

## **BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Department of Corrections Board Room- Atlanta, Georgia

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chief Danny D. Bowman  
Mr. Steve D. Cronic  
Mr. C. Murray Kight  
Sheriff Dane Kirby  
Commissioner Brian Owens  
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.  
Chief Mark Revenew  
Chief Craig Tully  
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Wayne Abernathy  
Mr. Daniel M. Bryant  
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan  
Mr. Brian M. Rickman  
Sheriff Joey Terrell

### **OTHERS:**

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison  
Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety  
Lt. Colonel Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety  
Major Eddie Grier, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Hank Fielding, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Capt. Johnny Jones, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Capt. Jason Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Capt. Buddy Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Capt. Joe Hamby, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Capt. Grady Sanford, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Sgt. Anthony Hughes, Department of Public Safety  
Ms. Lisa Maier, Department of Public Safety  
Ms. Joan Crumpler, Department of Public Safety  
Ms. Christina Calloway, Department of Public Safety  
Mr. Peter Adams, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety  
Mrs. Amy Stancil, Assistant Comptroller, Department of Public Safety  
Mr. Will Ruffin, Office of Planning and Budget  
Mr. Matt Ogles, Office of Planning and Budget  
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mrs. Connie Buck, Fiscal Officer, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Director Timothy Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Mo Thrash, Lobbyist  
Mr. John Haliburton, Lobbyist  
Mr. Kenneth Mantle, Department of Corrections

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Major Eddie Grier, Georgia State Patrol gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the March 13<sup>th</sup> and April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 minutes. Chief Mark Renew made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Chief Craig Tully and voted approved by the BPS members.

### **Director Reports**

Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety asked Ms. Christine Calloway, Legal Officer to come forward. Ms. Calloway presented for final adoption Department of Public Safety Rule 570-6-1: Transportation – Nonconsensual Towing.

Mr. Lester Rampy made the motion to adopt Department of Public Safety Rule 570-6-1: Transportation – Nonconsensual Towing, which was seconded by Chief Danny Bowman and voted approved by the BPS members.

Ms. Joan Crumpler, Deputy Director of Legal for the Department of Public Safety presented a Resolution for the Board of Public Safety's approval to authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to enter into negotiations with Paulding County for the provision of headquarters and barracks for State Patrol Post 29 Paulding/Hiram and to enter into all agreements with Paulding County necessary to establish Post 29 in Paulding County.

Chief Mark Renew made the motion that the members of the Board of Public Safety, authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to enter into negotiations with Paulding County and enter into the appropriate agreements and execute all contracts and supporting documents as necessary to enable Paulding County to renovate and construct such building(s) and structure(s) upon such property of Paulding County for the purposes stated in the Resolution; and further, to take those steps necessary, including any steps necessary on behalf of the Board of Public Safety, to acquire the property located at 1723 Bill Carruth Pkwy, Hiram, Paulding County, Georgia, being approximately 3 acres for use as a GSP Post Headquarters and Barracks, which was seconded by Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic and voted approved by the BPS members.

Ms. Lisa Maier, Director of Human Resources for the Department of Public Safety came before the Board of Public Safety in regards to reclassifying and transitioning the Customer Service Agent job series to the Dispatcher job series. Commissioner McDonough reminded the BPS members of OCGA 35-2-37 which gives the DPS Commissioner, with the approval of the Board, the ability to employ communications officers and to divide them into such ranks and categories as are deemed necessary.

To support the battalion, the commissioner, with the approval of the board, is authorized to employ such communications officers as may be necessary, within the limits set by available appropriations. Such personnel shall not be considered members of the Uniform Division. Communications officers may be divided into such ranks or categories as the commissioner, with the approval of the board, deems appropriate.

Ms. Maier advised in 2008, the BPS approved the reclassification of the positions from the Communications Equipment Officer job series to the Customer Service Agent series and at the time, the Customer Service Agent job description fit with what the communications personnel did as the first line of contact for constituents calling or visiting the patrol posts. Ms. Maier noted the change allowed the Department to upgrade the pay grades the positions were on.

Ms. Maier stated DPS is asking to reclassify the positions again for three main reasons; since 2008 the communications function has been consolidated into one communications center for each Troop, which has changed the nature of the job, using the Customer Service Agent job series does not allow the compensation specialist at the Department of Administrative Services to get accurate market data on what the competitors are paying their operators and found it was confusing to both employees and applicants when using the Customer Service Agent title. Ms. Maier went on to add the DPS has worked with the Department of Administrative Services to create a new career path that closely matches the duties of the communications staff within the Troop Communication Centers.

Ms. Maier stated with the BPS's approval, the DPS would like to change to the new titles effective July 1, 2014, and stated the new career path will include:

Dispatcher 1 - for newly hired employees

Dispatcher 2 – for employees who have met their working test after one year of service

Dispatcher 3/Senior Dispatcher – used for shift leaders

Dispatcher Supervisor/Chief Dispatcher – the manager who is responsible for the Troop Communications Center and staff and who reports to the Troop Commander

Ms. Maier added with the new career path, the DPS will be better able to attract, hire and retain the caliber of individuals needed to perform the vital role in the communications centers.

Mr. Lester Rampy, Jr., made the motion for the DPS to reclassify and change the titles for employees in the Troop Communication Centers. This was seconded by Retired Sheriff Steve Cronin and voted approved by the BPS members.

Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation began his report by sharing that a survey of law enforcement agencies relating to human trafficking in Georgia was released on May 1. Director Keenan advised 206 participating law enforcement agencies reported a total of 190 cases of human trafficking with the majority of the cases involving the sexual exploitation of children, one third involving adult sex trafficking and a few labor trafficking cases. Director Keenan noted a significant disparity between the number of victims documented by law enforcement (190 cases with a least one victim) and victims' service organizations (more than 500 individual victims). Director Keenan stated with regard to the disparity between law enforcement and victims' service providers, the survey noted the disparity is attributed to a number of factors including but not limited to, organizational

differences, victim-specific issues, and an inability to effectively identify and treat victims. Director Keenan declared law enforcement agencies who completed the survey felt training is inadequate and would like to be contacted about training opportunities related to human trafficking issues. Director Keenan noted the survey revealed that 60% of law enforcement agencies responding to the survey believed minors should be charged with prostitution while 40% believed the children are true victims. Director Keenan declared GA Law O.C.G.A 16-5-46, states it is a crime to engage in sexual activity with anyone under the age 18.

Director Keenan advised on April 29<sup>th</sup>, April 30<sup>th</sup>, and May 1<sup>st</sup>, the GBI hosted with the US Department of Homeland Security and the FBI, a child sex trafficking national event at the Georgia Tech Conference Center. Director Keenan stated there were 190 investigators and analysts from 24 states that attended the event.

Director Keenan reminded the BPS members that some twelve years ago, two GBI agents were assigned to the Social Security Disability Fraud Unit. Director Keenan shared there are many Georgians receiving state funds through Social Security Services fraudulently. Director Keenan declared two additional agents will begin working with the Social Security Fraud Unit and the agents' salary will be paid by the federal government. Director Keenan noted persons file disability claims and state they are confined to the home with a wheelchair and then will have a job on the side. Director Keenan stated there is millions of dollars wasted.

Director Timothy J. Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center thanked the group for their prayers and concerns following his father's death.

Director Bearden advised all of the carpet has been installed at the GPSTC; will soon have a ground breaking for the fire safety lab and begin construction on the active shooter house this summer. Director Bearden noted the GPSTC is in phase two of the roofing project at the GPSTC.

Director Bearden explained a problem with the GPSTC Online Training. Director Bearden stated during 2010, thirteen courses were offered online where students could view the training and download a form which had to be signed by a training officer from their agency and submitted to GA POST for credit. Director Bearden advised on May 1, 2012, GPSTC migrated twenty courses into a new online delivery system powered by Blackboard, where GPSTC could electronically transfer POST credit directly to the GA POST system. Director Bearden stated the courses grew to 32 and were referred to as "on demand" courses, which was a way to address hot topic issues that needed immediate attention. Director Bearden further advised that in April 2013, as a cost savings measure, GPSTC migrated the online courses from Blackboard to a GPSTC custom-built system, developed by GPSTC's Technical Services Division. Director Bearden stated on February 28, 2014, GPSTC was informed that an officer had taken 20 online courses during an 8 hour shift and the GPSTC was asked how this could happen. Director Bearden stated what was discovered is that as the popularity of the on demand courses grew, the GPSTC internal server could not handle the volume and the overload created a buffering problem, which allowed the student to speed up the system by clicking other links and inadvertently clicking on a link that asked if they wanted POST credit. Director Bearden noted once the student acknowledged

the question, GPSTC's ability to track the student was lost. Director Bearden noted this does not mean the students did not remain in the course, as they would have had 30 days to log in and out to complete the training. Director Bearden stated the courses were developed in an in-service format without a test, so therefore, no cheating occurred, but if the student realized the flaw, there was the possibility to circumvent the system. Director Bearden shared that on March 5<sup>th</sup>, all issues were corrected when the GPSTC upgraded the custom system to track student activity as they move through the course, show a quiz once the presentation has been completed, place a time delay equal to the length of the presentation to prevent advancing to the next stop prior to completion and show an ethics acceptance message at the beginning of each course for the student to acknowledge. Director Bearden acknowledged the GPSTC lost the ability to track students for 11 months, and cannot say with certainty that all students attended 100% of the presentations. Director Bearden stated the GPSTC plans to offer the on demand courses in a new online system powered by Moodle, and GPSTC is investing their server infrastructure in order to create a more robust online system, and has also contracted with Rackspace to store online content which should help with the buffering issues. Director Bearden advised on April 14<sup>th</sup>, he spoke with POST and sent an email to the Georgia Sheriffs Association and the Chief of Police Association in regards to the online training and shared that Fox 5 Reporter Randy Travis may do a report for the Fox 5 Investigation team. Director Bearden apologized for the inconvenience this may have created, but ensured the necessary steps have been taken to ensure that officers receive the best training.

Director Bearden reminded the BPS members of the Governor's Public Safety Memorial Ceremony which is to be held May 19, 2014 at 0900 hours at the GPSTC.

**Donations**

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

Three I-Phone 5s Phones	\$ 300.00	Morgan County Sheriff's Dept.
One Stalker Dual Radar	\$ 2,500.00	Byron Police Dept.
One 3 Camera LPR System	\$ 19,973.00	Walton County Sheriff's Dept.
Three 3 Raptor RP-1 Dual K Band Radars	\$ 4,575.00	Coweta County Sheriff's Dept.
Two Tasers X26P	\$ 1,772.00	Bartow County Drug Task Force
Four LWRC M6-G Rifles	\$ 8,706.96	Walker County Commissioners
180 Bags of Dog Food	\$ 10,800.00	Pet Supplies Plus

The motion to accept these donations was made by Chief Craig Tully, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell, and voted approved by the Board members.

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

2006 Ford Crown Vic Police Vehicle	\$	4,000.00	Sandy Springs Police Dept.
Five 2007 Ford Crown Vic Police Vehicles	\$	20,000.00	Sandy Springs Police Dept.
2008 Ford Crown Vic Police Vehicle	\$	4,000.00	Sandy Springs Police Dept.
Three 2008 Dodge Charger Police Vehicles	\$	15,000.00	Sandy Springs Police Dept.

Chief Mark Renew made the motion to approve the donations, which was seconded by retired Sheriff Steve Cronic, and voted approved by the BPS members.

#### **FISCAL REPORTS**

Mr. Peter Adams, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety presented the DPS fiscal report stating the DPS is currently at 23.03% of the budget remaining after the third quarter fiscal year 2014.

Mrs. Connie Buck, Fiscal Officer, Georgia Bureau of Investigation presented the GBI fiscal report stating the GBI is currently at 29.26% of the budget remaining after the third quarter fiscal year 2014.

Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Training Center presented the GPSTC fiscal report stating at the end of March 31, 2014, the GPSTC is at 30% of state funds remaining, 56% of federal funds remaining, 26% of other funds remaining and 43% bond funds remaining and overall at 35%.

#### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Vice-Chairman Wood stated Mr. Wayne Abernathy's Board position would expire May 11, 2014.

Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic made the motion to reappoint Mr. Wayne Abernathy, (member-at large #6) to the Board of Public Safety. This was seconded by Chief Danny Bowman and voted approval by the BPS members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Brian M. Rickman  
Secretary