

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

May 17, 2006

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice-Chairman James E. Donald
Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III
Chief Lou Dekmar
Chief Dwayne Orrick
Chief J. D. Rice
Sheriff Jamil Saba
Sheriff Cullen Talton

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Governor Sonny Perdue
Mr. Bud Black
Sheriff Bruce Harris
Mr. W. H. "Dub" Harper
Mr. Patrick Head

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Joseph Drolet, Board Attorney
Ms. Peggy Chapman, Department of Corrections
Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety
Lieutenant Colonel Arthur White, Department of Public Safety
Major Don Chastain, Department of Public Safety
Major Keith Sorrells, Department of Public Safety
Sgt. Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Terry Landers, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Lee O'Brien, Department of Public Safety
Major Billy Boulware, MCCD, Department of Public Safety
Chief Mark McLeod, MCCD, Department of Public Safety
Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Chris Ash, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Monica Mahone, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Terry Gibbons, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Lloyd Strickland, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Gary Proctor, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Robert Orange, Office of Planning and Budget
Ms. Wendy Angelety, Office of Planning and Budget
Mr. Randy Windham, Warner Robins Fire Department, Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs
Chief Hubert Smith, former Board member

Vice-Chairman James Donald called the meeting to order welcoming everyone to the May Board meeting. Vice-Chairman began with announcing that Ms. Peggy Chapman is handling this Board meeting. After welcoming everyone, Board members were invited to introduce visitors. With that, Mr. Wayne Abernathy welcomed back Chief Hubert Smith, former Board member, visiting today's meeting. Then, each attendee stood and stated his/her name.

Vice-Chairman Donald requested approval of the April Board Minutes, which was made by Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III, seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and unanimously approved by the Board members.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Colonel Bill Hitchens, Georgia Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, began his report with issue of weapons. For the last couple of months, the agency has been interacting with Glock, who manufactures all the weapons used now. After thirteen years, the weapons are starting to show wear; with having some maintenance malfunction problems. The agency is about to go to the new Glock 45, which essentially have been reconfigured to match the same characteristics of the 40's that are used now. Colonel Hitchens had the weapons available for viewing. He announced that after the Board meeting, State Patrol is holding shooting demonstrations on Pistol Range 8. Colonel Hitchens stated he has fired the weapon and described it as being essentially the same; so far as recoil, the ability to hold it on target. One of the concerns had been whether female troopers could or could not get their hand around the grips; however, the new one is same size as the Glock 40. With the reconfiguration, the weapon has weapon grips inserted in the handle to make it more efficient. Mr. Glock himself has become involved in the negotiations, and, has made a deal that the agency is considering. Colonel Hitchens invited the Board members to fire at the pistol range this afternoon. Addressing a question of whether this swaps out the sidearm and the backup, Colonel Hitchens stated this will be done uniformly, so that all the divisions, whether Capitol Police or Motor Carrier Compliance, will have the same guns. This allows being interchangeable within the divisions. Colonel Hitchens stated that this is a positive venture; he expects the agency will move forward on this venture.

Colonel Hitchens reported that the agency has a mobile use of force option simulator used for firearms. The agency has worked with AIS Corporation, which is an advance system, and has the capability of not only using firearms but also using tasers and pepper spray. It is an electronic device that measures; using several scenarios, using people locally; the actual container can actually control the scenario as it moves forward. There are many options based on what the individual in the simulator does and the options expand. Colonel Hitchens saw in one where there was a situation where the use of taser was the inclination; therein the person was standing adjacent to a gasoline pump. So, the simulator gives real-life options; whether or not use lethal force and at what level. The simulator will be located in the north parking lot after the

Board meeting. The agency takes the simulator to patrol posts around the state and allows sheriff departments and police departments to send their people to use the tool.

Colonel Hitchens reported that funding was added to the budget to provide two aviation facilities, one in Reidsville and the other in Thomson. The funding was placed in the Supplemental Budget for the two facilities. Colonel Hitchens called on Mr. Lee O'Brien to describe the properties to the Board members.

Mr. O'Brien presented two property Resolutions to the Board members. The first Resolution is for the agency to enter into negotiations with the City of Reidsville and Reidsville Municipal Airport. The authorities provided the agency with a plat showing a building will be built on a two-acre parcel; the two-acres being donated to the State of Georgia for purposes of building a new hangar for State Patrol helicopters. The building will be about 100 x 100 feet and will provide adequate facilities for State Patrol to maintain aviation operations at Reidsville Airport. State Patrol has a Use Agreement for the property where the present hangar sits. Now, the agency will negotiate for the two acres to be conveyed to State of Georgia, and, the agency will then convey the present hangar and that property to City of Reidsville. By doing this, this will provide an opportunity to negotiate and go forward with getting the construction contracts and transfer of the real property. Mr. O'Brien held up the plat and described the location. Mr. Wayne Abernathy made the motion to adopt the Resolution, which was seconded by Chief Dwayne Orrick, and unanimously voted approval by the Board members.

With the second Resolution, Mr. O'Brien described the property located at McDuffie Regional Airport in Thomson, Georgia. State Patrol owns the property along with an over-hanger. Both the County of McDuffie and City of Thomson have proposed to convey sufficient acreage of land; both the County Commission and City Council agreeing to fill, compact and prepare the building site for construction, provide vehicle access to the hangar, and provide water and sanitary sewer, if feasible, which will have to be part of the negotiations. Mr. O'Brien held up the plat to describe the location, wherein a 100 x 100 building will be built on the acreage. Chief Lou Dekmar made the motion to adopt the Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and unanimously voted approval by the Board members.

Mr. Rooney Bowen, III brought up the situation of a trooper who had been injured on the job, after serving only less than two years; but through efforts of State Patrol staff, the trooper has been able to maintain retirement benefits. It had been determined that the Retirement System agreed to give the trooper some type of retirement for his service to the State of Georgia. Mr. Bowen stated that it is only fitting that in this case, and other similar cases, when an employee is forced to retire, because of being injured in the line of duty, that the employee should be honored. Mr. Bowen motioned that a Resolution be given to TFC Cal Pipken from the Board of Public Safety. Colonel Hitchens described that TFC Pipken, while assisting a local agency, got hit in the eye with a beer bottle. TFC Pipken wanted to come back to work; but there was no other option but to retire. Chief Dekmar made a recommendation, concerning employees who retire as a result of an injury in line of duty, that the significance of honoring a retired employee

be consistent with others being recognized by the Board. With his recommendation, Chief Dekmar seconded said motion. After discussion, the Board members unanimously voted approval of preparing a Resolution.

Chief J. D. Rice stated he had noticed that one of the gubernatorial candidates is going to make an issue out of State Patrol personnel count. Colonel Hitchens responded that the agency is doing everything they can to work on the personnel count; there are two trooper schools this year. There are usually 500/600 people to compete for the positions. The first trooper school graduated two months ago, starting with 36 but ending up with 25 graduates. The second school is in now, with graduation planned for August 18. Another trooper school will start in January, 2007, with the hope to get 70 positions. But because of the competitive environment, the group drawn from is becoming smaller; competition is increasing. Discussion ensued by the agency heads on the issue of salaries; and, Governor Perdue's effort of working on moving forward on the pay issue.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, began with the issue of staffing; on the positive side the GBI will hold graduation tomorrow of 17 narcotic agents, who have completed the 16-week school. Director Keenan noted this is the first class that GBI has graduated since 2002. Through the efforts of Governor Perdue and legislature, GBI received funding to hire 15 special agents to become the Meth Force; devoted to methamphetamine enforcement and investigation in the state. Those 15 agents are receiving their conditional offers of employment today. Also, the GBI has been able to hire three additional agents, because of leftover funding. The GBI is now hiring 18 special agents and they will report to Training immediately. Director Keenan described the following: what is different with GBI's staffing, compared to State Patrol, is there is no problem with recruiting. For these 18 agents that are now being hired, over 300 were interviewed. Those 300 are people who went through competitive Merit System examination and made a very high score. They are ones who have gone through basic background screening process. All of these are high quality people; there are no problems recruiting. It is after going through Training and serving four/five/six years that they become a commodity sought after by other law enforcement agencies. Director Keenan stated the problem is retention. Yesterday, a special agent resigned to accept employment with FBI; this agent just graduated from Specialized Crime Investigation school, which cost \$6,500. Based on these types of situations, now the GBI will require agents to sign a contract before being sent to advance training school. The special agents are getting conditional offers of employment now to sign contracts to remain with the State of Georgia for several years; if leaving GBI employment, the employee will reimburse the state a pro rated figure.

Responding to questions and comments, Director Keenan stated that when asked by legislators, he tells them that the priority is getting increased salaries for existing staff; to stabilize the veteran workforce. When asked by legislators or Governor's staff of justifying the request for increased salaries, Director Keenan answers quickly that men and women put their lives in danger every day to protect the public. The issue of retaining agents is very important; after an

agent has been with GBI for four to five years, other law enforcement agencies are willing to pay more for experience.

The next item reported by Director Keenan was the status of the concealed weapons license check. Back in spring of last year, the Department of Justice had said that someone who held a valid Georgia concealed weapons license would not be required to go through a national background check when purchasing a firearm. Then, the Department of Justice mailed a letter to GBI, stating that GBI had to change the concealed weapons law in Georgia. The GBI has been explaining publicly since then that this is not an issue of the GBI. In the last legislature, there was strong support; therefore, a law was passed which mirrors the federal requirements. Beginning in July, 2006, the U.S. Department of Justice will again recognize the Georgia concealed weapons license as an alternative for having the national background check done. This problem was not caused by the GBI; it is the Department of Justice who reviewed the Georgia law and required changes being made. The Department of Justice will send out letters to firearms dealers sometime in June notifying them that when the Georgia law will come into effect.

Sheriff Cullen Talton inquired if Director Keenan had received complaints from prosecutors concerning the State Crime Lab. Director Keenan responded that he had not gotten complaints; but concerns had been raised. The GBI was appropriated \$3 million to outsource backlog crime lab cases to private laboratories. Director Keenan addressed many concerns with District Attorneys based around two things. Their concerns are (1) what is the quality of work being done, and, (2) who is going to pay for the expert testimony that is required if case goes to trial. The answers to both concerns are that the GBI does a 100% peer review on those cases that are outsourced to a private laboratory. When those results come back in, the Crime Lab staff reviews all the documentation. If there is a problem with the analysis by the private laboratory, the problem is addressed with the private laboratory. Concerning the expert testimony, GBI committed to the District Attorneys that the GBI would place funding in the budget to cover that expert testimony, which has been done. The cases that were outsourced are just now beginning to get into a cycle where they would be called up for trial. There have been five occasions to bring scientists in from the private laboratories to testify; at the cost of \$1500 a day. Chief J. D. Rice inquired of the slow turnaround, which is pointed out on page 11 of the GBI report, private outsourcing shows a slow turnaround rate. Director Keenan responded that when the quality of the private laboratories does not meet standards, the GBI will allow them to process the cases and complete the work again until the Crime Lab is satisfied. Some of the private laboratories have had their eyes opened when they have never been questioned about the quality of their work. Governor Perdue has asked the same question - what is the delay in getting the cases processed in the private laboratory. The answer is tied to quality. Private laboratories do not have a work force sitting waiting to do GBI cases. The GBI signs a contract with a private laboratory and they go out and hire scientists to do the work. When that work is over with, those scientists are gone. So, it takes them several months to gear up to handle a state contract. Not only that, but they have had to improve their procedures. Director Keenan stated they are on track to have the backlog eliminated by July 1. Chief Lou Dekmar asked if there is an error rate

on the private laboratories. The GBI holds the private laboratories accountable; holding them under a 100% peer review. Director Keenan is currently in the midst of addressing a lab on its quality of work. He will brief the Board members on this situation at a future time.

On the next item, Director Keenan refreshed the Board's memory of how nearly three years ago the GBI worked out a partnership with the Georgia Sheriffs Association, the Georgia Chiefs Association, the Municipal Association, and the County Association to be able to use federal homeland security funds, that were earmarked for local law enforcement agencies, and turn those funds over to the GBI to modernize the criminal history records system. This was actually a unique approach, and the GBI has been contacted by other states asking how the GBI was able to pull together a coalition like that. The goal of the project was to take that money which is approximately between \$9 and \$11 million; and completely modernize the criminal history records program. The key to any type of investigation begins with criminal records. And the system in Georgia was operating on software developed in 1972. It had been upgraded to the extent there was nothing else to be done; it was a shell waiting to collapse. The Homeland Security funds completely modernized the whole system. It is possible for a state agency to embark on a multi-million technology project and have that project completed on time; in addition to being under budgeted by several million dollars. As Director Keenan stated, herein brings the issue to discuss; there are several million dollars left over from the project, and it will be completed exactly the way promised to the partners Sheriffs Association and Chiefs Associations. The GBI is now proposing to take the leftover funding and bring in some additional enhancements. Since the process, the GBI has found additional needs. U.S. Department of Homeland Security has said they will authorize the GBI to continue on with these enhancements, provided the GBI goes back to the original partners and update them on what the situation is, asking their concurrence to spend the leftover money on the continuation of the project. Director Keenan stated that is the purpose of having this presentation. Director Keenan has already met with the county and municipal associations and they are signing off on an MOU on the leftover funds. Director Keenan is doing a presentation to the Chiefs Association next week and will do one to the Sheriffs at some point. Director Keenan called on Ms. Terry Gibbons, Assistant Deputy Director of GCIC, to provide the update to the Board regarding the computerized criminal history record modernization project.

It is noted here that the presentation made by Ms. Terry Gibbons is not recorded. Therefore, the Minutes include a paper copy of the powerpoint presentation made to the Board members. When the tape in the recorder was changed, the following was recorded.

Ms. Terry Gibbons stated one area GCIC is looking at is automation so that law enforcement agencies can retrieve records on line. This will improve the quality and validity of records for local law enforcement agencies. This should be in place by 2007. Ms. Gibbons went on explaining that GCIC is upgrading the capacity of automated fingerprint system. This will improve the delivery to public service when doing background checks for non-criminal justice purposes, such as employment, schools, and so forth. This will be out for bid later this year; with the cost of only \$185,000 to upgrade that portion. Ms. Gibbons stated GCIC is looking to work

with Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and other partners to fund a study evaluating integration of automation efforts, in order to look at what the state's level of readiness is in terms of information sharing.

Chief Dwayne Orrick questioned if upgrading hardware for local agencies is part of local assistance program. Ms. Gibbons and Director Keenan responded that GCIC is going to law enforcement agencies that have live scan devices; if they are not capturing the digital mug shot, then the state will pay for the agency to get that technology. The agency buys the equipment and the state reimburses the agency. In response to a question of when the switch will occur, Ms. Gibbons stated the switch will be Monday, May 22nd. Director Keenan added that on the occasions with GCIC terminal is down, it is not the fault of GCIC; the issue is taken directly to Georgia Technology Authority. Chief J. D. Rice questioned is it the intent of GBI to get away from ink-based paper fingerprint to do criminal history checks for Fire Services. Fire Services agencies have to send in a paper copy of the ink-based prints on firefighters. Chief Rice stated the Firefighters have to go through GCIC and NCIC with the ink-based print card. Director Keenan stated Chief Rice brought up an excellent point; there are specific requirements of firefighters. It is the objective of GCIC to be completely away from the ink fingerprint cards; 90% of arrest prints are submitted to GBI electronically. GCIC has done research and will continue to do research on what parts of law have to be changed on mandating to be submitted; there are laws out there that require cards. Chief Orrick questioned if it takes an applicant 20 minutes to get information back; to which Ms. Gibbons responded the average response for GBI is about 20 minutes; the average FBI response is six to eight hours. Chief Orrick questioned if Sheriffs have to have a special package to do applicants. Director Keenan stated that currently live scan devices are in sheriffs departments. However, the sheriffs do not want outside people coming into their facility to be fingerprinted for school teacher, private detective, all other professions that have to be fingerprinted. To be able to do live scan fingerprints for applicants, GCIC is planning to go to a system that will be based statewide. There will probably be a private vendor so that someone applying for a positions of firefighter or school teacher or DFCS worker, the applicant will be directed to private vendor who will have a contract with the state to capture those prints, submit them electronically, but the results go back to the employing agency.

Vice-Chairman Donald added that Director Keenan had stated a committee has already looked at these issues of interoperability, and asked if there is a firefighter representative on that committee. Director Keenan stated he would make a commitment to come back with legislation to clean up requirements for firefighters.

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, began with reporting good news and bad news. The good news is that the Training Center is serving lunch for the Board members. The bad news is that Ms. Diane Johnson has reached retirement; Ms. Gloria Buffington is leaving to take care of her husband, Mr. Bob Buffington, who retired from the Training Center. The two ladies have made the Training Center work as effectively as it does;

they are very important to the operation. Ms. Johnson is primarily the first face that people see when coming for registration; she is the registrar and makes sure folks get to the right place; she solves a multitude of problems. Director Mann publicly thanked Ms. Johnson and Ms. Buffington for their service to the Training Center. Chief Lou Dekmar made a motion that Resolutions be prepared for the two ladies, which was seconded by Sheriff Cullen Talton, and unanimously voted approval by the Board members. Vice-Chairman Donald added that when he walks into this facility and see their faces with contagious enthusiasm of what they do. Director Mann invited everyone to a reception, which will be held on May 26th, for the two ladies.

Director Mann invited everyone to the Peace Officers Memorial ceremony on May 23rd at 11:00 a.m. This ceremony honors the peace officers who have been killed in the line of duty.

Vice-Chairman Donald added that following the memorial ceremony, Governor Perdue is attending the ribbon and ground-breaking ceremony of the new headquarters for the Department of Corrections. Vice-Chairman Donald invited everyone to attend the ceremony, which will be held at the Tift College campus at noon on May 23rd.

Continuing with his report, Director Mann reported on two pieces of business. The first one being the Training Center plans to be operational at the new facility in Dalton with a new police academy on July 1st. Governor Perdue will be signing an Executive Order transferring the property from Department of Corrections to the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. That academy will be open and operational during the first week of July; a basics class starts the second week of July.

Director Mann reported that the Dublin facility is still on hold; there is disagreement within the middle of Georgia area of moving the academy to Dublin. It will inconvenience customers, who do not want to ride to Dublin for training. Director Mann described how helpful it had been to find property that can be transferred by a signature of the Governor. Director Mann noted that the Dublin facility and land cost about \$1.3 million. However, Director Mann does not like to see his customers upset; he was only looking at the opportunity of the Training Center owning its own land and building and be able to grow on it. Therefore, right now the building is parked; it will not go to the State Properties Commission. And, until the customers agree to attend an academy located in Dublin, Director Mann will not make a move. Director Mann explained that the current location of the academy is in Macon and is an old "feed and seed" at the Farmers Market, with a \$1 a year lease from Department of Agriculture. Currently, the Macon academy is landlocked, meaning improvements of things like a firing range or a driving training, cannot be built on it. In four and half years, the lease expires. Sheriff Cullen Talton stated here that he received phone calls from several local law enforcement heads stating they did not want to drive to Dublin for training their officers. Vice-Chairman Donald requested that possibly a location could be found in an area conducive to those local agencies. Director Mann agreed; listening to his customers and trying to help his customers.

The Public Safety Training Center Committee, Sheriff Jamil Saba and Sheriff Cullen Talton, met yesterday with Director Mann to talk about the Memorial Committee. Sheriff Saba began with stating that the Board members had discussed this issue at a previous Board meeting. With two handouts relating to Memorial Wall, Sheriff Saba explained that the definition in the handouts can be confusing; it can be read in two or three different ways. There are problems with one criteria stating one way and another criteria stating another way. The Committee is doing a good job getting this centralized in doing the right thing for people. Sheriff Talton added that Mr. Ben Hinson, Chairman of the Memorial Committee, attended the Public Safety Committee meeting, to explain several issues. Sheriff Talton stated, as an example, that a police officer in his patrol car is at the Burger King and has a heart attack and dies; however, he is not in a situation as if he is chasing someone and has died as a result. Sheriff Saba requested Director Mann explain this further. Director Mann, in his opinion, stated this Board does not want to deal with a case-by-case issue of who does or does not go on the Wall. That is why the Memorial Committee is set up, protecting the Board of Public Safety. When the Memorial Committee brings a list of recommended names and the Board of Public Safety votes on who may or may not make the Wall, there would be protest from family members of why their deceased family member is not going on the Wall. Director Mann requested the Board members read the two handouts, especially "Georgia Public Safety Training Center / Public Safety Memorial Committee ByLaws," which were adopted by the Board of Public Safety in June of 1986 and readopted in April of 1999. Under Section 3, under "Duties", the language reads "this Board asks the Public Safety Memorial Committee to establish election standards and procedures to be used in honoring public safety personnel, who die as a result of direct and proximate cause of personal injury sustained in the line of duty, or which arose out of and result of performance of official duties." Director Mann pointed out the other handout, "Selection Criteria" adopted in 1999, under Item 6, the language reads "line of duty means any action which is required or authorized by law, rule, regulation, condition of employment, or for which compensation is provided by the employing agency and is directly related to the protection of life and property of citizens of State of Georgia or the preservation of public order within the State of Georgia." Director Mann pointed out "line of duty" is not intended to be synonymous with "on duty", the explanation of the rules of the committee are direct enough that the example - - of an officer who had a heart attack, while being in the drive-through line of a fast food establishment, then the car lurched forward and ended up in a ravine and the officer died - - can be taken that the officer was on duty but he did not die in the line of duty. Director Mann stated there is adequate explanation of the rules to make that distinction. Mr. Bowen commented that the recommended cases that came before the Board members at a previous meeting that there was inconsistency after inconsistency of going one way and back another way. At that particular Board meeting, the Board members discussed the inconsistency from the Memorial Committee. Sheriff Talton made special note of family members of a deceased officer being notified of approval of being placed on the Memorial Wall, prior to the actual vote by the Board of Public Safety. Chief Dekmar also noted that the biggest issue that came out was the lack of confidentiality. Director Mann stated that Mr. Ben Hinson apologizes to the Board of Public Safety for that mistake; at the next Memorial Wall Committee, Mr. Hinson will make it known that nothing should be revealed of decisions made. Director Mann encouraged the Board members to review the By-

Laws and Rules of the Memorial Wall Committee. Vice-Chairman Donald commented that the goal of the Board of Public Safety should be to make sure these rules are right; that the Board could come back and look at a future decision.

DONATIONS:

Mr. Terry Landers, Department of Public Safety/State Patrol, requested approval of the following donations:

One Decatur Genesis II Radar	\$ 1,700.00	Sheriff Steve Thomas Franklin County Sheriff
Two Decatur Genesis II Radar	\$ 3,200.00	Sheriff Clyde Smith Bryan County Sheriff
Two 2006 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Package Vehicles	\$58,000.00	Sheriff Donny Turner Troup County Sheriff
One 2006 Dodge Magnum Police Package Patrol Vehicle	\$24,000.00	Sheriff Robert Markley Morgan County Sheriff

Chief J. D. Rice motioned approval of the donations, seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and unanimously voted approval by the Board members.

Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, requested approval of the following donation:

Twenty Roof Mounted Light Bars Fifteen Siren Boxes With Speakers	\$ 5,500.00	Chief Charles M. Waters Gwinnett County Police Department
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Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made the motion to approve said donation, seconded by Chief J. D. Rice, and unanimously voted approval by the Board members.

ADMINISTRATIVE/EMERGENCY ISSUES

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, stated that the Training Center needs to raise the rates for industrial fire programs. Currently, the Training Center charges \$12 per instructional hour, which is 33% below what other vendors charge. Director Mann is looking

at raising the rate to \$15 to help recover costs. In response to a question, Chief J. D. Rice stated that this request is past overdue. Chief Rice made the motion to raise the instructional rate to \$15 per hour, which was seconded by Chief Dwayne Orrick, and the Board members unanimously voted approval.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

As everyone knows, Mr. Hal Averitt passed away from his illness. Mr. Averitt was an icon in his community in State of Georgia. Mr. Bowen stated he and Commissioner Donald attended the funeral; the outpouring of the community was phenomenal. In honor of memory of Mr. Averitt, Mr. Bowen made the motion to do a Board Resolution to the Averitt family. This Board will hold a future meeting in Statesboro and present the Resolution to Mrs. Averitt. All local officials and Governor Perdue will be invited to the presentation. Vice-Chairman Donald stated that Statesboro lost a hero; the turnout of friends was magnificent. Mr. Averitt was one who didn't have much to say, but when he did, people stopped and listened. Chief Dwayne Orrick seconded said motion and the Board members unanimously voted approval.

Mr. Rooney Bowen, III reminded the Board members to contribute to the flower fund, which will pay for the funeral flowers.

Vice-Chairman Donald announced that Fox 5 News did a television report on the driving habits of state employees. Governor Perdue emphasized, in the report, the importance of employees adhering to public trust and making sure government employees lead by example. Governor Perdue asked that employees make sure to remember their responsibilities when operating state-owned vehicles. Vice-Chairman Donald stated that Department of Corrections was one of the three state agencies in the report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III