

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

March 10, 2011

Department of Corrections Board Room – Atlanta, GA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III
Chief Jon Canada
Sheriff Steven D. Cronic
Chief Louis M. Dekmar
Mr. Patrick H. Head
Mr. C. Murray Kight
Sheriff Dane Kirby
Commissioner Brian Owens
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.
Sheriff H. Cullen Talton
Mr. Gerald T. Willis
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Daniel M. Bryant

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 M. W. McDonough, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
Captain R. D. Powell, Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol
Lt. A. W. Marlowe, Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol
Sergeant Kevin Johnson, Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol
Sergeant Anthony Hughes, Department of Public Safety
Comptroller Joseph W. Hood, Department of Public Safety
Major Wayne Beck, Department of Public Safety, MCCC
Mr. Lee O'Brien, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Dan Brown, Department of Public Safety
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Shirley Andrews, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. LaTonya Wade, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director J. Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Deputy Director Patrice Kerner, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Division Director Butch Beach, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Vonnie B. Stewart, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Kenneth Mantle, Department of Corrections
Colonel Rueben McGhee, Houston County Sheriff's Office
Mrs. Louise Rampy
Mr. Terry Norris, Georgia Sheriffs' Association

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. Johnny M. Hunt, Pastor of Woodstock First Baptist Church to give the devotion. Dr. Hunt introduced Mr. Peyton Hill, a resident of Mississippi, who is a graduate of the seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas that was mentoring under him. After the devotion and prayer, Mr. Wood thanked Sgt. Kevin Johnson in assisting with the transportation of Dr. Hunt. Vice-Chairman Wood led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood welcomed Chairman of the Pardons and Parole Board, Mr. James Donald to the BPS meeting.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

Vice-Chairman Wood turned the meeting over to BPS Secretary Rooney L. Bowen, III who stated the floor was open for nominations for a Vice-Chairman of the Board of Public Safety. Commissioner Owens stated the Board has had able leadership from the current Vice-Chairman despite some very difficult times in Public Safety and thinks Public Safety is beginning to come out of some of these difficult times just a little bit and would like to nominate the current Vice-Chairman to serve another year as the Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Owens added that Mr. Wood puts his heart and soul into this Board as well as an enormous amount of time and it would be an honor to nominate Mr. Ellis Wood and to continue under his service. The nomination was seconded by Chief Lou Dekmar and voted approved by the Board members. The meeting was turned back over to Vice-Chairman Wood.

Vice-Chairman Wood declared the floor was open for nominations for Secretary to the Board of Public Safety. Sheriff Cullen Talton nominated Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III to continue on as the Secretary for the Board of Public Safety. Mr. Gerald Willis seconded the nomination and was voted approved by the Board members.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the February Board minutes. Chief Lou Dekmar made the motion, seconded by Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III and voted approval by the Board members.

DIRECT REPORTS

Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety began by telling the Board members that he had a little good news and a little bad news concerning the DPS budget. Colonel Hitchens reminded the Board members that some time ago he had spoken about personnel being furloughed one day a month for 12 months which resulted in about 8,000 less eight hour patrols and as a direct result of this, the gas usage went down substantially; \$400,000.00 of gas funds were left over and in this budget they took that \$400,000.00 out of the budget so what this amounts to in the last 5-6 months of fiscal year 2010, GSP is \$50,000.00 a month short for fuel money. Colonel Hitchens reiterated that last month he had spoken about some of the Sheriffs that were donating gasoline to keep patrol cars running and how much GSP appreciated this. Colonel Hitchens stated when the legislature went through the fiscal year amended budget, he brought this to everyone's attention and the good news is that the legislature has

put \$200,000.00 back into the GSP budget for the remainder of this year which is \$50,000.00 a month for the last four months of this fiscal year; GSP can return to normal operations once more.

As a result of the Board's approval last month for the promotion of Major McDonough to Deputy Commissioner, Colonel Hitchens told the Board members that he has named Captain Russell Powell as the Interim Commanding Officer and since 2008 the Department has not had the funding for promotions. Colonel Hitchens added that no one in the agency has been promoted to include civilians, the uniform division or the MCCD as the Department does not have the money to do this. Captain Powell will remain a Captain and also Major Beck was a Major in the MCCD when Chief McCloud retired and has been moved into the Chief position, but did not get promoted. Colonel Hitchens stated he had receive a little flack about Lieutenant Colonel McDonough being promoted and wished to put some clarity on this as the law provides that when the Deputy Commissioner position is vacated that the Commissioner nominates the successor and it could be anyone, the individual does not have to come from the uniform division, it can be anyone that has the proper qualifications and is approved by the Board of Public Safety which was voted on at the last meeting and the law says that the Deputy Commissioner shall hold the rank of Lt. Colonel. The reason that LTC McDonough was promoted and no one else in the agency was promoted in the last two years is because the law requires the promotion. Colonel Hitchens stated there are other vacancies within the Department and we do not have the money to replace these people. Colonel Hitchens added that right now to fill the vacancies in the uniform division, it would cost 1.1 million dollars and Colonel Hitchens relayed that he had discussed this before the joint appropriations committee and several other committees but as yet those funds have not been forthcoming.

Colonel Hitchens stated that the DPS received a \$70,000.00 grant a couple of months ago through GOHS for Motorcycle Safety from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and essentially what the NHTSA asked DPS to do was to hold motorcycle safety checks conducting six one day safety point checks between March 1-December 31, 2012 and this money came through the GOHS. Colonel Hitchens added that while LTC McDonough was taking the Executive Leadership Course, his class project was on motorcycle safety and his research discovered a lot of things and one thing that impressed him, in 2008, there were more military personnel killed in motorcycle crashes in the continental US than were killed in action in both Iraq and Afghanistan the entire year. Colonel Hitchens added that a safety educational program has been developed and GSP goes to military institutions and civic clubs and now that we have the grant, we have implemented enforcement posture. Colonel Hitchens told the Board members that the New York State Police participated in this grant which caused a lot of controversy and they were sued. Colonel Hitchens stated what DPS has tried to do is to be as open about this as we could by putting out a news release and yesterday, DPS held the first checkpoint after putting the information out nationwide, stating what DPS would be looking for; looking at the equipment on the vehicle, making sure the individual has a DOT approved helmet and certainly making sure that people are not intoxicated or under the influence. Colonel Hitchens stated that through the last month or two, the DPS has received a lot of mail and a lot of allegations about constitutionality and Colonel Hitchens stated the Department was greatly surprised yesterday when we held the safety checks. A lot of the previous mail that was received stated they would not stop at the checkpoints and none of this happened; everyone that DPS dealt with was pretty

openly happy about it and thought the safety check was a great thing; it took just a minute or two to look at the bike, their license and make sure that everyone operating a motorcycle was doing so properly. Colonel Hitchens stated the Department received one complaint the whole day while conducting the safety checks at the MCCD Weigh Station in Savannah on I-95SB and at Forsyth on I-75SB which was called off 4 hours early due to the inclement weather. Colonel Hitchens added there would be five more safety checks and was very happy with the people that came through and participated; thought it was within the public interest too. Colonel Hitchens stated a little over 500 motorcycles came through the Savannah safety check and were concerned about people trying to go by without stopping, but DPS had chase teams in the event this occurred; about one in four motorcyclists that came through did go by, but most of it was due to signage from DOT and the motorcyclists were very apologetic when they found out and this was not really an issue either.

Colonel Hitchens presented the Georgia State Patrol Criminal Interdiction 2010 Annual Report and stated that all of the troopers in the unit have had the 287G training as they are involved in some immigration issues but their primary focus is criminal activity. Colonel Hitchens stated the fact of where we are geographically located and where the drug trafficking is occurring, this unit constantly finds themselves involved in drug activity; continue to do a great job and have seized a tremendous amount of drugs of all types. Colonel Hitchens shared that the cumulative total in monetary impact for CIU during calendar year 2010 was \$43,621,094.60 which included drugs, vehicles and all the illegal currency that was seized. Colonel Hitchens stated he was caught by surprise at the type of seizures that were made (including marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine and other dangerous drugs) and since CIU began in 2002, marijuana had a couple of spike years up and down, while 2010 was not that high, cocaine seizures pretty much ran the same and then with methamphetamines in 2010, it is about three times higher than in the past. Colonel Hitchens emphasized that those people who don't think there is a meth problem in Georgia certainly need to look at some of the statistical data. Since implementing the CIU team in 2002, Colonel Hitchens told the Board members the total monetary impact has been \$321,877,211.55 and for every \$1.00 invested by the DPS in the CIU during the 2010 calendar year resulted in seizures totaling \$28.77, which equates to 2,877% return on investment which has been pretty significant. Colonel Hitchens told the Board members they were welcome to review the report.

Mr. Rooney Bowen, III asked Colonel Hitchens what was the actual time line when the officer takes control of a seizure to the asset forfeiture money being distributed among the participating agencies. Colonel Hitchens responded this depends on the case and stated when there is just money in a vehicle, this case goes pretty fast as occupants of the vehicle will deny that it is their money and these cases move pretty rapidly, while a large drug case which we were involved in with the DEA, GBI and other agencies went on for a long time, 25-30 people in GA were arrested and about 40 people across the nation went on for a couple of years and the money was just distributed about a month ago. Colonel Hitchens reminded the Board members when the announcement was on TV, he and Director Kennan were tagged at the legislature about where this money was going and why we were not using the money to pay salaries and for cars that we had asked the legislature for. Colonel Hitchens reaffirmed that everyone in law enforcement knows asset forfeiture money can only be used for training and to buy specialized equipment. Colonel Hitchens added that cases could take three years or 6 months.

Colonel Hitchens spoke about Rolling Thunder in Hall County, an initiative through the Governor's Office of Highway Safety where local agencies become involved and troopers are sent to areas that have problems with traffic safety. Colonel Hitchens advised there would be five waves of this Rolling Thunder with three of them completed with 2100 contacts, 42 DUIs and a great variety of other activities. Sheriff Cronin added this Rolling Thunder has been a great operation with great success and a lot of PR and great feedback. This is attributed to everyone working and coordinating together. Colonel Hitchens recalled that the first Rolling Thunder was in Savannah and had the most dramatic results with DUI activity being tremendous and after being in the Savannah/Chatham County area for a couple of months, the fatality rate went down significantly for well over a year and DUI arrests rate in Savannah went down and thinks it makes an impact, not sure of how long this effect lasts.

Colonel Hitchens added that what came out of the Savannah initiative was NHTSA and the GOHS came around and gave DPS a grant to put troopers in the Savannah area full-time on a DUI Task Force like we currently have in the Atlanta area and this has really been very effective. Colonel Hitchens stated that the Savannah Morning News was real negative about the task force as they did away with the Savannah Police Department's task force and put the GSP task force in and they did not see the necessity for this and Savannah Police Department kept their task force and funded it locally, but our troopers have quadrupled what the local police agencies have done as Savannah PD answer calls even if they are on the DUI Task Force and if SPD has a call it is priority when someone's life is in jeopardy or if there is a real issue, SPD answer calls and our people continue on. Sheriff Cronin commented that if GSP did not work crashes in Hall County, they would not be able to respond to the necessary calls that Hall County has.

Mr. Rooney Bowen, III added that with the gas shortages, the troopers in the field were more or less forced to road check and run stationary radar and commended the GSP for the quality of arrests instead of regular speeding tickets, GSP is actually getting a lot of folks off the road. Even though gas has been appropriated for the rest of this fiscal year, Mr. Bowen stated he hopes to see the GSP continue with the road checks and stationary radar due to the quality of arrests that are being made. Colonel Hitchens added these things do occur and know they occur when we do road checks and the public would be amazed at how many wanted people are picked up. Colonel Hitchens recalled that a guy was picked up the other day right outside of Cochran, a Hispanic male who had the wrong driver's license and by checking further, he was wanted for a murder in Miami, FL, eighteen years ago. He had been living in Cochran and passed through a road check at the wrong time, was apprehended and returned for trial.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Colonel Hitchens about the funds for the Savannah/Chatham Nighthawks Unit and Colonel Hitchens replied that he believes the money is pretty much continuous as the Nighthawks unit in Atlanta has been ongoing for 9-10 years and continues to be funded as they do such a good job and this is the hope in Savannah. Colonel Hitchens stated the Department has some grave concerns due to the budgetary cutbacks both at the federal and state level as GOHS took a pretty big cut in the last round of budget cuts in state government. GOHS only has so much money and when they take cuts from both levels of government they have to go back and cut their activities and that may have an impact on the GSP in the long run.

Colonel Hitchens told the Board members that DPS is participating in the Suspicious Activity Reporting and by March 28th, all sworn personnel will have viewed the CD.

Director Vernon Kennan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation followed up on Colonel Hitchens comments about asset forfeiture stating that the DEA has heard and felt the GBI's pain over asset forfeiture and the DEA stated they will not have any more news conferences passing out asset forfeiture money. And in addition to this, the US Attorney for the Northern District of GA saw the news conference and Ms. Sally Yates is in the process of sending a letter out to all law enforcement in North Georgia warning them about using asset forfeiture to supplant the budget as if this occurs three things will happen; one gets prosecuted for it, they pull one out of the program and then they make one pay the money back. Director Keenan added that this is a loser-loser and knows that the law enforcement executives here today understand the sensitivity of this, but this is an ongoing educational process to budget people who see this as a pot of money that they want to tap into so bad. Director Keenan reiterated there are very strict requirements in regard to asset forfeiture.

Director Keenan spoke and gave the history of a national program that relates to SAR (Suspicious Activity Reporting) stating that after 911 when the 911 Commission reviewed what had happened with the terrorist attacks, it was very plain that law enforcement was not communicating with each other sharing information and made serious recommendations and many of those recommendations were incorporated in the 2004 Intelligence Reform Act which mandated certain things at the national level. Director Keenan stated one of the mandates was that there be a creation of an information sharing environment which is designed to force federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to share information across all spectrums of government. Part of this program is the SARs initiative. The video is a roll call line officer training video which explains what the program is. This is pretty simple in concept but extremely important; it is the objective of the US Department of Justice that every law enforcement officer in America view this video, all 800,000 plus officers at the federal, state and local level and that they participate in this program in some form or fashion. This is the structured process that is going to allow law enforcement agencies to connect the dots over preoperational planning and terrorist activities in the US. After viewing the SARs CD, Director Keenan advised that GA is in full swing of completing this training across the state with the SARs initiative. The officers as they go about their normal duties and detect suspicious behaviors, they can report that either by telephone to the state fusion center, Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center or the preferred way is we have a template that is on the computer, they can complete and submit. Director Keenan stated GISAC was working with the GSP to use their existing computer system where the information can be extracted out and then uploaded immediately. This information goes to the fusion center where they will have the responsibility for vetting the information to make sure it is of substance, that there is a foundation there, and that it meets the criteria to upload into the national SARs database. There are also very strict privacy civil liberties policies associated with all of this. Director Keenan added that all of the technology is in place, we have the privacy policies which have been approved by the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security, have trained the analysts and now we are reaching out to educate law enforcement on this.

Mr. Jerry Willis asked Director Keenan how far down the food chain is this training going and how is this going to happen and Director Keenan replied that GBI will be working with the police academies and each individual agency to look for opportunities to do in-service training, specialized training, whatever it will take to reach out to all the officers in Georgia. Director Keenan stated at the summer Chiefs Conference, they did a presentation over this and passed out the same CD to every police chief in Georgia and will be doing the same thing with the Sheriffs. Director Keenan advised it would take a while to reach the 35,000 police officers in the state as it is to do all the 800,000 in the US. Director Keenan noted this is just one stage as the Department of Homeland Security has a plan to reach out to firefighters, EMS, and other government workers encouraging them to report suspicious behavior into the fusion centers so that the information can be vetted and uploaded. There is also a program that DHS is rolling out to bring in the private sector, such as someone working in a power plant that determines suspicious behavior to report this in. The plan is to not only have law enforcement, but all public safety, then private industry as well as the public, reporting in suspicious behavior that can be used to connect the dots to prevent a terrorist attack.

Chief Dekmar stated the SARS CDs were passed out at the summer Chiefs Conference and again in January and his officers at LaGrange PD completed the training in February and would expect by summer all law enforcement would have had the opportunity to view the CD.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III questioned Director Keenan about the greatly decreased total vacant positions in DOFS and total vacant scientist positions from December to January and asked if this is giving up positions and not being able to hire personnel. Director Keenan responded this is moving people from federal grant positions over to state positions. Director Keenan added the legislature has not taken any crime lab positions, just vacant agent positions. The staffing level in the crime lab has remained constant but what occurs is we hire scientists on federal grant positions and then as we have state funds available we move them over to a state position. Director Keenan stated the GBI has hired scientists in the last 90 days, maybe a dozen. Director Keenan stated they can fill the positions but reminded the Board that it takes 12-18 months to train the new hires. Director Keenan stated that the backlog in the crime lab continues to be reduced and the backlog in the DNA unit is virtually nonexistent, down to less than 100 cases to be worked in DNA. This is occurring as we have had scientists who have completed their training and now they are working the DNA cases. As long as the staffing level remains the same they can keep up with the workload, but as that changes, if we lose scientists, which we will, then the backlog will climb back up. As of now we are getting below 5,000 cases in the total backlog of the agency.

Chief Dekmar commented that toxicology seems to be a challenge and Director Keenan agreed and stated this comes from losing scientists. Director Keenan added that the crime lab is operating at a level of staffing that when we have a scientist that goes out on sick leave; it affects the backlog as there is no buffer there.

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center began by stating he would let the GPSTC Board report speak for itself and advised since the last Board meeting there has been several things that have occurred that has had some impact on the training business at the GPSTC. Director Mann stated

POST Council met yesterday and there was a rule change that will have an impact directly on those who run radar. Director Mann added there will be no testing on the radar recertification; we are no longer going to have a test for radar recertification which will clean this up a bunch as we had some folks wanting to get radar recertification and had to wait on the test and getting rid of the test is not that big of a deal because the true test is actually going to come when the law enforcement officer presents their case in court. Director Mann stated those that have not learned the material, will be grilled from criminal defense attorneys, so that will work out. This rule change also cleans up some issues that had bogged down between the academies, POST and the radar recertification.

Director Mann related that the second rule change that took place yesterday, which was voted on by the full POST Council was a change to discontinue POST having a volunteer certification for Chaplains. Director Mann stated the Chiefs Association and the Sheriffs Association have been active in that they want to have Chaplains, but the prerequisite for getting a Chaplain certified became problematic as they had a requirement for ordination, some of them do not have the same requirements for ordination and it was difficult to prove, so you can still have Chaplains; the Chaplain will not be subject to any type of volunteer certification with POST.

Director Mann stated the next rule change that happened is one that Director Keenan and the GCIC staff worked together on and in basic training there has been a requirement until July 1, 2011 that part of the training curriculum was a GCIC test component and we actually have had people fail this even though it is an open book test; you had to make 100% on this test. The truth is GCIC has put this test on line within the last 12 months, so the recertification that is required every three years, you have to go on line to do this anyway and we thought it was a good idea to have basic training students go on line and complete the initial test. POST Council voted to take those three hours out of basic training for GCIC, no longer going to teach GCIC and these three hours will be added back to traffic enforcement. Traffic enforcement in basic training is still listed as eight hours which is not very much time to teach traffic laws.

Mr. Rooney Bowen, III asked Director Mann if this was the same as Security and Integrity and he replied yes it is.

Director Mann stated something else that has happened since the last BPS meeting, with the pending changes in the HOPE grant, the technical schools are in serious trouble with continuing their six pilot programs. Director Mann added that Mr. Ron Jackson has stated there are some serious funding issues to maintain the six pilot programs. This is one of the things that will be discussed at the meeting on March 23.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded the Board members that the Board had the collective thought that we would refocus on the basic mandate program due to a number of issues and we feel like it is time to bring the issues back to the table with all the collective agencies and interested parties and scheduled the meeting for March 23. Vice-Chairman Wood stated after the meeting was scheduled we started to hear some rumblings that there were some serious considerations about the liability of this program, along with the CDL program due to possible changes in HOPE. Vice-Chairman Wood added that we

are unsure what the changes might be, but will go ahead with the meeting on March 23 at 1000 hours at the GPSTC and everyone is welcome to attend and we have tried our best to contact every agency or interested party that we know might have an interest in this issue. Hopefully we will have input from the technical college system about where they think it might be going and we will try to revisit some of the issues that concern us.

Chief Lou Dekmar commented that when we were doing the study on this a couple of years ago, we looked at the Florida and North Carolina models and in his recollection, neither of the models are state funded or state granted, they are treated as any other professional school like nursing school and law school; the individual that wants to pursue that career pays for the tuition; so how is the reduction or elimination of the HOPE grant going to jeopardize the program if we are looking at evolving into a process where students or those that are interested in a law enforcement career prepare themselves for a course of study that is sponsored by the colleges? Vice-Chairman Wood added that this is one of the questions that he has and he has been disappointed that we have received information that possibly with one stroke of the pen, these programs could be wiped out, because of contemplating funding issues and his rebuttal to this is we should study the programs for validation, how many are graduating, the success rate, how successful the program has been and then review the cooperative funding, could be that the programs need to continue with self and public funding. Chief Dekmar added that at some point he thought the program would become self sustaining. Vice-Chairman Wood commented that those that would make a statement with a stroke of the pen, just going to wipe out all these programs, certainly seems unfavorable to him at this time and certainly thinks that one of the focuses that we should think about is if there is one particular area of funding that is a challenge, does this make the entire program go away.

Director Mann reminded the Board members when looking at the training three years ago, we were going to run parallel programs so that one had a choice, but before you shut down what we are doing currently, the Sheriff has to have somewhere to get students from and get them to a basic mandate training class to be able to comply with state law. The challenge has always been as to how we can run these parallel, develop the technical schools so that they can turn out enough candidates for the Sheriff to pick from and Director Mann agrees with Mr. Wood, that the true professionalism thing we will accomplish in our life time is that we get folks to get the training pre-service and then when a Sheriff wants to hire someone, he does not have to hire them, take a chance and roll the dice that the person can pass the academy. He knows, he has the literature in front of him, does the background and wants to put the guy to work, he puts him to work. Director Mann added that this is complex and there is a challenge in this and now a little more convoluted with some question as to where the money is going to come from to pay for this.

DONATIONS

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

One Genesis II Directional Radar	\$1,350.00	GOHS
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One Laser Technology Laser Unit	\$1,499.00	Ellijay Police Department
One Taser X26	\$ 834.90	Alapaha Police Department
One Set Ohaus Scout Pro SP401 Scales	\$ 362.70	Elberton Police Department
Twenty Kodak Easy Share C183 Digital Cameras	\$1,605.00	Bartow Cartersville DTF
One Stalker Radar DSR 2X Unit	\$2,995.00	Ellijay Police Department

The motion to accept these donations was made by Chief Lou Dekmar, seconded by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., and voted approved by the Board members.

Sheriff Steve Cronic made a motion that the Board prepare and present Resolutions to former Board members, Chief Jack McElfish and retired Sheriff Bruce Harris. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III and voted approved by the Board members.

Vice-Chairman Wood recognized Mr. Terry Norris of the Georgia Sheriffs Association.

Vice-Chairman Wood advised the Board members that the committee assignments would be forthcoming next month.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded Board members that the April 14th Board of Public Safety meeting would be a joint meeting to include the Department of Corrections, POST Council, State Board of Pardons and Parole in Glennville at the Glennville Garden Club. Lunch will be served at 1200 hours and the joint meeting will begin at 1300 hours. For those interested, Commissioner Owens has agreed to provide some tours.

Vice-Chairman Wood stated that DOC Commissioner Owens has agreed to host the May BPS meeting at the Tift College/DOC facility. Vice-Chairman Wood added that the June, July and August meetings are cancelled at this time and for the September meeting, he is planning a meeting in the Liberty County area for Mr. Danny Bryant to host, with a possible tour at Ft. Stewart. Sheriff Cronic and Chief Canada would like to host the BPS in Hall County in October.

Director Mann reminded those present that the Firefighter's Memorial Ceremony would be on March 26th at 1000 hours at the GPSTC.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III
Secretary

