

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Minutes of Meeting Held March 10, 2004
Corrections Board Room, Atlanta

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. David "Hal" Averitt
Mr. Charles D. "Bud" Black
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III
Commissioner James Donald
Mr. Dub Harper
Sheriff Bruce Harris
Mr. Patrick Head
Sheriff Jamil Saba
Chief Hubert Smith
Sheriff Cullen Talton
Ms. Lisa Godbey Wood

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chief Lou Dekmar
Chief J. D. Rice
Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Governor Sonny Perdue

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Chris Brasher, Department of Law
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Colonel George Ellis, Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Colonel Arthur White, Georgia State Patrol
Major Corky Jewell, Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Terry Landers, Georgia State Patrol
Captain Richard Ashmore, Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Wayne Yancey, Georgia State Patrol
Assistant Director Chris Ash, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Special Agent In Charge Mike Fordham, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Ray Higgins, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Consultant with Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Patrice Kerner, Office of Planning and Budget
Mr. Archie Rainey, CSU Command College
Mr. Terry Norris, Georgia Sheriffs Association

Vice-Chairman James E. Donald opened the March Board meeting with welcoming everyone to the Board of Public Safety. Vice-Chairman Donald asked if there were any guests, pointing out Ms. Patrice Kerner, who is with Office of Planning and Budget.

Sheriff Cullen Talton introduced Captain Ruben McGee, head of the Patrol Division of Sheriff Talton's department.

Vice-Chairman Donald called for a motion to approve the February Minutes. Chief Hubert Smith made the motion, seconded by Mr. Dub Harper, and the Board members unanimously approved. Vice-Chairman Donald again thanked Chief Hubert Smith for his leadership this past year, saying he will continue to seek Chief Smith's mentoring and advice while going forward with the Board.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Colonel George Ellis, Georgia State Patrol, thanked the Board members for their support, during the recent tough time at the passing of his father.

Colonel Ellis reported on the recent demonstrations that had been occurring around the State Capitol. The Capitol police, along with the troopers assigned to the Capitol, have handled the incidents professionally, receiving commendations and praise from members of the General Assembly.

In response to a report of high speeds around metro Atlanta, Colonel Ellis put into place concentrated patrols. On February 10th, Colonel Ellis brought in troopers and 651 tickets were written. On March 2nd, another concentrated patrol was set up and 804 tickets were issued. Colonel Ellis plans to do these concentrated patrols twice a month. Also, he has had meetings with Governor's Office of Highway Safety to secure funds to pay overtime for troopers, who have been brought in to work the Atlanta area on this patrol.

As a brief update on the garage fire, cleanup has gone very well. Repairs are funded through Department of Administrative Services, so the costs will not come out the State Patrol budget. The State Fire Marshal's office is requiring installation of a fire alarm and sprinkler system. Moving back into the garage should be fairly soon.

On the manpower situation, currently there are 840 troopers; 113 vacancies. There are 214 radio operators, with 39 vacancies. The hiring freeze is still in effect. Colonel Ellis is hopeful that in the FY 05 Budget there will be funds to pay for 25 trooper positions. In response to questions that if funded for those positions, would the radio operators be given priority, Colonel Ellis responded that is the plan. Another question posed about the closing of some patrol posts at midnight, Colonel Ellis said that any calls that come in are forwarded to a neighboring post. Those areas, where the posts are closed, are not affected.

Colonel Ellis reported on the status of the G-8 Summit. Major Bohannon and his staff continue with the planning on behalf of the agency. The troopers assigned to Mobile Field Forces have completed their training. Large exercise classes will be held for two

weekends, one in April and one in May, at the Training Center. The National Guard will also be involved in these training exercises; the exercises will be as realistic as possible. Colonel Ellis noted that a legal training class is scheduled for all personnel.

In going a step further, Colonel Ellis plans to require all troopers to attend mobile field forces training; he thinks this is the way all civil disorders will be handled in the future.

In previous years, several people from State Patrol had the opportunity to go to China to view their police force. In August of this year, a delegation from the Chinese police force is planning to come to Georgia to visit and look at State Patrol operations.

In response to a question of morale during the hiring freeze, Colonel Ellis indicated that the agency is doing fairly well. The issues of radio operator positions, and, not having a trooper school since FY 02 are problems. All in all, the morale is okay.

Colonel Ellis then asked Mr. Terry Landers to brief the Board members on the agency's budget. With a handout, Mr. Landers explained that as of the end of February, normally an agency has 33.33% of the budget remaining. In state funds, State Patrol is a little better than that. Mr. Landers believes it will stay on track, pending any unfortunate surprises from G-8 or other areas. The agency is still maintaining the hiring freeze, except for critical positions.

In response to a question on the running total on G-8 expenditures, Mr. Landers said the figure is just under \$400,000, with hope of being reimbursed. OPB has authorized State Patrol to go ahead and set up a G-8 fund source system, to maintain and track the purchases. Mr. Landers indicated that information has been given that the federal G-8 grant may come through on March 15. State Patrol expects the G-8 budget committee to pay for not only lodging, meals, and overtime, but also other charges that have been incurred by the agency. Mr. Landers responded to a question that the agency is ready to purchase the body armor and munitions. As for the expenditures the agency has made, Colonel Ellis said they did go ahead and order gas and delivery systems, uniforms, and pagers.

Deputy Director Chris Ash, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, stood in for Director Vernon Keenan, who is out of the state this week. As one update for the Board members, the GBI is going through reaccreditation process. There will be a mock on-site assessment on March 15-17, 2004. The actual assessment by CALEA will be on August 14-19, 2004, and, the GBI expects to be reaccredited in December. As background, the GBI was first accredited in November, 1998, and on a three-year renewal basis, was reaccredited in 2001.

As for very good news, the GBI is proceeding with the computerized criminal history modernization project. Through support of the Georgia Sheriffs Association and Police Chiefs Association, the groups have agreed for the GBI to use \$9.8 million of a \$12 million block of Homeland Security grant monies for the information sharing system. The GBI will use the funding to totally retool the computerized criminal history system, which was designed in the 1970's. Once the contracts are executed, it is expected that the project will be completed in twenty-four months. Just for statistics, the system contains 2.3 million identification records, 8.1 million arrest records, 5.9 million judicial records, and the custodial records on 2.3 million offenders, all being accessed by 10,000 users.

Another aspect with the G-8 Summit, Deputy Director Ash pointed out that the GBI is getting assistance from local law enforcement agencies to help shore up resources at the G-8 location. A joint meeting will be held on March 17th by Director Bill Hitchens, Director of Homeland Security, to answer questions from local agencies about the process that will be used to swear in local law enforcement officers as state officers. A memorandum of understanding will set out the parameters of the officer's authority in the jobs he or she will be doing at the G-8 Summit.

Deputy Director Ash reported that on the budget, the GBI is meeting all cuts through attrition. Currently, there are 94 vacancies that are not being filled, unless it is a critical position. The priority of the agency is the Crime Lab, however, with the budget situation as it is, the agency is not in a position to hire scientists for the Crime Lab. Another note, the Cleveland Crime Lab will not be opened this year; there are no funds for operating costs.

Board member Sheriff Cullen Talton mentioned he had volunteered fourteen deputies for the G-8 Summit, and, asked what would be needed from his squad. Director Dale Mann said he would look into the requirements of local law enforcement officers and, would get back to Sheriff Talton. Director Mann was also asked to provide the same report to the Board members at the next meeting.

Board member Lisa Godbey Wood commented she had attended a meeting with the interim U.S. Attorney and some folks from the Justice Department, who were briefing the judges in her area, and she heard people favorably talk about the GBI and State Patrol and Training Center. The talk was this was the smoothest cooperation and preparedness with any state, that they had been associated with, in preparing for this magnitude of an event.

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, reported that he continues taking applicants for G-8 training. The Training Center, for the months of December, January, and February, have trained 2500 officers for G-8. Mr. Richard Guerreiro and

Mr. Bob Buffington have worked closely with Department of Justice and Office of Domestic Preparedness on the training. Mr. Guerreiro is keeping a close watch with the expenditures. He has accounted for \$88,000 out-of-pocket expenditures, and, the Center will end up spending close to \$400,000 by the end of May.

Director Mann indicated that as a part of that, the Training Center's sworn officers will be deployed to G-8. The mission of these officers will be prisoner processing. The plans are that if Mobile Field Force sees someone needs to be rearrested, the quick reaction team goes in and arrests them, then the sworn officers will be there to start the documentation.

As for the FY 05 Budget, the Sheriffs Association requested their monies be moved out of the Training Center bud get over to the P.O.S.T. budget. Director Mann is not going to oppose the request.

Director Mann noted that a letter had been received expressing thanks for donated pews from the Training Center. The Training Center's chapel has been renovating into a classroom, and, the pews were given to A New Beginning Pentecostal Church out of the City of Juliette.

In response to a question as to a previous issue that a retired police chief requested to attend training class for free tuition, Director Mann responded that he has been handling this on an informal basis.

Director Mann asked Mr. Richard Guerreiro to talk about the Training Center's budget. Mr. Guerreiro stated that for the FY 04 budget, \$500,000 had been taken out by the House of Representatives, and then the Senate placed it back in. Through the end of February, the state funding is well within the line of where the Center should be with the impending 2.5% cut. The positions that are vacant at the Center are only being filled, if the position is critical to the mission of the Training Center.

Mr. Richard Guerreiro sits in on the G-8 budget committee, and the way it is scheduled to go, the federal grant will be awarded on March 15th. As soon as the grant comes in, the equipment will be ordered and delivery point will be the Training Center. The Training Center will be renting tractor trailers for storage. During May, the stored equipment will be issued by GBI and State Patrol. At this point, the Training Center will make a claim for the \$88,000 that has been expended. Also, a claim will be made for another \$304,000 for anticipated expenditures out of the Training Center.

In response to a question as to the federal funding that was earmarked last year for G-8 training, Mr. Guerreiro indicated the funds are still on the table. He remarked that some monies are set aside for executive training; he talked to Chiefs Association about some monies to be towards the Chiefs summer conference, and some monies to go towards the

Sheriffs Association summer conference. Both associations indicated they will get an answer to Mr. Guerreiro.

Chief Hubert Smith made a motion that for future Board meetings each agency head inform the Board of monies expended over and above the projected funds for the G-8 Summit. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III seconded said motion, and with unanimous approval, said motion was carried.

DONATIONS/RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Terry Landers, State Patrol/Department of Public Safety, presented several donations:

Stalker Radar	\$ 3,000	Sumter County Board of Commissioners
Stalker Radar	\$ 3,000	Schley County Board of Commissioners
3 Genesis II Select Radars	\$ 7,200	Lowndes County Sheriff
Genesis II Select Radar	\$ 1,775	Johnson County Administrator
4 Stalker Dual Radars	\$ 7,648	Seminole County Board of Commissioners
3 Stalker Dual Radars	\$10,485	Camden County Sheriff
11 Long Wave UV Black Lights	\$ 308	Brand Integrity Department of Phillip Morris U.S.A.

Mr. Bud Black motioned approval of these donations, seconded by Mr. Hal Averitt, and unanimously voted approval by the Board.

ADMINISTRATIVE/EMERGENCY ISSUES

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III commended State Patrol and Lieutenant Colonel White for addressing the issue of reports from the SCRT team. He noted that everything is working out, as a result of a meeting between State Patrol and prosecuting attorneys as to a good understanding of how reports will be completed from SCRT team.

Another issue that Mr. Bowen brought up, that if a Board member will be observing any part of G-8 Summit, it would be prudent for the Board member to go to one of Mr. Chris Brasher's legal classes. Mr. Brasher will be holding legal training classes relating to involvement of law enforcement in the G-8 Summit. Vice-Chairman Donald commented that this is an issue of public scrutiny and that it would be appreciated if the Board members would consider the counsel and training of Mr. Brasher. Also, Mr.

Bowen pointed out that Board members need to have an ID picture/credential made before attending G-8.

Mr. Bowen noted that the Board might want to look into a training class for the Board. Vice-Chairman Donald added that Governor Perdue is requesting this from several state boards. The training class allows boards to discuss contributions and relationships with the board members and cases brought before the board.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

The April Board meeting will be moved to April 7th and will be held at Georgia Public Safety Training Center. As proposed by the Board members, a work session will be held every three months. A Committee of the Whole work session will be held before the Board meeting of April 7th, at 8:00 a.m. Mr. Hal Averitt will chair the committee meeting.

The By-Laws have been reviewed by the Board members. Mr. Chris Brasher explained that the Board members met and discussed the specifics of the By-Laws and this was the time to vote. Ms. Lisa Godbey Wood added this has been through committee, through Board counsel, and after good discussions, the Board is ready to vote. Chief Hubert Smith made the motion to approve the By-Laws as written, seconded by Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III, and unanimously approved by the Board members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III
Secretary