

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

May 12th, 2015

Sapelo Island, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Danny Bryant
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan
Mr. Steve D. Cronic
Sheriff Dane Kirby
Chief Mark Revenew
Mr. Brian M. Rickman
Sheriff Joey Terrell
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chief Danny Bowman
Commissioner Homer Bryson
Mr. C. Murray Kight
Mr. Lester Rampy, Jr.
Chief Craig Tully

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 Tommy Waldrop, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Hank Fielding, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Johnny Jones, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Major Billy Boulware, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Capt. Jason Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Capt. Mark Lambert, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Capt. Billy Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Capt. Chris Wright, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Capt. Wayne Mobley, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Lt. Clint Durrence, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Ms. Joan Crumpler, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Peter Adams, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Colonel Eddie Henderson, Department of Natural Resources
Deputy Commissioner Walter Rabon, Department of Natural Resources
Mrs. Sally Fielding
Mrs. Brandi Wigginton
Mrs. Kathy Cronic
Mrs. Maureen Bryant
Mrs. Kathy Wood

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the May 12th, 2015, Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Reverend Charles Houston gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the April 16th, 2015 minutes. Mr. Danny Bryant made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Kacy K. Cronan and voted approved by the BPS members.

Director Reports

Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety shared this was his 11th year at being at DPS HQ and probably the 100th Board meeting he has been to, and by far, does not think there is anyone than can touch this BPS meeting. Commissioner McDonough thanked DNR Deputy Commissioner Walter Rabon and DNR Colonel Eddie Henderson for their hospitality as the meeting has been a lot of fun and hopes everyone else has had as much fun as he has.

Commissioner McDonough brought the BPS members up to date on the Administrative Order with the concrete industry that was started about six months. Commissioner McDonough stated he is doing this very cautiously about 90 days at a time and has been asked why he does not go ahead and make this permanent. Commissioner McDonough stated the class of the vehicle, the concrete truck, has shown to be a vehicle that gets involved in things so are doing this piecemeal at the time and updating it for another 90 days. Commissioner McDonough noted through the governor's leadership, there will be over a billion dollars a year added to the Department of Transportation's budget to improve roadways and infrastructure, which means a lot of concrete will be poured in the state of Georgia, with a lot of jobs and infrastructure of our state for years to come and will be able to support a growing population, with a lot of new jobs and new industries coming to the state. Commissioner McDonough expressed the concrete has to be delivered by these trucks and has updated the Administrative Order for another 90 days and will watch it very closely. Commissioner McDonough reported there have been no significant instances after increasing the ability of the concrete trucks to be on the roadways in their time frame, no trend to show this has been a bad decision.

Commissioner McDonough presented a Bond Resolution for the aggregate principal amount of \$11,525,000.00. Commissioner McDonough stated the Bond package covers \$7,815,000.00 for the purchase of 173 patrol ready vehicles for the GSP and \$455,000.00 for 10 patrol ready vehicles for the MCCD. Commissioner McDonough noted \$2,320,000.00 would go towards computers, as the refreshment of the MDTs has already begun. Commissioner McDonough stated \$375,000.00 of the bond money is for facility and maintenance, \$370,000.00 for MCCD to purchase mobile scales, and \$190,000.00 for Capitol Police to replace their screening machines. Commissioner McDonough noted there is an agreement with the Georgia Building Authority for Capitol Police for contract security services; it does not include one of the tools they use to do their job at the capitol which is the metal detectors, screening devices as the public comes in the door.

Chief Mark Renew made the motion to adopt the Bond Resolution for the DPS, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell, and voted approved by the BPS members.

Commissioner McDonough reminded the BPS members, that 11 years ago, the issue of the use of the PIT nationwide came under scrutiny and at that time, the action of the BPS put together a subcommittee which worked with the Georgia Association Chiefs of Police, and a white paper was developed by them and a study was done at Georgia Tech in the use of the PIT. Commissioner McDonough stated the action of the Board and the subcommittee at that time required that the DPS conduct annual training on high speed pursuits and the decision making process, and DPS has done that. Commissioner McDonough stated another requirement was that DPS report back to the BPS about the training and also to review the statistical brief of what has happened the year before.

Commissioner McDonough presented the 2014 Pursuit Summary Report and went over some of the highlights. Commissioner McDonough stated there were 655 total pursuits reported, up almost 50% from last year, with the normal average running from 350 to 400. Commissioner McDonough noted most of the pursuits occurred in NW GA, Troop C, in and around Metro Atlanta, Troop D who has a Nighthawks Task Force and then also Troop I as they also have a Nighthawks Task Force.

Commissioner McDonough stated GPS HQ had one pursuit; fast and furious Major Hank Fielding who just cannot let it go, does not matter if violator is 19 or 90, Major Fielding is not going to let him go if he runs. Commissioner McDonough noted most of the pursuits occurred on Thursday and Sunday.

For number of pursuits by county, Commissioner McDonough advised Chatham County had 57, DeKalb County had 23, Fulton County 84 and Muscogee County had 31 where there are Nighthawks Task Forces working. Commissioner McDonough stated for length of service of reporting troopers, those with 1-5 and 6-10 years is the greatest percentage of those doing the chasing. In regards to how the pursuit was terminated, Commissioner McDonough stated he thinks this comes into play for the training that occurs on an annual basis, with one of the things that has been emphasized is the discretion of the trooper, it is the responsibility of the trooper that is actually involved in the chase; it is the Department's responsibility to train the officer to go through the decision making process.

Commissioner McDonough noted officer discretion and lost contact, if the officer loses contact, they are cutting the chase off and expressed his hat goes to the trooper for making that decision and in 1 in 5 of the cases, the trooper is saying he is going to discontinue the pursuit. For forcible stop techniques, used/attempted; Commissioner McDonough stated one will see it is 1 in 6 where the PIT was actually used, because part of the decision making process is to make the officer go through all of the avenues before the officer gets to the PIT. Commissioner McDonough stated the average pursuit distance is less than 5 miles, with average total time of pursuits less than 5 minutes. Commissioner McDonough stated it is a 30-31 year old that is DUI, is suspended and does not have a driver's license or is on probation and does not want to be caught that is running from the officer.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy asked Commissioner McDonough about the pursuits involving Capitol Police and Commissioner McDonough responded this involved officers that work for Capitol Police. Commissioner McDonough noted just recently there was a pursuit by Capitol Police officers that ended in a fiery crash on Moreland Avenue, where the violator passed away.

Commissioner McDonough shared there were six fatalities, all violators involved in high speed pursuits and fall into two categories, where the violator wrecked and as a result of the wreck, there injuries caused them to pass away or they were ejected in the PIT and were not wearing their seatbelt. In regards to the 50% increase for the 2014 pursuits, Sheriff Cronin asked Commissioner McDonough his thoughts and Commissioner McDonough responded that he thinks it is the environment of policing as to where we are now, the relationship between the disrespect for authority, and people do want to abide by the authority of the

police, has a lot to do with the environment we live in, and people just do not want to deal with the police.

Commissioner McDonough shared Mrs. Allison Hodge will be retiring in September and Ms. Cheryl Buie would be returning to headquarters to work for him.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation began his report discussing Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training and reminded everyone as to what happened at Columbine where the police officers at that time contained and then called SWAT. Mr. Kirk acknowledged based on history, this did not work. Mr. Kirk added officers have changed their tactics as to how they are going to handle mass shootings as the US has a lot of mass murders. Mr. Kirk stated the last training encouraged the officers to go in and not wait on SWAT, go in if it is an active shooter situation, go to the shooter and take care of business and this training is still good today. Mr. Kirk stated the most likely scenario is a local officer and maybe a trooper will arrive on the scene and need to go in and take care of business and do it as a team. Mr. Kirk thanked Commissioner McDonough's training staff, as they did a tremendous job after going out to Texas to receive the trainer training, bringing it back to Georgia and the goal is for every agency in the state to have ALERRT. Mr. Kirk declared this training teaches the officers to work as a team, no matter who the officer is partnered with. Mr. Kirk commented the DPS training staff did an outstanding job with the two day training.

Mr. Kirk stated elder abuse is a growing crime and the GBI has been focusing on this crime for the last several years. Mr. Kirk stated in this year's budget, the GBI received funding for eight agents that will be located throughout the state to add to the manpower of that office, which will allow the GBI to do more cases on elder abuse. Mr. Kirk declared the elder abuse cases are horrific; the places and the conditions where the elderly people are kept and what is being taken from them is horrendous. Mr. Kirk stated unlicensed homes pop up where they may have 8-10 patients living in deplorable conditions and the sad thing is when an agent goes into one of these places, a place has to be found to put the people and then there has to be a lot of coordination with the social services group. Mr. Kirk declared a lot of times the families are mad because they have to deal with everything they have already dealt with, which is to try and find a place for their parent. Mr. Kirk stated it is a sad state of affairs in regards to some of the attitudes these people have. Mr. Kirk advised agents would be placed in Calhoun, Columbus, Milledgeville, White County, Thomasville, Conyers, Athens and Eastman where they have already experienced quite a few elder abuse cases.

Mr. Kirk spoke about officer involved shootings and saying in rural Georgia, the GBI practically works all of the officer involved shootings and serious use of force where there is serious injury or death, with the exception of a couple of counties. Mr. Kirk stated traditionally, the GBI has not worked any cases in the Metro-Atlanta area until post Ferguson. Mr. Kirk stated with post Ferguson, the GBI has had to take on Gwinnett County and DeKalb County, and has worked an officer involved shooting in Cobb County. Mr. Kirk added the Atlanta Police Dept. continues to handle their officer involved shootings and will until they have a really bad officer involved shooting. Mr. Kirk declared this has added to the workload for the GBI, particularly in the Conyers field office. When looking at

Gwinnett County and DeKalb County, Mr. Kirk acknowledged they kill 5 people a year on the average and does not include serious injury the GBI is involved with as well. Mr. Kirk acknowledged post Ferguson it was asked how the GBI handles the cases, the media, the public, what does the GBI do in these types of cases and this prompted Director Keenan to call a lot of the GBI's 41 sister agencies in the association of state criminal investigator agencies who have worked nearly 1600 officer involved use of force and serious injury or death in a year's time frame. Mr. Kirk stated the state criminal investigator agencies have worked a lot of these cases and know what the pitfalls are and what the best practices are, and the question was how we work the cases between states. Mr. Kirk stated there was a working group meeting in Atlanta that included the states of Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina, working and going through what each state does and looking at the best practices and was an outstanding meeting. Mr. Kirk stated the GBI came away from the group meeting understanding the group was pretty much doing things the same way, which helps the GBI think they are doing things the right way. Mr. Kirk stated out of this group meeting, a committee was formed, who will develop a bible of best practices in how the agencies will handle these situations across the US. Mr. Kirk stated the GBI would bring back the information the committee puts out to the BPS. Mr. Kirk stated one of the things they have not figured out within the GBI is when the GBI is involved in a shooting in rural Georgia, how it will be handled and are looking at the surrounding states that may be able to provide some assistance and then there are all sorts of issue with that, but will get it figured out.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Mr. Kirk how many use of force cases the GBI handles in a week. Mr. Kirk responded the average would be 1-1/2 a week, but has been as many as 3-4 in a given week, which taps the GBI resources, as a case involves a case agent, 5 other agents, two crime scene people are involved and a supervisor, which can wipe out the capabilities of an office for 24-48 hours.

Mr. Danny Bryant asked when officers begin using body cams will this solve some of that. Mr. Kirk stated body cams will not be the answer to all problems.

Mr. Danny Bryant asked Colonel McDonough if any of the troopers have body cams and Colonel McDonough replied the Motor Unit and some MCCD officers will test the body cams as these officers are away from their vehicle, and noted this is the normal progression for technology and reminded everyone that in 1989 dash cams were placed in the patrol vehicles and this is an update of the technology and instead of just being in the car, it will be incorporated with the car or will be the camera that the officer uses.

Colonel McDonough revisited an earlier question from Sheriff Cronin concerning the increase of pursuits for 2014 stating he thinks the reason for more pursuits is due to younger officers, as there have been a lot of trooper schools put through and the data shows it is the younger troopers that are doing the chase. Commissioner McDonough added it is the state of society we are in, and where the data shows who the person is, the age and then the reason because they have a suspended license or where they are on probation, and there has been an increase on those for supervisory release, they get caught, and then there is a probation revocation hearing that is tied to it.

Mr. Kirk added he hopes something will come out of the committee for suggestions on how to train officers to handle shooting situations and change tactics.

Chief Revenew commented he had over 40 body cameras for his Pooler PD officers and cannot afford to store five years of video.

Mr. Brian Rickman noted the GBI workload for officer involved shootings will probably double and for the first time, some of the police departments that have internal affairs department, when the activists get involved, they want a GBI investigation. Mr. Rickman stated it has only been recently that they want the GBI and seems to be trending towards having to double the size of the Conyers office. Mr. Kirk added the GBI will start to do investigations on officer involved shootings for the metro area and when the answers do not come out the way the crowd wants them to come out, they will not want the GBI, they will want the FBI.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center began his report stating the AJC had called the GPSTC to verify firearms training concerning Sheriff Victor Hill. Director Wigginton declared training is a hot topic throughout the state and the nation that we live in as far as training is concerned. Director Wigginton stated seven months ago, when he took this job, he sat back and did a lot of observing, listening and paying attention to the BPS, the training center and its direction. Director Wigginton stated one thing he noticed early on when he got the facts as far as the turnover rates, the majority of the turnover rates were the people that deliver information to the students. Director Wigginton stated he equated the GPSTC instructors to the GBI agent and the trooper on the road. Director Wigginton shared there was almost a 30% turnover rate for the instructors and when looking at the numbers and the pay that was associated with this, there is great disparity in what they were being paid and the turnover rate. Director Wigginton said the instructors are people that are wanting to deliver information to senior officers, rookies and recruits throughout the state and do not want someone that has been on the road as a deputy, police officer or trooper for two years delivering this information. You want someone that is a sergeant, Lt. that is well versed and have knowledge in their area delivering the material. Director Wigginton stated once he gathered all of this information, the budget had already been submitted to the General Assembly, not thinking the GPSTC would be able to do anything with it, Director Wigginton stated he put together a proposal, presented it to the governor's office to raise the salary of the instructors. Director Wigginton shared the governor's office along with the General Assembly was gracious enough to grant the salary increase and behind to scenes there was a lot of work done to get the people that mattered, the jobs, and to get the applicant pool needed to deliver this information. Director Wigginton stated with the material that is being delivered with the instructors are needed to the 2015 standards. Director Wigginton stated there were instructors at the GPSTC for 8-9 years that were making \$35,000.00 and have recruits going through the basic police academy making more than the instructor, which is an issue. Director Wigginton stated with the turnover rate problem, within a two year period, the instructors were coming in and getting instructor certifications and then the agency was hiring the individual as their training coordinator with a substantial pay raise. Director Wigginton stated the entry level instructor will make a little over \$44,000.00, with the next level at \$48,000.00. Director Wigginton thanked the governor's office and the General Assembly for getting the instructors pay to where it needs to be.

Director Wigginton stated he had no idea the GPSTC was as versed as it is, as far as different avenues and sometimes the training gets lost in all the hustle and bustle of keeping the GPSTC running throughout the regional properties. Director Wigginton presented an Organization Chart change adding a Deputy Director of Operations.

Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion to adopt the updated GPSTC Organization Chart effective July 1, 2015. This was seconded by retired Sheriff Steve Cronic and voted approved by the BPS members.

Director Wigginton reminded the BPS members in the 1990s there was a regional academy in the Rome area. Director Wigginton stated the academy building in Dalton has had problems for the last three years and the classes were moved to Cherokee County. Director Wigginton shared the Rome area has reached out to the GPSTC to start negotiations to possibly start teaching a couple of sessions in the NW Georgia area.

Sheriff Dane Kirby asked Director Wigginton if they still conduct basic mandate training at the GPSTC and Director Wigginton replied basic mandate training is held at the Macon Academy.

Vice-Chairman Wood stated Director Wigginton has done a tremendous job in revisiting the training center basic mandate training relationship with the six technical colleges in the state.

Director Wigginton stated on Wednesday, the Public Safety Memorial ceremony will be held at GPSTC at 1500 hours, with Governor Deal being the keynote speaker.

Donations

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

Two X26P Tasers	\$	2,172.80	Chattooga Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Two X26P Tasers	\$	2,172.80	Trion Police Dept.
Three Kustom Raptor Radars	\$	4,716.00	Ball Ground Police Dept.
One Lenovo Think Centre Computer	\$	900.00	Carroll County Sheriff's Dept.
One X26P Taser	\$	873.85	Troup County Sheriff's Dept.

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

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation requested approval of the following donation:

Chief Mark Revenew made the motion to adopt the Bond Resolution for the GBI, which was seconded by Mr. Danny Bryant, and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center presented a Bond Resolution for aggregate principal amount of \$2,375,000.00. Mrs. Franklin stated the Bond package consists of \$1,940,000.00 for general repair and maintenance at the GPSTC, \$190,000.00 for auditorium upgrades and \$245,000.00 for renovation of the vehicle maintenance facility.

Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion to adopt the Bond Resolution for the GPSTC, which was seconded by Mr. Danny Bryant, and voted approved by the BPS members.

Vice-Chairman Wood thanked DNR Commissioner Mark Williams, DNR Deputy Commissioner Walter Rabon and DNR Colonel Eddie Henderson for hosting the BPS on Sapelo Island.

DNR Deputy Commissioner Walter Rabon introduced Colonel Eddie Henderson who gave a presentation on the Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded the BPS members there are no planned meetings for June, July and August and for the September BPS meeting, the group will meet in Effingham County at the high school.

Vice-Chairman Wood stated BPS member Mr. Murray Kight has elected to not be reappointed to the BPS. Mr. Wayne Abernathy made a motion to present Mr. Murray Kight with a Resolution for his service on the BPS. This was seconded by retired Sheriff Steve Cronic, and voted approved by the BPS members.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked everyone to thank Mr. and Mrs. Maund for their hospitality at the Reynolds Mansion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian M. Rickman
Secretary