Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the May 9th, 2013, Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

DOC Chaplain Danny Horne gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked those in attendance to stand and introduce their selves.
Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the April Board minutes. Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy and voted approved by the BPS members.

**DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety began his report by giving a medical update on Major Eddie Grier who had knee replacement surgery a couple of weeks ago. Commissioner McDonough added that Major Grier is way beyond of where he should be at this point and already has 130% mobility in his leg and his progress has been better than any knee patient his doctor has ever seen before.

Commissioner McDonough presented the Pursuit Summary Report for 2012 and reminded the BPS members, seven years ago the report was an issue that was picked up by a sub-committee of the BPS where the BPS took a very close look at the DPS pursuit policy and the training that was done on an annual basis. Commissioner McDonough advised the recommendation that came out of the sub-committee to the BPS was that on an annual basis, the DPS would conduct a four hour training block specific to the decision making a trooper goes through in the use of different techniques to stop high speed pursuits. In addition to this, Commissioner McDonough stated the BPS asked on an annual basis the data be collected from the previous year and present the data to the BPS. Commissioner McDonough shared some of the highlights of the pursuit summary; the number of high speed pursuits where GSP was the primary pursuer was 441 and the number of crashes that resulted with one of the patrol vehicles in the pursuits was 140. Commissioner McDonough went on to state there were six fatalities of violators that occurred out of the pursuits and in 441 pursuits, 106 of the pursuits were a successful use of the PIT and from those, 187 violators were arrested from the vehicle and 112 of them were arrested after a brief foot chase. Commissioner McDonough shared information learned after the pursuits; 51 were wanted felons, 59 were transporting contraband, 55 of the vehicles were stolen and in 168 of the circumstances the violator had no license, cancelled or revoked type license, the average length of the pursuit was 5.4 miles or 5 minutes, and the average age of the person arrested was 31 years of age, with the overwhelming majority of the gender of the 441 was 409 males, only 22 were females that engaged in a high speed pursuit. Commissioner McDonough stated when taking a look at someone who is running from the law, it is usually someone who is wanted, with the average age of 31, white male and the pursuits last anywhere between 5 miles in 5 minutes. When looking at some of the trends over the past five years, Commissioner McDonough stated one will see as the population has gone up, the actual amount of high speed pursuits is not keeping up with the population so with a 1.3% population growth, the increase of pursuits that are going up is about .3 of 1% over this period of time. Commissioner McDonough stated over the past 5 years there has been an increase in the number of pursuits, not a dramatic one, but an increase and some of the reasons for this is that major crime statistics have gone down, but when driving on the roadways, one can see that the incidents of traffic related violations are going up and since 2010 in the center of the draw down economically most folks are trying to get away so they do not have to pay a fine or go to jail. Commissioner McDonough declared there is nothing statistically alarming with the pursuit summary, but when it comes to fatalities there is one constant; if a violator is killed in one of the pursuits, 9 chances out of 10 they will not be wearing their seatbelt. Commissioner McDonough stated two things GSP has seen, specifically
in the Atlanta and Savannah areas where those two police departments have revised their policy on pursuits, part of this is to turn the pursuit over to GSP as quickly as possible if GSP is close by and so we have seen in the Atlanta area a decrease in pursuits, but in the Savannah-Chatham County area we have seen an increase in pursuits. Commissioner McDonough emphasized the Savannah-Chatham County issue is due to the fact that GSP has a Nighthawks task force in the area that started in the 2010 time frame and they are doing a fantastic job in the area and this accounts for the increase in the Savannah-Chatham County area.

Sheriff Dane Kirby commented he thought it was great the average distance on the pursuits is 5 miles and that is impressive and the average time is 5 minutes, putting the pursuits to a stop quickly. Commissioner McDonough reminded Sheriff Kirby the goal is to try to end the pursuit in two miles/2 minutes as when one gets over that they tend to get into problems. Sheriff Kirby stated if one had looked at these same figures 15 years ago, it would have been much different. Commissioner McDonough added his first pursuit lasted 35 miles before he got to the PIT, expanding two counties and had 11 patrol cars involved and those days are over with; rubbing and racing is not the way GSP goes about doing their business now.

Mr. Lester Rampy asked Commissioner McDonough if the numbers reflect the PIT maneuvers that result in an accident or is each one called an accident. Commissioner McDonough responded with a PIT, it is not an accident, it is a precision maneuver of which there is damage to vehicles and when there is damage to vehicles, an accident report is worked on it to record it, and so it is recorded as an accident.

Commissioner McDonough pointed out a couple of changes to the DPS Organizational Chart and asked for approval of the establishment of one particular change in the organizational structure. Commissioner McDonough presented two general orders with the first one being the creation of the Canine Training and Certification Unit. Commissioner McDonough advised DPS is into the canine business as all three divisions of the DPS now have canines doing work. Commissioner McDonough stated at the Capitol there are three bomb dogs, within the MCCD there are narcotic dogs that are at work with commercial motor vehicles and within the patrol, there are canines that are used for narcotics and in a small instance, a patrol aspect. Commissioner McDonough stressed the use of canines is something that requires a significant amount of training and documentation of the training and a significant amount of documentation when the dog is used in its particular field. Commissioner McDonough added the use of the canines can come under attack in a court proceeding, so DPS feels it is important we are consistent in the oversight of the canines in the training, the documentation and care of the canines. Commissioner McDonough stated a collateral duty of that position is a recommendation that has been made through the US Attorney’s Office which came up during a lecture at the GA Association Chiefs of Police on asset forfeiture. Commissioner McDonough stated in the last six months there has been a focus on the issue of asset forfeiture particularly HB1 that was carried in the legislature this past session. Commissioner McDonough stated the recommendation was made that every agency would have in writing an asset forfeiture coordinator established within the agency and DPS has done this in the past in an informal fashion through Lt. Kermit Stokes. Commissioner McDonough added Lt. Stokes is the CIU Commander and had been fulfilling this role and the
administration of this has been occurring through the Comptroller’s office. Commissioner McDonough stated the recommendation is that this is something formally established in writing and the person is designated to ensure compliance of the agency both with the federal asset forfeiture rules and with state asset forfeiture rules and asked for approval of the two general orders.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy made the motion to approve the creation of the Canine Training and Certification Unit and the creation of the DPS Asset Forfeiture Coordinator within the Department of Public Safety. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., and voted approved by the BPS members.

Commissioner McDonough shared in this month’s issue of Air Beat Magazine, there is a full layout on the Aviation unit’s participation in the Governor’s Task Force for Marijuana Suppression which is nothing new to the patrol as the Aviation unit, since 1974 has been actively engaged in this. Commissioner McDonough stated Lt. Eddie Williams who is the Task Force Commander is nationally recognized in his expertise of marijuana eradication and indoor marijuana growth as he recently was asked to address the attorney generals from around the nation in a conference in Miami, FL and he is now on the circuit for doing this and Lt. Williams is a direct reflection of someone who has a heart for this and has done a fantastic job and this article is just another indication of the work Aviation and the Task Force does.

Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation began his report by sharing that he and Assistant Director Dan Kirk just returned from a meeting of the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA). Director Keenan shared each state with the exception of Hawaii who has no state level law enforcement; has a bureau of investigation either as a separate agency the way Georgia is and the surrounding southern states and the western states, or a bureau of investigation unit or CID unit in the state police organization. Director Keenan advised that ASCIA is their counterparts, their sister agencies and deal with common issues many at the national level and one of the initiatives that ASICA has been engaged with is national forensic science issues. Director Keenan declared there was some major legislation being introduced in Congress which would have profoundly effective the day to day law enforcement in the US, at the local level and at the state level. Director Keenan added the legislation would have done some things such as would have prohibited a local law enforcement agency or a state law enforcement agency from having a crime scene unit; they wanted all forensic sciences to be independent. Director Keenan stated ASICA was fortunate and the GBI is fortunate that we have Dan Kirk who is not only a sworn agent, but was the former director of the crime lab, so Dan has been called on several times to go to Washington and working in concert with other national law enforcement agencies such as International Association Chiefs of Police, National Sheriff’s Association, Major Cities Chiefs Association, has been asked to go up and with these organizations, go to Congress and stop some of the craziness which was coming forth with the forensic science legislation. Director Kennan asked Mr. Dan Kirk to update the BPS on what has been going on at the national level, what has been changed, and where we are currently at with this situation.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, GBI stated the movement with forensic science at the national level has been very concerning and stated there are two sides to the story; on the crime lab side, people think
we are doing it right and do not need anyone to tell us how to do it and we are fine and then the other side which consists of the Innocence Project, defense attorneys and all those folks who say the crime labs do it wrong and need to have a national standard, national regulations and the forensic sciences have to be regulated. Mr. Kirk advised every so often one can pick up a newspaper and see where there has been a scandal at a crime lab somewhere and this hurts us. Mr. Kirk stated he began working with the Major Cities Chiefs and with the IACP and together they encompass most of the crime labs in the US, but there are some with the Major County Sheriffs and the National Sheriff’s Association who have signed on with them. Mr. Kirk advised there are two pieces of legislation at this time, one from Vermont Senator Leahy and one from West Virginia Senator Rockefeller. Mr. Kirk shared Senator Leahy began working on his legislation about five years ago and Mr. Kirk advised they begin working with his staff about two years ago and when the legislation first came out, it was terrible, slanted toward the Innocence Project side of the house where everybody is wrong, everything is bad, have got to have federal mandates on everything and have got to standardize everything. Mr. Kirk shared the group began to work with them and have been to DC a couple of times and Senator Leahy’s bill was introduced in the 3 or 4 draft. Mr. Kirk advised the group has submitted their responses to Senator Leahy’s last draft and have not heard anything back and have worked his legislation to a point where it is much more in the middle, probably slants towards the labs a little bit in terms of the labs still remaining within law enforcement agencies. Mr. Kirk stated as Director Keenan said it was separating crime labs out of law enforcement agencies which for most of the crime labs it was going to be physically impossible. Mr. Kirk declared they have worked through all of this and there are a few oddball things they are still discussing, for instance certification of scientists. Mr. Kirk emphasized laboratory accreditation is really a done deal and needs to be and at least shows there is a basic understanding of how one is supposed to do stuff and that you have procedures and policies in place. Mr. Kirk declared certification is another thing, which is where you actually certify the scientists to do whatever they are doing whether it is firearms, tool marks or latent prints, toxicology, chemistry or whatever it might be. Mr. Kirk stated there are no really good certification programs out there for brand new scientists. Mr. Kirk noted before a toxicologist can become certified they have to be practicing toxicology for five years, which is all well and good for those employees that have greater than five years, but what do you do for the new employee, does that mean they cannot work cases, does that mean all they can do is help the other toxicologists and not sign off on the cases. Mr. Kirk stated there are a lot of questions about certification still out there and they continue to work with Senator Leahy and his staff on the questions. Mr. Kirk advised Senator Rockefeller’s bill came out about a year ago and his bill is all the way back on the other side, as the Innocence Project and their coalition decided that Senator Leahy was moving to far from where they wanted to go so they went and found someone they thought would jump on their bandwagon and they have, in Senator Rockefeller from West Virginia. Mr. Kirk stated Senator Rockefeller has had a couple of hearings which have just been absolutely appalling; at his first hearing he had John Grisham who is an author, former prosecutor from way back and he was their star witness, it was terrible. Mr. Kirk acknowledged Senator Rockefeller came out with legislation that is very vague, it is one of those types of legislation that if it was passed who knows what would come out of it and noted ASCIA has written a response to the legislation and is waiting on approval from IACP before going forward with it. Mr. Kirk stated about two months ago, the president had convene a commission to come up with some solutions to the problems with forensics and they have been working for over a year and finally came
out with their recommendation, which is to create a National Commission on Forensic Science which would be housed in the Dept. of Justice and will be co-chaired by members of the National Institutes of Standards and Technology and which has some of its own issues. Mr. Kirk advised (NIST) is a big clearing house and there are a lot of government scientists that do a lot of really good work, but they do not have any experience in forensics, but do a lot in terms of creating standards, testing, procedures and so forth. Mr. Kirk added the commission will recommend strategies for enhancing quality assurance of forensic science units; the duties of the commission will include recommending priorities for standards development, reviewing and recommending endorsement of guidance identified or developed by subject matter experts, developing proposed guidance concerning the interception of forensic science in the courtroom, developing policy recommendations, identifying and assessing current and future needs of forensic science. Mr. Kirk noted all of these sound good and this commission will be made up of not less than 30 people who will have all sorts of backgrounds, everything from law enforcement, to forensics, to Innocence Project, judges, lawyers, the whole 9 yards. Mr. Kirk emphasized while all of this sounds very good, depending who they put on this commission and how they work this, it could be very scary and the question is how would this affect the GBI at the state level. Mr. Kirk declared the federal legislation would affect the GBI as the GBI would have to comply with the law, which might be a little bit better, but what they can do and suspect what they will do, is they will develop standards, recommendations, policies and procedures the federal labs will have to follow and once the federal labs have to follow this, then the state labs will be dragged along behind them. Mr. Kirk noted what will come out of this will be something to the effect if you are a state or local lab and you want to hook up to CODIS, then you will have to follow this procedure or policy; if you are going to apply for grants and you want to receive federal grant money you will have to follow whatever rules are in place. Mr. Kirk stressed the federal legislation will get you by money or hooking up to data bases. In response to this, Mr. Kirk noted what has happened is because the president is a democrat; the two democratic senators are probably going to hold back and see where this commission goes and what it does, as they do not want to put something out there that will step on the president’s toes; this is the political side of this. Mr. Kirk stated all of the people he has talked with in the forensic arena and law enforcement arena that could put in for this commission have applied as well as Mr. Kirk. Mr. Kirk advised there were over 600 applications for the 30 positions. Mr. Kirk stated he does not know where this will go and it is a little scary and hopes he gets selected to the commission and if not selected, will continue to work through their associations in order to provide as much input as he can.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy asked Mr. Kirk if anything ever good comes out of Washington. Mr. Kirk noted that when an agency does not police itself well enough, then generally someone is going to police you, as we see this in law enforcement, if law enforcement does not follow the fourth amendment in search and seizure, then the next thing you know there is a new ruling and the agency gets spanked. Mr. Kirk stated there are a lot of labs that are not accredited, mostly small police department labs, some county labs that are doing work and many of them have had major scandals. Part of this regulation is because of that and Mr. Kirk stated he does not like regulation and would much rather have their own policies and so forth set, but how do you make the labs that are not complying, comply
Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic asked Mr. Kirk if there has been an effort to contact the representatives in the House in regards to this legislation and stated when hearing all of this, he is hearing money, money, and asked how cost prohibited are the bills that are being proposed, not only to local jurisdictions that might be forced to rely more heavily on the state agencies as the non-accredited labs can only do the way they are doing it right now and if this legislation is going to effect the smaller labs, they will go out of business and force the state to pick up the added workload and imagine they would take a look at this and put some dollar figures on it and see just how expensive this would be verses what is gained by doing this; certainly raises more questions than answers.

Mr. Kirk acknowledged that Retired Sheriff Cronic is correct on the money side as the Rockefeller bill has a lot of money, 75 million dollars attached to the bill and this is just to run the bureaucracy they are creating. Mr. Kirk stated some of this is grant money and is what has been part of holding up some of these bills from going further because of the money associated with it. Mr. Kirk stated he met with Sam Ramer who is the Chief Counsel for the House Judiciary Committee, who is a former US prosecutor and very much opposed to this type of legislation and regulation by the federal government. Mr. Kirk advised the House has some stuff in the wings if they need to bring it out, but they do not believe this is going to go anywhere. Mr. Kirk advised the House does not think it will pass the Senate and if it does pass the Senate, it will never get through the House. They have taken the stand they are not going to do anything until they think their legislation is actually going to move and then they will throw their stuff. Mr. Kirk acknowledged the House would rather see the labs continue to move in the direction they have been moving, as a vast majority of the labs are now accredited, labs are looking for certification. Mr. Kirk stated labs are doing a really good job which is what gets left out of this, we still make mistakes and as long as we have humans working in the labs, we are going to make mistakes.

Director Keenan closed out his report by saying that he and Mr. Kirk had a meeting with the governor’s office, in regards to back in the fall, which was due to what the Massachusetts State Crime Lab went through and continue to go through a major scandal. Director Keenan stated the Massachusetts State Crime Lab is not part of the state police, it is an independent agency and it is attached to the university and there has been a tremendous amount of publicity with their lab problems as they have had hundreds of inmates released from prison based on flawed forensic science analysis and thousands of cases have been dismissed. Director Keenan affirmed Mr. Bart Gobeil, Chief Operating Officer for Governor Deal read about the scandal in Massachusetts and sent him an email asking the background on what had happened in Massachusetts and Director Keenan and Mr. Kirk went over to meet with Mr. Gobeil. Director Keenan advised he told Mr. Gobeil the GBI welcomes when there is concern about the status of the crime laboratory because the GBI studies other labs that get into trouble and have been closed down. Director Keenan stated all need to be concerned about the lab, not just himself and Mr. Kirk, and are paranoid as heck about the quality work that has to come out of the lab, there will be some mistakes made because we are human beings, but the problems in the other labs have been directly related to lack of adequate funding and lack of oversight of the operations. Director Keenan stated he told Mr. Gobeil that he welcomed his concern as well as the governor’s concern so that when the GBI steps up and say we need additional resources to keep the quality at the level that it has to be, when we need certain equipment updated, there is a reason for this,
because without, if we are going to have a lab, we are going to have to operate it professionally with adequate resources and we are all concerned and understand what the outcome is going to be without the resources, it becomes much easier to get that support. Director Keenan noted Governor Deal has been supportive of the state crime lab as he put additional resources into the lab so the lab could hire scientists to handle the weight based drug testing, all of this is ongoing and our laboratory is nationally accredited, have strict protocols they operate under and invest a lot of money in training and every case that is worked is peer reviewed by another scientist, all of these are quality measures. Director Keenan declared the lab requires resources, but without the resources there will be a scandal in a lab when that does not occur. Director Keenan reaffirmed that he welcomes any questions or concerns about a crime lab as it is good for all of us to be concerned.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Director Keenan what the standards are for the certifications or accreditations for the people working in the crime labs. Mr. Kirk responded the crime lab is accredited through ASLAB, a national standard for analytical laboratories who seek ISO 17025 accreditation, which lays out the standards the lab has to follow in whatever types of analysis that the crime lab does. Mr. Kirk added there are not any really good certification programs for forensic scientists and one of the things they are trying to push at the national level is that each lab should have a basic education requirement which is done under accreditation for their scientists, basic level of training and a basic level of testing to ensure the scientists when they step into a lab to analyze drugs, they know how to analyze the drugs and do this through the training program. Mr. Keenan stated right now each lab that is accredited has a training program, has education requirements and they actually provide the employee with a letter they have completed the training and then are qualified to analyzed drugs. Mr. Kirk stated they are pushing the national people to look at the training and education programs and allow labs once they fill those squares then that would be the certification.

Director Tim Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center began his report by discussing the number of students that have been coming through the GPSTC as he thinks it is a big reflection on the staff and some things that GPSTC has been working on. Director Bearden stated this past March, the GPSTC had an increase of over 4,000 students from last March and for this fiscal year, the GPSTC has seen over 22,000 additional students coming to the facilities from the last fiscal year. Director Bearden expressed this is a huge reflection on the GPSTC staff, not just in the regional academies, but also at the GPSTC in trying to get it back to where it needs to be. Director Bearden commented that it is amazing what a roof that does not leak can help us achieve some days; there are a lot of things that the GPSTC staff has been working on and very proud of the whole staff and amount of students in attendance and are having to find additional room to put training classes on which is a good thing.

Director Bearden shared that the GPSTC has a new website that should be going live on July 1st, which is something that has been desperately needed; it will make it easier for students to navigate the website, hopefully in a more efficient way to get to the online classes as the online classes have totally taken off since GPSTC put the classes out there. Director Bearden added there is no cost to the online courses.
Director Bearden stated GPSTC had some media coverage in the last couple weeks for two incidents that occurred within three days. Director Bearden stated one of the incidents was where there was an accident on the high speed track involving a trooper that was taken to the hospital and checked out.

Director Bearden emphasized to the GSP training staff and the GPSTC staff that is what the range and driving track is for, he would rather an accident occur on the high speed track than on the interstate; the training center is where they need to find out their limitations, vehicle limitations and not out on the street. Director Bearden stated the other incident involved two basic training students, not doing well on the firing range, removed them from the firing range and put them on a separate range by themselves with an instructor, they were doing shooting exercises, drawing and firing, re-holstering and teach them constantly to keep their finger off the trigger. Director Bearden advised the student did not take his finger off the trigger when he re-holstered, the bullet went in above the knee cap and came out at the calf; the student is fine and he is no longer at the GPSTC. Director Bearden stressed the GPSTC took all the right steps to make sure the students were getting the remedial training they needed; unfortunately the students did not pay attention to the instructors.

Director Bearden advised Mr. Michael Parkerson would bring a Bond Resolution before the BPS later in the meeting. Director Bearden advised he and Mr. Parkerson went to Cherokee County and met with Sheriff Roger Garrison and Mr. Vick West who are building a 5 million dollar state of the art facility in Cherokee County and thanks to the governor and the General Assembly, the GPSTC was able to put $700,000 in bonds with that project for a shoot house and some other property on the land and working together, Cherokee County has built GPSTC several classrooms and office space. Director Bearden stressed anything GPSTC can do to take the training to the students is a plus and the facility should be ready to go in the next few months. Director Bearden expressed it was great to have that working partnership with Cherokee County Sheriff Garrison and also advised the GPSTC has been working with Columbia County Sheriff Whittle to put a cone course driving track at the facility the Columbia County Sheriff’s office is building.

Director Bearden advised there would be an active shooting class to be taught by the FBI in July at the GPSTC which will focus on the first responder, the school resource officer, the patrol officer who gets the call to an active shooting scene especially if at a school and will also open up the class for school officials.

Deputy Director Keith Howard, Georgia Public Safety Training Center shared last year the GPSTC started a collaboration with the RCDTA, the Regional Counter Drug Training Academy in Meridian, Mississippi and hosted 6-8 of their courses and in one of their courses they brought over a 2 week electronic surveillance course, a $50,000-$60,000 course and will do this again at the GPSTC. Mr. Howard stated the class will hold a maximum of 24 people in the class and have a number of break-out scenarios. Mr. Howard advised there were 18 people in the class last year and will be promoting the class to hopefully fill the seats, and since GPSTC has that kind of partnership and are spending that kind of money coming over here, we want to max out our student participation.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Mr. Howard how the GPSTC was advertising for the active shooter training. Mr. Howard responded that Ms. Kathy Kemp, of Marketing and Research is putting the class
on the website, face book, flicker, a number of new social media outlets that GPSTC is using now, as well as some of the traditional emails and making phone calls trying to get everyone involved.

Sheriff Dane Kirby asked how many slots would be available for the active shooter class and Mr. Howard advised they could open up the auditorium which would hold 500 and if they get to that capacity for the two day course, they could possibly use a couple of the bays so this class could be expanded out.

Mr. Howard shared with the electronic surveillance course, not only do they get the training from the experts, they assemble a number of devices that the participants get to keep and receive a tool bag that is used to assemble the devices. Mr. Howard advised the electronic surveillance course is for two weeks and the active shooter course is for two days.

Director Bearden reminded everyone that Monday, May 20th, 2013, the Public Safety Memorial would be held at the GPSTC and Governor Deal will be the keynote speaker.

**DONATIONS**

Mr. Peter Adams, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Helicopter Dolly</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
<td>Cornwell Entertainment, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel for the Heart and Soul of GA Bus Tour</td>
<td>$259.80</td>
<td>GA Municipal Association</td>
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The motion to accept these donations was made by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., which was seconded by Sheriff Dane Kirby and voted approved by the Board members.

**FISCAL REPORTS**

Mr. Peter Adams, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety presented the DPS fiscal report ending March 31, 2013, stating the DPS’s target is to have 25% of funds remaining for the fiscal year and overall the DPS is at 25.38%. In regards to MCCD, Mr. Adams pointed out DPS is working very closely with the Federal Motor Carrier Association to get the money for the reimbursements for the MCCD program as MCCD is short at this time for three months funding; the reimbursement has been submitted but due to sequestration and not passing the budget at the federal level, they are not issuing any money out right now. Mr. Adams advised that MCCD received an email last date stating they would look at it at the beginning of May and MCCD may see the money by the end of June, but are going to try and meet with them next week to see what this really means and to see if MCCD can get the money any quicker as MCCD can certainly can use the money to close out the fiscal year.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, GBI presented the GBI fiscal report ending March 31, 2013, with 23% of state money remaining and 26% overall remaining state and federal money and are pretty much
right on target. Mr. Kirk noted that the ARRA Stimulus Funds (grant money) is coming to an end and are just about completely spent.

Mr. Michael Parkerson, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center presented the GPSTC fiscal report ending March 31, 2013, and stated the state general funds has 32% of the budget remaining, 60% in federal funds and 27% in other and will be fine closing out the fiscal year.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Jacqueline Bunn, Deputy Director of Legal Services, Department of Public Safety presented proposed revisions for the initial adoption to the Georgia Department of Public Safety Rule 570-7 Speed Detection Devices, proposed revisions for the initial adoption to the Georgia Department of Public Safety Rule 570-12 Motorcyclists’ Eye Protection, and proposed revisions for the initial adoption to the Georgia Department of Public Safety Rule 570-13 Specifications for Protective Headgear for Vehicular Users.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy made a motion to accept the proposed changes for initial adoption to Department of Public Safety Rule 570-7, Rule 570-12 and Rule 570-13. This was seconded by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., and voted approved by the Board members.

Mr. Michael Parkerson, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center came before the BPS members presenting a General Obligation Bond Resolution in the amount of 3.83 million dollar bonds to be sold in the upcoming bond sale with 1 million of that amount for the Columbia County and Cherokee County facility that was previously mentioned, the other $395,000.00 for a fire truck, $235,000.00 to repave the skid pad, $425,000.00 for a fire prevention lab, $400,000.00 for a shoot house and $102,000 for the cafe remodel, centrifical fans at $275,000.00, lift station and generators for $108,000.00, UPS for computer room, $232,000.00, light poles for $143,000.00, HVAC $643,000.00 and access and control for the ammo bunker $90,000.00.

Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic made the motion to adopt the Bond Resolution for the GPSTC, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and voted approved by the BPS members.

Director Tim Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center shared GPSTC is working with MCCD over the next two years and scheduling 21 classes for EVOC courses on the high speed track to get them where they want to be for the next few years.

Concerning the Georgia Fire Academy Advisory Council, Director Bearden stated the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs recommended Mr. Bryan Croft, current President of the GA Association of Fire Chiefs to serve on the Georgia Fire Academy Advisory Council and asked the BPS for their consideration in this recommendation.

Chief Danny D. Bowman made the motion to approve the recommendation of Mr. Bryan Croft to serve on the Georgia Fire Academy Advisory Council. This motion was seconded by retired Sheriff Steve Cronic and voted approval by the BPS members.
Director Tim Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center presented a list of 57 names to be added to the Public Safety Memorial in 2014. Director Bearden noted one individual, Mr. William Allen Satterfield, an inmate firefighter at Lee Arrendale CI who was convicted and serving time for robbery and was 2 months before being released from prison. Director Bearden added Mr. Satterfield was responding to a fire call with the prison fire department, there was an accident and Mr. Satterfield was killed in the accident and his name is on the National Fire Wall. Director Bearden stated he wanted to make sure the BPS members were fully aware of Mr. Satterfield’s situation before voting on the list of 57 names. Commissioner Brian Owens stated his preference would be to include Mr. Satterfield, as all inmates have to volunteer to serve in fire services and they have to be certified and trained in fire services and their primary mission is not to support the prison, but to support the community. Commissioner Owens added there are very few calls at the prisons due to safety systems, the majority of the calls are to the local communities they serve.

Chief Danny D. Bowman stated the fire services would not do anything in the world to upset law enforcement, as law enforcement and fire service work hand in hand and when considering the individual’s crime was not with a weapon, Chief Danny D. Bowman made the motion to approve the list of 57 names, including Mr. William Allen Satterfield to be placed on the Public Safety Memorial Wall for 2014. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Owens and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy made a motion to prepare and present a Resolution to Mr. Bob Plemons of the Department of Corrections, who in the past coordinated many construction projects in the state. Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic seconded the motion and was voted approved by the BPS members.

Vice-Chairman Wood thanked Commissioner Owens and the DOC for the use of their Board room.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded the BPS members that the next BPS meeting would be September 12, 2103, at North Hall High School in Gainesville, GA.

Commissioner Owens publicly thanked the OPB staff present at the meeting for their work with the Governor’s office and their recommendation for the 2014 DOC budget of 1.1+ billion dollars, and noted the folks at OPB fought off the wolves through the budget process and DOC only lost one and half million dollars through the process.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.