

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
May 29, 2012 Special Called Meeting
Department of Public Safety – Atlanta, GA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy-via conference call
Mr. Danny Bryant-via conference call
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan-via conference call
Chief Jon Canada-via conference call
Sheriff Steve Cronic-via conference call
Mr. C. Murray Kight-via conference call
Chief J. Irene Pennington-via conference call
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr. - via conference call
Mr. Brian Rickman-via conference call
Mr. Ellis Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen
Sheriff Dane Kirby
Chief Bill Myers
Sheriff Gary Vowell
Commissioner Brian Owens

OTHERS:

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison
Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety
Captain Allen Marlowe, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Gene Davis, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Kirk McGlamery, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Mr. Robert Orange, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Peter Adams, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Lee O'Brien, Legal Services, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Tim Bearden, Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Bill Bryant, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the May 29, 2012 Special Called Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

A roll call of members confirmed a quorum.

Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Georgia Department of Public Safety came before the BPS members beginning with background concerning legislature a year ago where HB414 brought back the helicopters to the Department of Public Safety. Commissioner McDonough added that this year another HB ended up doing the same thing allowing the Department of Natural Resources and Forestry to gain their aviation assets back but also to retain the structure of the Georgia Aviation Authority. Commissioner McDonough stated from this point forward, GAA will essentially administer a state contract for flight services and if you are a state employee that wants to fly from one place to another, the employee will contact the GA Aviation Authority and GAA will arrange for the flight with the billing and administration completed by GAA for those flight services and then the individual will be carried by a private carrier. Commissioner McDonough acknowledged with all of the restructuring of

Aviation assets, a large hangar facility that used to be the ATT Corporate Hangar at Charlie Brown Field in Fulton County has been designated for use by the Department of Public Safety. Commissioner McDonough stated the background of the Resolution that Mr. O'Brien will present is for this piece of property and the ground lease that is underneath it to be transferred from the Georgia Aviation Authority to the Department of Public Safety. Commissioner McDonough added that the facility has 27,000 square feet of office space and 100,000 square feet of hangar space. Commissioner McDonough stated that several existing units of DPS will move into the office space; Post 48 which services the Atlanta area, Post 47 which services the Forest Park area, Post 49 which is the motorcycle unit, SWAT along with the Dive Team, the Criminal Interdiction Unit and the Nighthawks will all be consolidated into the 27,000 square foot facility. Commissioner McDonough added that these units will not lose their unit identity and at this time we are not restructuring any post territory, but are gaining a facility that has operational expenses and by consolidating other units into that place, we will be able to use the facility more than it has been and as of right now all except for about 3,000 square feet of the 27,000 square feet of office space is unused and has been for the past two years. Commissioner McDonough stated that the DNR Aviation Unit will enter into a MOU with DPS and will remain on the property operating out of the hangar and the DPS Aviation Headquarters will be located here.

Mr. Lee O'Brien came before the BPS members asking them to authorize the Georgia Department of Public Safety to acquire two parcels of land totaling 10.151 acres, including an aircraft hangar, located at Charlie Brown Airport, 4005 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, Atlanta, Fulton County, in possession of the Georgia Aviation Authority by virtue of a ground lease from Fulton County, to provide space for multiple operations of DPS, including the Aviation Division and Headquarters and Barracks for Posts 47, 48, and 49 of the Georgia State Patrol and for aircraft and equipment storage.

Sheriff Steve Cronic made the motion to accept the Resolution, which was seconded by Chief J. Irene Pennington and voted approval by the Board members.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy asked Commissioner McDonough who now headed up the GAA. Commissioner McDonough advised that the GAA answers to a Board just as the DPS does to the BPS. Commissioner McDonough added that there is not a director over the authority but there is an administrator. Commissioner McDonough stated that the lady that has been doing all of the administrative work for the authority is now the person that will essentially operate and be responsible for that function because now the Authority is becoming the administer of the state contract still connected administratively to DOAS which continues to have oversight of the GAA Board. Commissioner McDonough declared that the bill that was passed this past legislative session keeps the GAA intact to where in the future if the state so deems by the Board's decision it can own aircraft again and can operate aircraft again, but at this time it has been reduced down to an administrative function and the young lady that does that job now will continue to do the administrative portion of the state contract still attached to DOAS.

Commissioner McDonough added that HB414 put the operational control of GSP helicopters back under the DPS.

DONATIONS

Mr. Robert Orange, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

Six HP Pavilion p6 Desktop Computers	\$ 1,800.00	Bank's County Sheriff's Department
One Taser X26	\$ 812.00	Office of State Administrative Hearings
Havis K9 Kennel Insert	\$ 4,800.00	Braselton Police Dept.
Six HP Pavilion P2-110 Desktop Computers	\$ 1,800.00	Bartow County District Attorney's Office
(13) E-Seek Model 250 Card Readers	\$ 5,330.00	Coweta County State Court

Sheriff Steve Cronin made the motion to accept the donations, which was seconded by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., and voted approval by the Board members.

Mr. Bill Bryant, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, requested approval of the following donation:

2004 Ford Crown Victoria	Troup County Sheriff's Department
--------------------------	-----------------------------------

The motion for this donation was made by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy and voted approved by the Board members.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation began his briefing with the BPS members concerning the evaluation of the Intoximeters that are out across the state. Mr. Kirk stated the process has been going on for several months and should be completed this summer, hopefully in July. Mr. Kirk stated once the evaluation is complete, the GBI will need to come back before the BPS and change the Implied Consent rules, hoping to do this in August which will require the GBI to come before the BPS with the proposed rules and then the rules will be posted for one month and afterwards brought back before the BPS for final adoption.

Mr. Kirk shared with the BPS members that the GBI will be sending a memo out across the state to the District Attorneys, Police Chiefs and Sheriffs notifying them that the GBI will be suspending their handwriting services due to some quality issues that are coming out of this service. Mr. Kirk stated that part of the qualifying procedures each person has to take is a proficiency test at least once a year and the last test that was given, the GBI handwriting analysis people did not do well on the test, did not pass the test. Mr. Kirk added that the GBI is in a very large group of handwriting analysts that did not do well; across the country there were only 25% of the handwriting people who actually gave the correct answers on this particular proficient test which is provided by a company called CTS. Mr. Kirk confirmed they went through a process where the analysts have to be retrained, they have to go through and demonstrate the proficiencies again which was done and did this utilizing some materials from the

Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Lab. We thought this process was going to be sufficient for our crediting body which is an ASCLD/LAB; they have since come back and said no, that this is not sufficient, that we have to have another proficient test that is issued by another company. Mr. Kirk stated that CTS has not come forth with another proficient test, which is typically hard to come by, particularly in handwriting and we are in the process of finding another company that will provide the GBI with a separate set of proficiency tests for handwriting analysis experts. Mr. Kirk reiterated to this date the GBI has not found a proficiency test so we have had to suspend this service until we can demonstrate that we are proficient and the memo will be going out very shortly across the state.

Commissioner McDonough informed the BPS members that he placed a job advertisement for the Comptroller of the DPS and it became very clear that he did not have to look for greener pastures, that the person who is most qualified and the person that is most familiar with the DPS and according to code section 35-2-8 under the code section that governs the DPS, effective June 1, 2012; Peter Adams will be appointed as the DPS Comptroller.

Commissioner McDonough stated he accepted the retirement of Major Wayne Beck. Commissioner McDonough added that for personal reasons, Major Beck has decided to retire as the Lord has given him the responsibility of raising two of his grandchildren and also in the support of one of his children and Commissioner McDonough asked everyone to place Major Beck in their prayers as he is about to embark on a life as a grandfather accepting the responsibility of raising grandchildren. Effective July 1, 2012, Commissioner McDonough advised he would be appointing Captain Gene Davis to Major Davis, who will accept the responsibilities as the new head of the MCCD within the DPS. Commissioner McDonough added that Captain Davis has 28 years of experience in law enforcement starting out with the Public Service Commission and had served as the MCCD Training Officer and cannot think of a person more respected by the people in the field or knowledgeable in MCCD issues.

Vice-Chairman Wood congratulated Captain Davis and Peter Adams on their appointments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jon Canada
Secretary