

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

March 11, 2010

Department of Corrections Board Room – Atlanta, GA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III
Mr. Daniel M. Bryant
Sheriff Steven D. Cronic
Chief Louis M. Dekmar
Retired Sheriff Bruce Harris
Mr. Patrick H. Head
Mr. C. Murray Kight
Fire Chief Jack McElfish
Commissioner Brian Owens
Sheriff H. Cullen Talton
Mr. Gerald T. Willis
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Cheryl Buie, Board Liaison
Colonel W. W. Hitchens, Jr., Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel F. D. Snellings, Jr., Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
Major Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Major Stewart F. Hicks, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Chief Mark McLeod, Department of Public Safety/Motor Carrier Compliance Division
Captain Russell D. Powell, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Sergeant Anthony Hughes, Department of Public Safety
SFC Pete McCaleb, Department of Public Safety
Sergeant Russell D. Hayes, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Comptroller Joseph W. Hood, Department of Public Safety
Corporal Jerry Pimentel, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Assistant Director Dan Kirk, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Deputy Director Terry Gibbons, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director J. Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Deputy Director Patrice Kerner, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Adam Baswell, Department of Corrections
Colonel Rueben McGhee, Houston County Sheriff's Office
Mrs. Maureen Bryant
Representative Ann R. Purcell
Representative Jon Burns

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Mrs. Jon Burns

Ms. Laura J. Jones, Department of Corrections

Mr. Ricky Myrick, Director-Office of Investigations and Compliance

Ms. Sarah Draper, Deputy Director-Office of Investigations and Compliance

Ms. Shevonda Fields, Manager of Inmate Affairs and Ombudsman Unit-OIC

Mr. Richard Chromi, Intelligence Unit-OIC

Mr. Keith Lank, SE Fugitive Squad-OIC

Ms. Cheryl Frazier, Audits and Compliance Unit-OIC

Ms. Jan Rolain, DOC-GISAC

Ms. Wendy Kilpatrick, FBI-GISAC

District Attorney Stan Gunter

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the March Board of Public Safety meeting to order and thanked everyone for coming. Vice-Chairman Wood then introduced Dr. John Waters of Statesboro First Baptist Church to give the devotion. After the devotion, Major Mark McDonough led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood stated the Board of Public Safety had two vacancies and opened the floor up for nominations to fill these vacancies. Sheriff Steve Cronic nominated Mr. C. Murray Kight, which was seconded by Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III, while Chief Jack McElfish nominated Mr. Daniel M. Bryant, which was seconded by Retired Sheriff Bruce Harris. Mr. Wayne Abernathy asked that the nominations be closed. Both nominations were approved by all Board members.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III then issued the oath of office to Mr. Kight and Mr. Bryant.

Mr. Kight told the Board members that he was much honored to receive this nomination and he stated he would try to learn the job and serve and work together as working together accomplishes a lot, working separately accomplishes nothing.

Mr. Bryant thanked the Board of Public Safety for their trust in him and putting him back on the Board and stated he looks forward to working with all and getting to know the members that he does not know. He stated he knows quite a few of the members from the past and stated he was glad to be back.

Vice-Chairman Wood stated friends of the two new Board members were present and asked if they would like to comment.

Representative Ann Purcell, a friend of the new Board members spoke to the Board and stated she knew about that phrase "I am back". Rep. Purcell stated she was a representative for fourteen years and out for a little less than five and at that time she represented Bryan, Effingham and a little bit of Chatham County. Representative Purcell said she was delighted to be back in the GA House of Representatives as of November 3, 2009 when she was reelected and is pleased to say that now she represents Effingham County and the larger part of Chatham County. Representative Purcell took the time to say thank you to the two new Board members, Mr. Bryant and Mr. Kight. Representative

Purcell told Board members that she and Mr. Kight had worked together on a number of issues in Effingham County and told that would not stop at all. Representative Purcell stated that she is glad that she is back to work with all BPS members. Representative Purcell stated that the legislators are very concerned about the budget, the cuts that are coming down and stated it is a real issue. Representative Purcell further related the deficit is there; we are expecting another announcement today, which will put the appropriations committee back together working very hard to try to do what we can. Representative Purcell stated she appreciated all of what the BPS has done in regards to public safety and stated that she is a super supporter of Public Safety and of this Board and will work diligently with all, but the deficit is real and there are going to be some adjustments that none of us like. Representative Purcell stated that we are here to listen and that she is here to serve the BPS and she is glad that she is back and certainly glad that Murray Kight and Danny Bryant are sitting on this Board.

Representative Jon Burns from Effingham County stated he had known Mr. Kight for many years and congratulated Mr. Kight and Mr. Bryant. Representative Burns told the Board members that he appreciated their service and wisdom to the state. Representative Burns stated Mr. Kight was a man of integrity that he had known his whole life, a man of sound business judgment, a man of principal and a good Christian man. Representative Burns told Mr. Kight that he and his wife appreciate his willingness to serve on the Board of Public Safety.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked each visitor to tell who they are and where they were from and thanked everyone for coming.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the February Board minutes. Fire Chief Jack McElfish made the motion, seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy and voted approval by the Board members.

DIRECT REPORTS

Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety spoke about the two new Board members stating that Mr. Murray is a citizen of Effingham County and has been very involved in the county for many years. Mr. Kight was a businessman, retired now and involved in a lot of community affairs and also served as the Chairman of the Effingham County Hospital Authority. Colonel Hitchens went on to state that he first met Mr. Bryant when he was on the BPS in the 90s and he became a good friend and was a viable member of the Board during the previous time that he served.

Colonel Hitchens spoke of the trooper school graduation that occurred on February 19th, with thirty-one cadets graduating. Colonel Hitchens further stated that thirty positions were federally funded for two years. Colonel Hitchens advised the Board members when DPS received this grant it was to enhance the Department's capability. Colonel Hitchens stated as we look at maybe having to let people go from the Department, an alternative that we may be faced with, and with those concerns, Colonel Hitchens brought this to the attention of others that when the Department receives federal funds there is a term called supplantation and that if we let ten to twenty troopers go, we may lose these new thirty troopers too, because we were essentially supplanting. This has caused Colonel

Hitchens a lot of concern as we will be taking people away and the grant has actually put troopers in to fill the positions that were vacated.

Colonel Hitchens told Board members that GSP assisted Brantley County with a KKK March in Nahunta, GA earlier in the month. Fifty troopers were dedicated to this detail for visibility and response.

Colonel Hitchens advised the Board members that DPS formed a Dive Team six to eight months ago. The department received federal funding from Homeland Security for the Dive Team at the request of the Navy/Coast Guard in order to have civilian capability for coastal Georgia. Colonel Hitchens relayed there are twelve members on the team and will soon increase the number to twenty. Colonel Hitchens stated the Dive Team members are fully certified to include open water ocean diving and have been integrated with DNR to provide waterborne platforms for both inland and offshore diving operations. Colonel Hitchens related to date, the Dive Team has been involved in several searches where they have recovered bodies, a stolen vehicle and weapons.

Colonel Hitchens stated DPS handled a Tea Party at the Capitol on February 27, 2010 and there were no disruptions, while another Tea Party is planned for April 15, Tax Day which may include some national figures which could certainly increase the size of the crowds.

Colonel Hitchens told the Board members that the Monticello Police Department imploded about a week ago and the Jasper County SO asked us for support as there were rumors there would be a celebration in Monticello last Saturday night since the police department would be out of business. The Department sent a dozen troopers to the area and coincidentally about midnight a call came in that a federal game warden had been shot. Two troopers, a sheriff's deputy and a DNR ranger went into the woods and located three hunters, one of whom had shot and killed the game warden. Colonel Hitchens stated the facts are not clear but the hunters said they were hunting coyotes and mistakenly shot the game warden.

Colonel Hitchens added that the DPS provided fifty troopers in support of the presidential visit to Savannah. In addition, GSP has provided escorts for units of the 48th Brigade as they returned home from Iraq to Ft. Stewart and then to their home towns.

Colonel Hitchens spoke of the Night Hawks DUI Unit in Chatham, Effingham and Bulloch counties which is funded by a federal grant and through GOHS has received a lot of media attention. Colonel Hitchens advised the eight assigned team members made 223 DUI arrests last month and are doing a very effective job.

For St. Patrick's Day in Savannah, Colonel Hitchens stated DPS will commit fifty troopers and ten MCCD officers to assist the Savannah/Chatham County PD with the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Colonel Hitchens relayed to the Board members that DPS had two resolutions in both the House and Senate for some of our personnel. The first was for Lt. Mark Hambert for being named the GA Peace

Officer of the Year for Valor and the second was for Post 7-Toccoa and their DUI enforcement efforts. Post 7-Toccoa wrote over 450 DUI citations last year and was named by MADD as the GSP Post of the Year and the Agency of the Year for the State of Georgia. Colonel Hitchens stated the DUI enforcement efforts by Post 7 resulted in a 75% reduction in DUI fatalities in their post territory last year.

Colonel Hitchens told the Board members that Jacqueline Bunn, Deputy Director of DPS Legal Services received a national award from the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations and for the last 5-6 years has hosted a TV show on GPTV called "Legally Speaking", providing citizens with relevant information on legal issues.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy stated that he attended the AMS Race this past weekend and thirty-five troopers handled what two hundred used to handle; traffic was very smooth and the DOT had their monitors and cameras working and all did an excellent job. Colonel Hitchens stated Captain Grier has worked diligently for the last few years in conjunction with DOT to make the traffic easier and smoother with fewer personnel.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III stated he heard there was a feeling in the General Assembly concerning raising revenues for fees and services that DPS provides for other people and asked Colonel Hitchens if that was an issue for DPS. Colonel Hitchens replied that DPS has looked at it a little bit, but DPS only issues emergency vehicle permits for fire departments, EMS vehicles and wreckers for a fee of \$2.00. Colonel Hitchens stated he does not want to charge public service agencies a fee for providing public service and DPS does not have a high volume of these requests.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation told the Board members that the Chattahoochee Hills Police Department requested GBI to assist them in the murder of one of their police officers. Director Keenan advised that Chattahoochee Hills is a small community in S. Fulton County that had a ten man police department. Director Keenan described that Lt. Mike Vogt was on routine patrol on a dirt road when he was shot and killed with an assault rifle. GBI and Chattahoochee Hills PD worked the case, developed a suspect, obtained arrest warrants and knew where the perpetrator was at. The perpetrator was held up in a camper trailer in S. Fulton County, had a fully automatic assault rifle, had hundreds of rounds of ammunition and professed to his family that he was going to shoot it out with law enforcement when they came to arrest him. The Fulton County Sheriff's Department SWAT Team as well as the Fulton County Police Department SWAT Team was activated to assist with the arrest. Director Keenan advised neither one of the two SWAT teams had an armored vehicle so he contacted Major McDonough and the GSP SWAT Team was activated and came with their armored vehicle. Director Keenan stated law enforcement surrounded the area, the GSP armored vehicle went up with the troopers, did a call out and the perpetrator decided he did not want to die this day. The perpetrator was taken into custody, has been indicted and will stand trial for the murder of Lt. Vogt. Director Keenan told the Board members as the case unfolded, what occurred was the perpetrator, Mr. Cook in his late forties, was riding around drinking, he had a previous DUI arrest, had stopped on a dirt road and urinated. Just by chance Lt. Vogt came up on routine patrol, saw Mr. Cook standing in the roadway, pulled up beside of him and asked Mr. Cook for his driver's license. Mr.

Cook went to his car, reached in his window and came out with a fully automatic 5.56 mm assault rifle, fired from his hip into Officer Vogt's car and struck Lt. Vogt three times. Lt. Vogt died at the scene. Director Keenan stated this was an excellent example of law enforcement officers in action not only involving an investigation but the success in the arrest of the perpetrator. Director Keenan thanked the GSP for their quick response with their armored vehicle.

Director Keenan stated that last Monday 150 state and local police officers participated in a video poker gambling raid in Emanuel and Toombs County. The District Attorney organized the investigation; 31 search warrants were executed with over 200 video poker machines and nearly \$60,000.00 in cash seized. Director Keenan stated that the GBI will continue with the investigation and seize bank accounts; the Superior Court Judge has signed civil forfeiture papers on twenty nine businesses that were involved in the video poker game operation.

Director Keenan stated that the GBI received an open records request last week from Hustler Magazine for all of the investigative documents in the Meredith Emerson rape murder case. Director Keenan relayed that Meredith Emerson was the hiker that disappeared in Union County. She was kidnapped by Gary Hilton and remained captive for over three days, was then raped and murdered. Her decapitated body was recovered. Hilton was arrested; he has been convicted in GA and sent to FL to stand trial for essentially the same type of crime. Director Keenan stated because this was a closed case that occurred two years ago, all the investigative records in the file are subject to open records with a few exceptions. He stated Hustler Magazine was very specific in their request for the crime scene photos and went on to state the request for crime scene photos is an unusual occurrence. Director Keenan relayed that previously the only request GBI has had for such graphic materials has come from authors who are doing research on some type of history, an attorney pursuing a wrongful death case or inmates in a GA prison who are seeking the crime scene photographs from the case for which they are incarcerated. Director Keenan stated GBI does not release photos to inmates, as the Wardens have declared this to be contraband. The fact of the matter is that under the open records act there is not a specific exception for crime scene photographs. Director Keenan stated he had the case file brought to him, placed in his office and he is the sole custodian of the Emerson case. Director Keenan made the decision that he would release all the materials in the case with the exception of the photographs which depicted the nude and decapitated body of Meredith Emerson. Director Keenan advised much of this material had been previously released and GBI has no issue with it being public documents as is required by law, but frankly the GBI is not releasing those photographs absent a directive from the court. Director Keenan went on to state that yesterday, he and Mr. Joe Drolet appeared in DeKalb County Superior Court for a hearing regarding a request from the Meredith Emerson family for an injunction to prevent the release of the photographs. Although the GBI was not going to release the photographs, the family wanted legal standing which the GBI fully supports. The open records act does not have a specific exemption from photographs being released. Director Keenan stated that House Speaker David Ralston learned of the request over the weekend, he asked that I call him and he advised me that on Monday that the GA General Assembly would be introducing legislation which would address crime scene photographs by making them exempt from public release and would fast track this legislation. Director Keenan stated this bill was introduced yesterday and wanted to thank Mr. Joe Drolet for appearing with him in DeKalb County Court on this issue; we had the best outcome

that we could have. The Judge issued a restraining order barring release of these photographs. Director Keenan stated this will give GBI legal standing to do what he knew needed to be done. The next step for Hustler Magazine is that they can request a hearing and then we will go to court over that.

Director Keenan stated this past weekend they had four murder death investigations that GBI was called out on which is routine for any weekend, usually there will be 3-6 death investigations in the state.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III asked Director Keenan if GBI was looking at any kind of recovery on the services by GBI by raising or charging fees. Director Keenan replied he had not heard of any movement to do that this year.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Director Keenan if March 31, 2010 was still the closing date for the three crime labs and Director Keenan confirmed that it was. Director Keenan stated there was a meeting organized by the Lt. Governor's office with the legislation delegation and public officials of the Columbus area. Director Keenan advised Assistant Director Dan Kirk handled that meeting and the discussion there was would the local officials provide funding to keep the lab open in Columbus. Director Keenan stated he does not know what their intent is at this point, but they did ask us to provide the specific breakdown of the finances that would be needed to keep the lab open. Director Keenan stated absent any money coming to the GBI, the three labs will close at midnight March 31, 2010.

Sheriff Cronic asked as the Board of Public Safety if it would be appropriate to issue a letter requesting that our state legislators prioritize law enforcement services. Sheriff Cronic went on to say he did not know what impact it might have, but it would at least give us an active role in supporting the agencies that we oversee and agencies around the state. Chief Dekmar added that this had been discussed and we were waiting to see what the legislature was doing and based on the appearances that he saw, the DPS, GBI and GPSTC are taking substantial hits. Chief Dekmar stated on behalf of the Chiefs Association, as a client agency he has appeared before the legislative committee, thinks there is an opportunity, but there seems to be reluctance generally or to take the necessary job to prioritize public safety. Chief Dekmar went on to state that he was looking at the eighty-seven page Constitution of the State of Georgia has for setting up the legislative branch, the second thing it mentions right after how you set up the Governor's office of responsibility is the structure and duties of Public Safety. The second bill of rights item defines Public Safety for citizens so it is clear that our citizens think Public Safety is a pretty big deal for whatever reason and Public Safety is really a priority. Chief Dekmar stated that this may be the time to address this issue in a fashion as it is not only going to impact our state agencies, but ultimately the 30,000 local and county officers that provide public safety. Chief Dekmar stated he would be happy to work with Vice-Chairman Wood and Sheriff Cronic and other Board members to draft a letter to the General Assembly.

After much discussion, Chief Dekmar made a motion that the Board of Public Safety members authorize correspondence to the legislature conditional upon the approval of the Board members and

the authorization of Vice-Chairman Wood. This was seconded by Sheriff Cronin and voted approved by all Board members.

Chief Dekmar went on to tell the Board members about the handouts he receives every week. Chief Dekmar related there are agencies where DNA is available but not processed as evidence in labs as there are not personnel or resources to process the evidence. In regards to labs and lab oversights, the forensic work, whether or not the tests are invalid there have been several scandals around the country in the last year from state labs to large city labs. Chief Dekmar asked Director Keenan to comment on the cost of the way we do business which provides for peer review and explain what peer review is and why we do this and what it initially costs. Director Keenan responded that the GBI Crime Lab is one of the highest volume labs in the country, doing nearly 90,000 cases a year. The GBI laboratory system is nationally accredited and part of the accreditation process is that you have to do the analysis based on standards which are nationally recognized and there must be a peer review of all the completed work, which means that every test that is conducted by the crime laboratory is reviewed by another scientist. This is a quality control measure under which professional labs operate. Director Keenan reported where laboratories get into the scandals that Chief Dekmar referred to is when there is a lack of proper oversight and leadership or a lack of resources and the lab starts cutting corners and not doing quality control. A lack of quality control will lead to a scandal in the laboratory; the number one priority in the GBI lab is quality. The GBI has to accept backlogs but we cannot accept a lack of quality. The GBI Crime Lab just recently completed its national accreditation, all this requires and factors into the way a lab system operates. Director Keenan reported if there is too much strain on the lab, then there will be a breakdown in quality and that is some of the issues we have been dealing with; having too many facilities and too few scientists. Chief Dekmar stated that he recalled when there was an instance where the lab scientist has faltered; it has been GBI's peer review that spotted it, not some attorney, and not some interest group. Director Keenan reiterated that problems with flawed analysis were detected through peer review process, quality control measures. Scientists are doing their own tests and reviewing other scientists' work which is the cost of doing business in a professional laboratory. Chief Dekmar asked the Board members to look at the vacant state positions and look at the number of scientists positions that are vacant, this is what you would prefer to in management as a predictable surprise, this is something that is predictable and when it happens you wonder oh my gosh how did it happen and then when you look at the history of what has happened to the labs it is something that is easily predictable. I would just echo Sheriff Cronin's comments to say that we need to be striving and ensuring that the labs and the GBI gets what they need so that citizens in the state do not see the predictable surprise.

Director Keenan recognized District Attorney Stan Gunter and thanked him for the hard work he does. Director Keenan stated Mr. Gunter was the prosecutor for the Meredith Emerson case; he was out there every day with our agents tracking the case seeing that Gary Hilton was brought before court to face the charges.

Director Mann stated he had a couple of updates. Director Mann stated a couple of days ago a DOC tactical officer was filming with GTA and dropped dead with a heart attack and expressed his condolences to Commissioner Owens for the loss to the DOC. Director Mann spoke of the gas spill

last December and the total cost to refit, not the clean-up of the 30,000 gallon fuel tank which will be eliminated and replaced with a 10,000 gallon underground tank in its place. Bids were opened this past week with the price of \$165,000.00, to get rid of the old tank, re-plumb and put in the new tank. Director Mann stated GPSTC will divert some of the money from the new burn building to complete this project. Director Mann went on state that no one knows what the budget is going to look like for 2011 and thanked the Chiefs and Sheriffs for their public comments at the sub-committee public safety appropriation hearings. Director Mann stated he thinks that when the real consumers of the services step up and say that fines and forfeitures are already paying for their training it makes a difference when the folks are willing to stand up and say this and I appreciate both of those groups being there. Director Mann stated in the Governor's recommendation a couple of things that are not pleasant but again it is something that we will have to do. One of them is relocating the academy from Macon to the Training Center and right now the plan is to keep the staff in place and actually offer basic training at the Training Center; we do not think it will interfere with our customer base in middle GA; it is a drivable thing for them to do. The Fulton Academy is in the Governor's recommendation to not be funded through contract next year which is one of three in the Metro-Atlanta area.

Director Mann reported that on February 15, 2010, GPSTC had a meeting of the Memorial Committee. There were nine names submitted of people that had died last year or previous years. Two firefighters and two police officers were approved for inclusion on the wall. Director Mann asked for a motion to accept the below names to be included on the Memorial Wall:

Terrell Lee Adams of Tifton PD 04-22-2009

Horace E. Thompson of Brunswick PD 07-21-1894

Derick Edward North-Volunteer Fire Fighter of Lake Lanier Volunteer Fire and Rescue 02-23-2009

Paul Douglas Holmes, Jr.-Firefighter/Paramedic with the Douglas County Fire Department 12-28-2009

Chief Jack McElfish made the motion, seconded by Sheriff Steve Cronic and voted approval by the Board members.

DONATIONS

Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

Ten (10) Stream light Stinger LED Rechargeable Flashlights	\$1,250.00	Cairo Police Department
Six (6) Stalkers DSR 2X Radars	\$17,970.00	Grady Co. Bd of Commissioners
One (1) Stalker DSR 2X Radar	\$ 3,210.00	Camilla Police Department
One (1) Black Labrador Dog	\$ 2,500.00	Ludowici Police Department
One (1) Stalker DSR Radar	\$3,069.00	Oglethorpe Co. Bd of Comm.

The motion for these donations was made by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, seconded by Chief Jack McElfish and voted approved by the Board members.

Vice-Chairman Wood called on Department of Corrections Commissioner Brian Owens for the DOC presentation. Commissioner Owens began by stating that back in 2005 there was an incident at Rogers State Prison and as DOC looked deeper and deeper into the allegations at Rogers State Prison in regards to inmate abuse by DOC staff, DOC decided it was too big for DOC to handle so the GBI was called in. The investigation took a good part of a year, quite a few people were terminated and there were those that were convicted. Commissioner Owens stated as part of the after action report, DOC went back and examined all of its practices, policies and procedures and functional alignments and we then created what is called the Office of Investigations and Compliance. Commissioner Owens introduced Mr. Ricky Myrick, who leads the Office of Investigations and Compliance. Mr. Myrick introduced his staff Ms. Sarah Draper, Deputy Director, Ms. Shevonda Fields, Manager of Inmate Affairs and Ombudsman Unit, Mr. Richard Chromi of the Intelligence Unit, Mr. Keith Lank with the SE Fugitive Squad, Ms. Cheryl Frazier of the Audits and Compliance unit, Ms. Jan Rolain assigned to GISAC, and FBI agent Ms. Wendy Kilpatrick assigned to GISAC. Each member of the Office of Investigations and Compliance gave a brief description of their job and function of their department as it relates to inmates in the prison system.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded Board members that the April Board of Public Safety meeting would be April 15th in Glennville at the Glennville Garden Club. Lunch will be provided and lodging will be in Statesboro. The Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner will be at Wayne Dasher's in Glennville and on Friday morning prior to departing we will have breakfast.

Vice-Chairman Wood advised the Board members that the revised committee assignments have been completed with the addition of the two new members. Vice-Chairman Wood asked that the Chairs of each of the three respective committees contact the agency that they are assigned to and the agency head and let them know that you are available if they need you to help them do something.

Vice-Chairman Wood stated in regards to the three members that were rotated off, he asked everyone to make some special type of conveyance to them to thank them for their service. Vice-Chairman Wood stated he would like the three members to come to a meeting later in the year to be thanked appropriately. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made a motion to prepare resolutions for the three former Board members, with a second by Chief Lou Dekmar and voted approved by the Board members.

Vice Chairman Wood stated he continues to work on some on-campus meetings that would be informative and educational. Major McDonough is working on a possible meeting in May at the KIA plant in West Point. Other possible locations this year will be the GBI Headquarters, FLETC in Brunswick and our student site will be Statesboro High School. Vice Chairman Wood asked the

agency heads to start thinking about a program oriented toward the students. Vice-Chairman Wood stated during the three summer months, we would only meet if needed.

Chief Jack McElfish thanked everyone for their prayers and contributions after the passing of his mother in February. He was very humbled by the people that touched him and his family.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III commented that he thought this was a very good meeting today and that the agency heads were very informative. Mr. Bowen thanked Vice-Chairman Wood for his leadership.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III
Secretary