty much surpassed Troop A in this role and as northeast GA grows, putting an additional post and providing additional manpower in northeast Georgia will allow GSP to meet that added responsibility. Commissioner McDonough noted with what the Athens post has done over the past two years, they have essentially come from the middle of the pack almost to the top accident working post in the state. Commissioner McDonough stated the Resolution being presented today is asking to realign post territories in Troop B and then also capture one additional county that is in Troop E. Commissioner McDonough stated the realignment effects three posts, the establishment of Post 52-Hartwell, which will serve Hart County, Franklin County and Elbert County, and by adding Elbert County it will adjust the post territory of Post 17 Washington in Troop E. Commissioner McDonough noted Post 17 Washington will serve Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, Wilkes, and Lincoln counties and will require not only the adjustment of the Post boundaries, but also the Troop boundaries and then Post 7 Toccoa will serve Stephens County, Habersham County and Rabun County. Commissioner McDonough expressed where this helps one section, it also helps the Post 7 territory in that the manpower will not be reduced, but will have the same amount of troopers they had to patrol five counties, can now concentrate their efforts on three counties. Commissioner McDonough acknowledged this is a win-win all the way around.

Mr. Brian Rickman commented that one extra benefit to the realignment and efficiency is that Elbert County, Hart County and Franklin County are in one judicial circuit and Rabun, Habersham and Stephens are in one judicial circuit, so therefore the prosecution the troopers work with, will talk with one prosecutor rather than multiple and feels the prosecutors will be very happy with the realignment.

Ms. Joan Crumpler presented a Resolution asking the Board of Public Safety's approval to authorize the Department of Public Safety to establish Georgia State Patrol Post 52 Hartwell for headquarters and barracks in Hart County and to authorize the Department of Public Safety to therefore realign Troop and Post boundaries consistent with the establishment of Post 52 Hartwell.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy made the motion for the Members of the Board of Public Safety to authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to establish a new Georgia State Patrol Post to be known as Post 52 Hartwell and to serve the Counties of Hart, Franklin and Elbert within Troop B, and to realign Post 7 in Troop B to include the remaining Counties of Rabun, Habersham and Stephens, and to realign Post 17 in Troop E to include the remaining Counties of Oglethorpe, Wilkes, Lincoln, and Taliaferro, as will provide the appropriate capability of enforcement in that geographical area. This was seconded by Mr. Brian Rickman and voted approved by the BPS members.

Commissioner McDonough shared the new post to be built is one that was designed for future built posts; SFC Al Whitworth, Post Commander in Toccoa worked with the county, along with Captain Waldrop, and now GSP has a foot print that is about 6500-7000 square feet, like the old basic design, with the hallway down the middle and everything falls off to the side. Commissioner McDonough stated the post building will be very simple with a gabled roof, very simple construction, brick with a metal roof, no coupling, nothing that is going to leak. Commissioner McDonough shared they have

learned from mistakes that were made in the past by building facilities that are too big to heat and cool under the existing model and noted the new foot print will reduce the post building down to the size it needs to be and still be a workable facility.

Commissioner McDonough noted all the paperwork concerning the Resolutions and stated Ms. Joan Crumpler jumped into all of this with both feet, a little bit willingly and a little bit of what are you getting me in to, but personally thanked Ms. Crumpler as she is a person who has specialized in one type of law and DPS has thrown her into real estate, MOUs and resolutions and at no point has she shown a crack yet. Commissioner McDonough thanked Ms. Crumpler for all of her hard work and willingness to do the necessary work on the Resolutions.

Commissioner McDonough advised the Post 2 LaGrange dedication will be next Friday, June 20th.

Commissioner McDonough shared TFC Bull Stewart's Fallen Trooper Road Dedication was held last week in Dooly County with a Troop Commander's meeting the next morning. Commissioner McDonough stated the dedication was very unique with a luncheon hosted by former BPS member, Judge Rooney L. Bowen, III, before the service. Commissioner McDonough stated at the sign dedication, a canine was put into service in memory of TFC Stewart. Captain Kermit Stokes, canine training officer put forward an idea that GSP would put a canine into service in memory of all the fallen troopers and approached this very carefully to make sure it was something the family would want. Commissioner McDonough shared TFC Stewart's widow appreciated the idea and at the sign dedication, canine Bull was put into service and when the canine was introduced, the canine went over to lick the feet of the widow, a very unique touching ceremony.

Commissioner McDonough advised at the Troop Commander's meeting, the BPS Resolution was presented to former BPS member, Judge Rooney L. Bowen, III.

Commissioner McDonough stated Major Eddie Grier will be retiring July 31, 2014. Commissioner McDonough shared when he had to make the decision as to who should be the commanding officer, he wanted someone who would love the troopers like a brother and discipline the troopers like a father because he cares, and that is what Major Grier has done and then personally thanked Major Grier for his service.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation advised he did not have anything to report, but thanked Commissioner McDonough and the GSP for their accident investigation of a GBI employee involved with a motorcycle accident.

In regards to previous on-line training issues, Director Tim Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center stated there have been news articles and reports using the term of officer cheating and reminded the BPS members there is no test for the on-line courses, on demand courses, many officers did speed through the courses to accept the one hour credit from POST, and are dealing with this as diligently as they can and also working closely with Ken Vance at POST to make sure this is resolved.

DONATIONS

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

One Stalker Radar Unit	\$	3,150.00	Camden Co. Bd. of Commissioners
One Stalker DSR 2X Radar	\$	3,010.00	GOHS
Thirty-five E-Seek License Readers and USB Cables	\$	14,120.00	Gwinnett Co. Sheriff's Department
Ten LWRC M6-G Rifles	\$	17,872.40	Cherokee Co. Sheriff's Department
Funding to upgrade ELSAG License Plate Reader Software and for two troopers to attend the MVCI Conference in MI	\$	6,150.00	Braselton Police Dept.
Two Used Kustom Eagle Plus II Radars	\$	100.00	Peachtree City Police Dept.
Four Stalker DSR2X Radar Units Three Stalker LIDAR XLR Units One MPH 900 MS3Tag Reader	\$	40,142.00	Houston Co. Sheriff's Dept.
One Stalker DSR 2X Radar Unit	\$	3,100.00	Wheeler Co. Sheriff's Dept.

The motion to accept these donations was made by Sheriff Joey Terrell, which was seconded by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., and voted approved by the Board members.

Major Eddie Grier invited all to attend his retirement luncheon on July 31, 2104, at the Hampton Race Track.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy thanked the Board of Public Safety for his reappointment to the BPS.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian M. Rickman
Secretary