

## **BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

March 13, 2014

Department of Corrections Board Room, Atlanta, Georgia

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Wayne Abernathy  
Chief Danny Bowman  
Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic  
Mr. C. Murray Kight  
Commissioner Brian Owens  
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.  
Chief Mark Revenew  
Mr. Brian Rickman  
Sheriff Joey Terrell  
Chief Craig Tully  
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Daniel M. Bryant  
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan  
Sheriff Dane Kirby

### **OTHERS:**

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Ms. Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office  
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison  
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 Lewis Young, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Jason Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Tommy Waldrop, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Mrs. Amy Stancil, Department of Public Safety  
Mrs. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety  
Ms. Christina Calloway, Department of Public Safety  
Mr. Joe Hood, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget  
Mr. Seth Taylor, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget  
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mrs. Deborah Anderson-Purcell, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Director Tim Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Kenneth Mantel, Department of Corrections  
Mrs. Louise Rampy

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the March 13, 2014, Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Vice-Chairman Wood presented a video of Coast Guard Rear Admiral William Lee for the invocation and afterwards led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked everyone to keep Commissioner McDonough and his family in their thoughts and prayers as his mother is very sick and also keep Lieutenant Colonel Powell in their prayers as he is battling kidney stones. Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic asked everyone to keep GPSTC Director Tim Bearden's father in their thoughts and prayers as he is battling brain cancer.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked those present to introduce their selves.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 minutes. Chief Mark Revenew made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the BPS members.

Vice-Chairman Wood offered congratulations to the re-appointed BPS members.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Wayne Abernathy advised the nominating committee had unanimously selected Mr. Ellis Wood to continue to serve as Vice-Chairman and for Mr. Brian Rickman to continue to serve as the Secretary. Chief Danny Bowman asked for the nominations to be closed with a second by Chief Craig Tully. All BPS members voted approval for Mr. Ellis Wood to serve as Vice-Chairman and Mr. Brian Rickman to serve as Secretary.

### **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Major Eddie Grier, Georgia State Patrol shared last Friday, the 94<sup>th</sup> trooper school graduation was held with 18 cadets graduating. Major Grier noted most of the cadets went throughout the field for a little bit of help in the field. Major Grier stated the 95<sup>th</sup> trooper school began in January with 94 cadets with 46 remaining and are at the point where the cadets are past the driving, shooting, and accident investigation which causes a few to leave, but think's the school is good now and hopefully will graduate close to 46 cadets in August.

Major Grier stated the driving simulator will begin going around the state next month and this year plans are to increase the participation with the sheriffs and police departments, the fire departments, and for anyone in public safety and are still focusing on due regard issues in the driving simulator. Major Grier noted the simulator is open to anyone in public safety and will schedule a time for the local agencies to participate in the simulator when in their area.

Major Grier noted the two ice incidents in Atlanta was taxing for a little while, as DPS was not very well prepared on the first ice event, but did much better on the second ice event. Major Grier stated the reviews from the public were a lot better for the second ice event as troopers were brought in from all over the state to work and DPS did what they were tasked with; the GEMA program was much better prepared the second time and will do even better in the future on handling these types of incidents.

Major Grier shared there had been a reduction in fatalities in the last three years and as of this morning the state is down 115 for this year which is remarkable. Major Grier stated eventually DPS would like to get below 1000 for a year. Major Grier noted they are hoping the number will continue to go south.

Major Grier noted the legislature is about over with Captain Johnson handling most of the legislative actions along with Commissioner McDonough and have not had any hiccups that are known. Major Grier acknowledged DPS did not have a lot of legislation to get through the session, some MCCC legislation and most of this has passed.

Major Grier shared two patrol stations are nearing completion. Post 2 in LaGrange should be completed by the end of April and for Forsyth P44 which was built back where the old one was standing, they are working on the inside at this time, progressively coming along with Post 44.

Major Grier stated the DPS will be hosting the Southern Colonel's Conference April 13-16 in Atlanta and are looking for good participation from other states coming in and Major Fielding was tasked to handle this.

Vice-Chairman Wood thanked Captain Jason Johnson for his work with the legislature this year.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation stated today is Child Sex Trafficking Day at the Capitol and there are several hundred men and women at the Depot, meeting with their legislators educating them on the problems with child sex trafficking. Director Keenan advised he spoke with them this morning and GBI has a unit that works child sex trafficking cases.

Director Keenan updated the BPS members on a couple of projects the Child Sex Trafficking Unit are involved in beginning within the next few weeks. Director Keenan stated the GBI will be finalizing a statewide survey which was done on the issue of child sex trafficking, in partnership with Georgia State University, the Governor's Office of Family and Children's Services and the CJCC, and the survey went out to all law enforcement agencies in Georgia as well as to social services agencies and child advocacy groups. Director Keenan stated Georgia is the third state to have done a statewide survey on child sex trafficking. Director Keenan advised Tennessee and Wisconsin have already completed their survey and feels Georgia's survey will be very telling about what we are facing in Georgia with child sex trafficking which is basically a lack of education on the issue with the public and law enforcement. Because the GBI is so aggressive in child sex trafficking cases, Director Keenan stated the GBI has been contacted routinely by law enforcement agencies across the US, asking to send investigators down to work with the GBI so they can learn how to investigate these type cases. Director Keenan stated he went to the US DOJ and told them the GBI cannot be a national training unit for child sex trafficking, the GBI unit works criminal cases which are their focus, and we train inside the state of Georgia, but cannot take on training of other law enforcement agencies. To that end, Director Keenan noted the GBI has partnered with federal agencies and for the last two days of April and the 1st day of May, the GBI is hosting a national training event in Atlanta where law enforcement agencies can send their investigators who want to learn the nuts and bolts of working child sex trafficking cases. Director Keenan stressed this training is not an awareness training, as the agencies

are beyond that, they understand the seriousness of the crime and want to learn how to work the cases and this is what the training event will be in Atlanta.

Director Keenan shared the GBI budget thus far is doing very well as the house and the senate appropriation bills have pay raises for the GBI agents and the scientists, the third year tiered pay raises and noted the problem with the agents and scientists turnover rate based on the lack of salaries. Director Keenan stated he pointed out to the governor's office and to the legislature, the pay raises can be paid for in what will be saved in training costs, and this will be the final year for the three tiered pay raises. Director Keenan stated because of the pay raises coming down, it is important to note it has stopped the turnover rate in the crime lab to the point that the backlog in the crime lab has come down over 40%, and shows this is what happens when scientists are no longer coming to the GBI to be trained and go on to other jobs, they stay with the agency and are doing the work that is needed to be done. Director Keenan declared the backlog is down over 40% from what it was last year.

Director Keenan noted there was a bill passed two years ago that called for a metals recycler database to be created where the industry in the metal recycling business are to take photographs of persons selling scrap metal, to get certain types of documentation over the transaction and then upload that information to a database maintained by the GBI. Director Keenan advised both the house and the senate have put in \$150,000.00 to set up the database, this money is what was determined to be required to have a private vendor administer the database as there were two options; the GBI would have to create the database and administer it, which would cost nearly half million dollars or go to a private vendor where software and a database is already created. Director Keenan stated the legislature made the decision to give the GBI the money to outsource the database to a private vendor through a contract process when the budget is finalized.

Director Keenan shared the governor has put in his budget and both the house and the senate have included in their budget to give the GBI an additional medical examiner, which will give the GBI a total of 15 doctors and in addition with this, there will be a medical examiner investigator, \$260,000.00 for both of the positions. Director Keenan reminded the Board he had briefed them before that both of the positions were definitely needed in the GBI due to the amount of workload the medical examiner's office handles each year and the workload continues to grow.

Director Keenan updated the BPS on last year's statistics in regards to the Rapid ID project, explaining it is a handheld device used by a law enforcement officer and when the officer has an encounter with someone, the officer can capture two fingerprints on a screen, electronically transmit this to GCIC, where GCIC checks to see if that person has a criminal history record and also checks to see if the individual is a registered sex offender, the information is also sent to the FBI which checks another 22 databases, which is completed in less than two minutes, very much high tech. Director Keenan advised currently in Georgia, there are 145 agencies that are involved with the Rapid ID project with 853 devices in use and noted what is important as last year's statistics of all the queries made, using the Rapid ID device, 59% of those resulted in an AFIS hit meaning the person whose fingerprints have been captured in the record check is being done on, has a criminal history. Director Keenan added additionally 51% of those queries resulted in a NCIC hit on the person, wanted or on a terrorists watch

list or hits one of the other databases, which tells the GBI that the officers who use the device knows what they are doing, honing in on problems and the Rapid ID device verifies to the officer they are dealing with someone who is a problem.

Commissioner Owens thanked Director Keenan for introducing Rapid ID to the DOC and has issued the device to all state prisons and on visitation day, 6-12 persons are turned away or arrested every weekend due to being wanted on warrants, sex offenders or fake ids. Director Keenan noted the DOC probation unit is one of the biggest users of the Rapid ID device as when they do probation checks; they check other associates in the room and are making a lot of fugitive arrests.

Chief Revenew commented Pooler PD was one of the early users of the Rapid ID device and shared Effingham County had a traffic fatality where the victim had no identification and Pooler PD assisted the department with identifying the victim.

Director Tim Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center began his report in regards to construction projects at the GPSTC and stated at the front gate, a fence is being built that can be closed to secure the front part of the GPSTC. Director Bearden stated in the near future, tile will be torn out of the training center and replaced with a high grade commercial carpet which will reduce the noise. Director Bearden noted a lot of the work will be done at night in order to have as little disruption as possible.

Director Bearden stated in the bond package, the fire department side has been approved, should not be touched at this point-should be safe. Within the bond package, Director Bearden advised the GPSTC will be able to repave the cone course and the high speed track.

Director Bearden stated in regards to the Resolution that the BPS passed for the Fire Suppression House to be named for George Lanier, passed away, but before he passed away, the Board Resolution was presented to him and his family at his home.

Director Bearden shared there would be a firefighter graduation with 25 cadets graduating on March 27 and stated for law enforcement mandate school, there are 7 academies with 11 mandate courses for 291 cadets representing 241 agencies, 29 pre-service and have had 49 dismissals which is 16% that have left the academy for academic reasons or were not able to pass driver training or firearms.

Director Bearden stated GPSTC is working with Rinehart University as they are looking at giving scholarships to graduates, which would be huge to make sure that when they graduate the academy, they have the intent to start their secondary education.

Director Bearden stated between April and December 2014, the GPSTC at all of the facilities across the state will be hosting and working with 1500 case workers from DFACS. Director Bearden stated the GPSTC developed the lesson plan and has contracted with in-sight training to deliver the classes dealing with the interview classes to make sure DFACS understands the proper way to interview on scene or at their office.

Director Bearden stated the GPSTC is hoping to open up a new academy in Columbia County as they are building what appears to be a great facility, have put a lot of money into the facility, preparing to pour the foundation and GPSTC is putting \$300,000.00 from a bond to help them with the driving track, which will allow GPSTC to have another driving track in the state, especially for basic EVOC training. Director Bearden noted at this time the GPSTC course is so tied up with basic training, it is hard to get the advanced classes in, although the GPSTC works around the schedule to make sure this happens. Director Bearden stated when the Columbia County facility is completed; this will be another location to send the basic mandate students, which will be very huge for GPSTC to get the advance classes in place.

Director Bearden stated the GPSTC is looking at moving basic training that is taking place in Forsyth to Middle Georgia State University that used to be in Macon, but due to budget cuts was moved to Forsyth, which will allow GPSTC more classes for the advanced and specialized classes at the GPSTC. Director Bearden acknowledged Middle Georgia State University has offered the GPSTC a very good deal, around \$35,000.00 a year, and would pay for everything after that, with the phones, utilities, and maintenance covered under the \$35,000.00 price range and are making sure this is feasible with GPSTC's budget and if it is, this will be a very positive move.

Director Bearden thanked Mr. DeWayne Garris, Office of Insurance and Fire Safety Commissioner's Office as he helped to save the GPSTC about \$150,000.00 in bond funds as in the student area of the GPSTC, the tiles are missing, and some of the fireproofing fell during the roofing project and the contractors were saying this had to be completely stripped and redone. Director Bearden stated Mr. Garris came in and helped out and now the GPSTC just has to patch the areas that actually fell which will help save bond money and allow the GPSTC to finish all of the roofs at the facility with the additional funds.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Director Bearden if the Middle Georgia State University deal comes through, would the GPSTC continue to have driver training and firearms at Forsyth. Director Bearden responded the driver training would be at Forsyth and the firearms would be at the Bibb County firearms facility as firearms is a bottleneck at the GPSTC, which will give more time and space for more firearm classes.

Director Bearden thanked Deputy Director Keith Howard, Comptroller Cindy Franklin and Executive Assistant Sharla Shockley for the great and tremendous job they have been doing in his absence.

**DONATIONS**

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

One Taser X-26	\$ 814.95	Madison County Sheriff's Department
Office Furniture	\$ 41,466.00	Bibb County Board of Commissioners

One Taser X2 and Accessories	\$ 1,173.70	Lilburn Police Department
Ten LWRC M6-G Rifles, Ten Jotto Desk Rifle/Shotgun Racks Ten E. Seek License Scanners	\$ 29,372.40	Walker County Board of Commissioners
Three Command College Classes and Lodging	\$ 3,795.00	Braselton Police Department
One ALSE Survival Vest	\$ 1,004.00	Sumter County Sheriff's Department
One ALSE Survival Vest	\$ 1,004.00	Peach County Sheriff's Department
One ALSE Survival Vest and One Alpha Eagle Helmet	\$ 3,182.50	Crisp County Sheriff's Department
Aviation Life Support Equipment	\$ 4,000.00	Dooly County Sheriff's Department
Two Alpha Eagle Helmets	\$ 4,357.00	Houston County Sheriff's Department
One Alpha Eagle Helmet and One ALSE Survival Vest	\$ 3,204.00	Carroll County Sheriff's Department
Aviation Life Support Equipment	\$ 3,500.00	Madison County Sheriff's Department
Four Stalker DSR 2X Radars	\$ 11,980.00	Franklin County Sheriff's Department
One Taser X26	\$ 850.00	Jenkins County Sheriff's Department
Two LWRC M-6G Rifles	\$ 3,574.48	Braselton Police Department
Reimbursement for two troopers to attend the VFW 115 <sup>th</sup> Nat. Convention	\$ 2,000.00	Dept. of Georgia Veterans of Foreign Wars
Four Sony Digital Cameras	\$ 504.36	Whitfield County Sheriff's Department
One Taser X26	\$ 800.00	Franklin County Sheriff's Department
One Taser X26	\$ 895.00	Madison County Sheriff's Department
Aviation Life Support Equipment	\$ 900.00	Ware County Sheriff's Department
Aviation Life Support Equipment	\$ 7,000.00	Appalachian Drug Task Force

Aviation Life Support Equipment	\$	900.00	Brantley County Sheriff's Department
Aviation Life Support Equipment	\$	750.00	McIntosh County Sheriff's Department
Aviation Life Support Equipment	\$	750.00	Pierce County Sheriff's Department
Fifteen I-Phones/Accessories	\$	3,000.00	Braselton Police Department
One German Shepherd Canine	\$	500.00	Mr. Phillip Hanners

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

Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center requested approval of the following donation:

Ten Rolls of Hay	\$	00.00	Mr. Lee Kirkland
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The motion to accept the donation was made by Chief Craig Tully, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and voted approved by the Board members.

### **FISCAL REPORTS**

Mrs. Amy Stancil, Assistant Comptroller, Department of Public Safety presented the DPS fiscal report stating the DPS is currently at 44.75% of the budget remaining after the second quarter fiscal year 2014. Mrs. Stancil advised the Aviation division has 28.33% remaining which is due to the purchase of a helicopter in the first quarter and in the other divisions there are pre-paid items such rents and leases that are encumbered early in the fiscal year which causes it to hit the budget, but are not paid out until the end of each year.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy asked Mrs. Stancil what the ice storms cost the DPS and Mrs. Stancil replied the second ice storm cost DPS approximately \$410,000.00, and costs of the first ice storm was about \$200,000.00.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation presented the GBI fiscal report stating the GBI is pretty much on track right around 50% on everything.

Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Training Center presented the GPSTC fiscal report stating at the end of December 31, 2013, the GPSTC is at 52% of state funds remaining, 65% of federal funds remaining, 58% of other funds remaining and 50% bond funds remaining and overall at 54% and are on track.



**OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Melissa Rodgers, Legal Director, Department of Public Safety presented Rule 570-6 Transportations, Chapter 1 Non-Consensual Towing for initial adoption to the BPS. Mrs. Rodgers reminded the BPS members the DPS took over a number of regulatory functions from the Public Service Commission in 2012 and one of those functions was Non-Consensual Towing and this rule sets forth the DPS procedures as to how DPS will regulate this function. Mrs. Rodgers noted the DPS rule is substantially similar to the rules that the Public Service Commission had and DPS made a slight change to the way some communication is handled to allow that to be handled by email, as well as by facsimile and in person. Mrs. Rodgers stated after the initial adoption a public hearing will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> to allow for public comment and if there are any comments, will bring back before the BPS before requesting final adoption.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy made the motion for the initial adoption of Rule 570-6 Transportations, Chapter 1 Non-Consensual Towing, which was seconded by Mr. Lester Rampy and voted approved by the BPS members.

Director Vernon Keenan introduced Mrs. Deborah Anderson-Purcell, Director of Facilities who was recruited from the Georgia Building Authority who then in turn recruited her assistant who was at the Georgia Building Authority. Director Keenan advised Mrs. Anderson-Purcell is responsible for managing all facilities in the GBI, to include the Headquarters Complex with the main crime laboratories, six other branch laboratories and then 20 investigative division offices and brings a great level expertise, but is learning the crime lab business now.

Mrs. Deborah Anderson-Purcell presented a Resolution asking the BPS to approve for the State Properties Commission to deed to the State of Georgia custody of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation certain improved real property in the City of Douglas, Coffee County owned currently by the Douglas-Coffee County Industrial Authority.

Mr. Lester Rampy made the motion for the BPS to request the State Properties Commission to proceed to transfer the improved real property that has housed the GBI Region 4 Investigative Office to the State of Georgia/custody of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation from Douglas-Coffee County Industrial Authority by deed in fee simple. This was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mrs. Deborah Anderson-Purcell presented a Resolution asking the BPS to approve for the State Properties Commission to deed to the State of Georgia, custody of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation certain improved real property in the City of Sylvester, Worth County owned currently by the Worth County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Murray Kight made the motion for the BPS to request the State Properties Commission to proceed to transfer the improved real property that has housed the GBI Region 15 Investigative Office to the State of Georgia/custody of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation from Worth County Board of

Commissioners by deed in fee simple. This was seconded by retired Sheriff Steve Cronic and voted approved by the BPS members.

Director Tim Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center advised the Public Safety Memorial will be held Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 0900 hours at the GPSTC and presented the Georgia Public Safety Memorial Committee approved names for 2013. Director Bearden stated there were 11 names approved and asked the BPS for their approval of the 11 names.

Chief Craig Tully made the motion to approve the 11 names to be placed on the Georgia Public Safety Memorial, which was seconded by Chief Danny Bowman and approved by the BPS members.

Vice-Chairman Wood advised the next BPS meeting, joint meeting with other agencies will be April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at 1300 hours, with lunch being served at 1200 hours at the National Guard Armory in Glennville.

Commissioner Brian Owens shared the DOC will be providing tours to the GA State Prison, Rogers State Prison and Smith State Prison. Commissioner Owens reminded everyone the BPS would be recognizing Mr. Dan Bray, probation officer who serves as the bagpiper for the GSP Honor Guard.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded the BPS members the high school meeting would be held in the fall in the Richmond Hill area.

Mr. Brian Rickman thanked Vice-Chairman Wood for his leadership and humility which is very much appreciated by everyone.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Brian M. Rickman  
Secretary