

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

May 14, 2009

Georgia Public Safety Training Center, Forsyth

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Bud Black
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III
Chief Lou Dekmar (Teleconference)
Sheriff (Retired) Bruce Harris
Mr. Pat Head
Chief Jack McElfish
Chief Dwayne Orrick
Commissioner Brian Owens
Sheriff Cullen Talton
Mr. Ellis Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Sheriff Steve Cronic
Mr. Dub Harper
Mr. Jerry Willis

OTHERS:

Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Colonel Fred Snellings, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Major Stewart Hicks, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Chief Mark McLeod, MCCD, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Major Wayne Beck, MCCD, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Captain Mike Fagler, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Dan Kirk, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Paul Heppner, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Terry Gibbons, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Lisa Urich, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. J. Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Butch Beach, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Patrice Kerner, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Ray Saxon, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Eddie Lovin, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Lloyd Strickland, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. David Wall, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Ginny Sapp, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Vonnie Stewart, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Wally Manchart, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Yolanda Harrison, Georgia Department of Corrections

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the May Board of Public Safety meeting to order. Mr. Dale Mann, Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) began with the invocation and the story of "Susanna and the Elders" followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wood then called for approval of the April Board Minutes. Chief Jack McElfish made the motion; it was seconded by Commissioner Brian Owens and voted approved by the Board members.

Two resolutions in honor of retirements were presented: Mr. Dan Kirk, Georgia Bureau of Investigations presented a resolution to Mr. Paul Heppner and Mr. Dale Mann honored Mr. Robert S. Sanderson, III.

DIRECT REPORTS

Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, began by stating that all of the Metro Atlanta area now has the Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) system and they are currently installing the systems to posts along the I-16 corridor followed by the Tifton area. Thus far, there have been a few minor glitches with their radio system but overall it has been very efficient and beneficial. Also, as they install more systems CAD is giving a more rapid response. CAD essentially removes the paper from the process and gives them a better accounting of events in their organization.

Colonel Hitchens then highlighted key areas in the Annual Pursuit Report which had been passed out to everyone. The Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol began collecting data for this report four (4) years ago. Of particular importance is the five (5) year comparison located at the end of the report. He also passed out a handout concerning the National Law-Enforcement Exploring Conference to be hosted by Georgia Tech. He is the chair for this event and it will be held July 19-24, 2010. He will be soliciting volunteers to assist with a variety of functions. He also announced that his agency would be receiving stimulus money for trooper school. The state of Georgia has the least number of troopers per capita in the country.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Georgia Bureau of Investigations spoke in Director Vernon Keenan's absence. He reported that the crime lab is doing fairly well despite the continuous employee losses to their Federal counterpart. The firearms and latent prints areas remain backlogged; however, GCIC is operating well and has eliminated their applicant fingerprint backlog. Overall, the Bureau is maintaining during these tough budget times. He feels that if there are additional cuts during FY-09 they are prepared to handle them.

Effective July 1, 2009 the Bureau will begin charging fees for non-State agency requests to run applicant fingerprint background checks. The charge will be \$20.75 or \$40.00 for both state and FBI checks. Their Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC) unit will once again receive funds from grants. They will receive a \$500k award which was based on their outstanding performance; the ICAC unit has been rewarded yearly for their hard work and dedication. In addition to that, they will also receive almost \$1 million dollars in stimulus money which they will use to hire additional staff.

Mr. Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, began by emphasizing page six (6) of his Board report which showed a savings of over three million gallons of water between 2008 and 2009. They were able to accomplish this by retro-fitting the dorms with low flow shower heads and toilets. His biggest issue is with the declining revenue coming into the Training Center and the impact has become critical. He also reminded everyone that effective July 1, 2009 they will no longer provide meals and due to the continuation of decreased revenues he anticipates further budget reductions.

Mr. Mann also has proposed that if he is to receive further budget cuts, they would need to generate some type of income to sustain them. The recommendation is to impose a registration fee of no greater than \$20.00 per day of training which would include the cost of three meals. This in itself would also be a solution to “no-shows” because refunds would not be given for “no-shows.” Mr. Mann explained that they have a very liberal meaning of a “no-show” and as long as someone from the agency attends the training credit will be given. There is also the option of calling to cancel the training seat as late as the morning training begins.

Mr. Mann also spoke about another committee suggestion to help reduce “no-shows” and that is to have a progressive calendar and display the training classes six months at a time. He also explained some of the advantages of electronic registration, such as the ability to send an e-mail reminder versus sending a letter in the mail. At a future date and time, Mr. Mann would like to discuss streamlining the registration process by using electronic registration as the only means to register for training.

Additionally, he and Chief Lou Dekmar discussed their sub-committee meeting’s results regarding possible solutions to “no-shows” for training. The proposed solution was for the Board to give Mr. Mann authority to place agencies who incur ten (10) or more “no-shows” on suspension. Chief Dekmar made the motion for this authority; it was seconded by Chief Dwayne Orrick and voted approved by the Board members.

FISCAL REPORTS

Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, gave the financial report for July 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009 and he spoke specifically about the aviation budget being overstated by \$370k due to insurance proceeds from a prior fiscal year. It was for a helicopter crash and was not removed from their budget. The largest remaining portion was in the Field Offices and Services category and this is what allows them make up for some of the other areas’ deficits. Overall, the organization is in pretty good shape. If they were to receive further cuts, it would impact their car budget; however, they would be able to sustain operations.

Ms. Lisa Urich, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, gave her fiscal report and they are currently on target. If they were to receive additional cuts they also have funds available to sustain them.

Ms. Patrice Kerner, Georgia Public Safety Training Center reported that currently they have spent 74% of their budget; nevertheless they have some major roof repairs which need to be made this year and she has already spoken with OPB to address this issue.

DONATIONS

Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, requested approval of the following donations:

One Stalker DSR 2X Radar	\$ 3,210.00	Mitchell County Sheriff's Office
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One 2009 Crown Victoria Police Package Vehicle	\$22,048.00	Morgan County Sheriff's Office
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The motion for these donations was made by Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III; seconded by Chief Dwayne Orrick and voted approved by the Board members.

Ms. Patrice Kerner, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, requested approval of the following donations:

Two Sections of 24" & 18" I.D. Pipe Product	\$100.00	Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.
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Five Sections of 30" I.D. Pipe Product	\$100.00	Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.
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Chief Jack McElfish made this donation approval motion; it was seconded by Chief Orrick and voted approved by the Board members.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chair Wood thanked Mr. Dale Mann, Vonnie Stewart and other Training Center Staff for hosting the meeting and providing lunch. Commissioner Brian Owens announced that anyone interested could tour the Georgia Diagnostic & Classifications Prison (GDCCP) in Jackson immediately following lunch. Mr. Wood then thanked Commissioner Owens for setting up this tour.

Mr. Wood then stated that Chief Dwayne Orrick had advised him that he would like to see some type of long range, joint, study committee consisting of representatives from the other State Boards and/or public safety agencies to meet and discuss long term issues, patterns, and the impact from the adjustments made during this downturn in the economy. Commissioner Owens was supportive to this idea and advised it would also be great tool to foster support from the other agencies/boards on legislative issues.

Vice-Chair Wood then discussed the dates for the next Board meetings. The June meeting has been canceled; July will be held via conference call but he extended the invitation for any members who would like to join him in Atlanta in the Corrections Board room to do so; August will be held in Atlanta; September will be in Savannah; October in the North Georgia area and November is tentatively canceled but will be discussed further at a later date.

Chief Jack McElfish stated that a new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) director has been appointed, Mr. Craig Fugate.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III
Secretary