

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Minutes of Meeting Held November 10, 2003
Atlanta, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. David "Hal" Averitt
Mr. Charles D. "Bud" Black
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III
Chief Louis Dekmar
Mr. Joe Ferrero
Sheriff Bruce Harris
Chief Hubert Smith
Ms. Lisa Godbey Wood

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Governor Sonny Perdue
Mr. W. H. "Dub" Harper
Mr. Patrick Head
Sheriff Jamil Saba
Sheriff Cullen Talton

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Chris Brasher, Georgia Department of Law
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Colonel George Ellis, Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Colonel Arthur White, Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Colonel Kenny Hancock, Georgia State Patrol
Major Corky Jewell, Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Scott Cown, Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Terry Landers, Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Wayne Yancey, Georgia State Patrol
Ms. Terry Long, Georgia State Patrol
Captain Richard Ashmore, Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Gordy Wright, Georgia State Patrol
Trooper David Averitt, Georgia State Patrol
Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Chris Ash, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Angie Holt, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Paul Heppner, Georgia Crime Information Center, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Ray Higgins, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director J. Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Richard Guerreiro, retired from Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Director Bill Hitchens, Homeland Security
Ms. Patrice Kerner, Office of Planning and Budget

Chief Hubert Smith called the November Board meeting to order. Mr. Hal Averitt introduced his wife, Connie Averitt, and son, David Averitt, to the Board members.

Chief Hubert Smith requested the new Board members, Ms. Lisa Godbey Wood and Mr. Hal Averitt, introduce themselves. Mr. Hal Averitt, of Statesboro, is retired from banking industry and a former mayor of Statesboro. Ms. Lisa Wood is a lawyer from St. Simons Island and said she is pleased to be on the board.

Chief Hubert Smith started the meeting with inviting Mr. Bill Hitchens, Director of Homeland Security, to speak before the Board. Mr. Hitchens said he appreciated the opportunity to address the Board members. After he was appointed, Director Hitchens' first priority for homeland security was organization; to bring into public safety, the medical profession, transportation, environment, and to have a plan, if an event occurs. Meetings are held every two weeks to discuss issues on public safety. With federal funding, the Office of Domestic Preparedness in Washington has set the guidelines about how to dispense the funding. With the funding, regions around the state have been organized and there is a plan in place with a quick response time. Homeland Security has most equipment, with more coming in. Director Hitchens pointed out that, as everyone knows, the federal government has a homeland security organization, appointing Mr. Tom Ridge in charge. Mr. Ridge is coming forth with directives and is in charge of issuing a new interim national response plan. One area that is a participant is the Georgia Commission Sharing Analysis Center (GSAC). GSAC originated under the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and, now is a national model. GSAC is able to get information on a national level and disseminate it throughout the state. Director Hitchens then responded to several questions.

Chief Hubert Smith requested approval of the Minutes of the October Board meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, seconded by Sheriff Bruce Harris, and unanimously voted approval by Board members.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Department of Public Safety/State Patrol

As further comment on G-8 planning, Colonel George Ellis announced that Major Bohannon, along with a delegation of troopers, will be going with Director Hitchens to the Free Trade Area of Americas, which will be held in Miami, to observe tactics that will be used there. Colonel Ellis indicated that his office will be working closely with Florida highway troopers, and, that they have offered a pontoon for Georgia's upcoming event. Colonel Ellis commended the Georgia Department of Corrections, in their role with the planning process with the G-8 Summit.

Colonel Ellis was happy to report a positive note. Georgia State Patrol received an award from the State and Prevention Commission of International Association of Chiefs of Police. This award is right in line with State Patrol's mission.

In follow-up to a previous board meeting, Colonel Ellis asked Major Corky Jewell to make a short presentation concerning cost cutting proposals and radio operators. Major Jewell, Director of Communications, began his explanation that, currently, there are 45 radio rooms to cover 48 patrol posts. There is one radio room in Atlanta that covers three patrol posts. Communication officers have many responsibilities, not only incoming and outgoing radio traffic, but also keeping logs on citations; on GCIC and NCIC, operators handle hits on stolen property, stolen vehicles, missing persons. Radio operators handle drivers licenses inquiries, vehicle inquiries, and drivers history inquiries through Motor Vehicle Safety. Operators type crash reports, supplemental reports, use of force reports, DUI incident reports, and all basic recordkeeping from personnel status reports. Their miscellaneous duties include incoming and outgoing telephone calls, updating GCIC operations manual, leave grids, activity reports, holiday patrol, and filing on a 24-hour basis. Major Jewell, upon the request of Colonel Ellis, came up with an overview of what may be able to work with budgeting of radio rooms. The proposal is to have two radio rooms per troop, which would bring it down to the neighborhood of 17 radio rooms. With doing this, it would require utilizing telephone lines to remote those radios back to different radio rooms. With this proposal, the staffing would give a total number of 180 radio operators for the entire state patrol operation. Utilizing a base salary of approximately \$19,500 and dropping recurring telephone charges, State Patrol could save over half million dollars a year. Major Jewell addressed several questions and completed his report.

Colonel Ellis continued with his report, stating that the sworn count is 847, which is 106 below full strength. The radio operator count is 225, which is 28 below full strength. Since the budget year began, the department eliminated 29 positions. In the budget area of disability retirement, there is a shortage of nearly \$800,000, which will be made up in some way. There are service retirements coming up, but not hinging on medical or disability.

The Georgia Building Authority has asked State Patrol to take on more responsibilities around the State Capitol, Twin Towers, Legislative Office Building, and other areas, such as the parking lots. Colonel Ellis has asked Lt. Colonel White, Captain Wilson, Mr. Scott Wilson, and Mr. Landers to look into the issue.

Colonel Ellis will make available, for all board members, an in-house e-mail service. Another item, Colonel Ellis, along with Director Keenan and the GBI, met with a joint chaplain training session for pastors and chaplains. This is a step in getting them acquainted with one another in setting up a cadre of counselors in the event of disasters.

A special request was made by Colonel Ellis, in that he requested the Board consider a Resolution for retired Captain Robertson. Mr. Robertson retired from State Patrol after 33 years of service. The City of Reidsville is paying Mr. Robertson special recognition; he will be the

Grand Marshal for the Christmas parade. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made a motion to approve the Resolution, Mr. Wayne Abernathy seconded, and the motion was carried.

Colonel Ellis received compliments from board members and addressed several questions.

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Director Vernon Keenan reported that he had responded to the request to give a list of litigation cases to Chief Lou Dekmar. Director Keenan also supplied a copy to all the board members. It is noted that there are no actions pending from employees against GBI. The GBI has a system to track any cases that are brought against agents.

Director Keenan further commented on Homeland Security. At a current meeting regarding G-8 Summit preparation, the GBI made a presentation of its role in homeland security.

The GBI is in the process of preparing a training video on how to handle methamphetamine labs. This training video is designed to train local law enforcement officers on how to recognize meth labs. The video will be complete by the end of this month. Another item, Director Keenan and his staff are working on updating the Law Enforcement Guidelines to Open Records. This will be the 2nd Edition, explaining how to comply with the law on open records requests.

Chief Lou Dekmar questioned whether the GBI received special requests from board members in making recommendations on promotions or disciplines. Director Keenan has a policy of following strict procedures.

Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Director Dale Mann began his report with the issue of fuel cells on the cars used for training. Questions were raised concerning safety for the trooper in the patrol car used for training. In training, troopers wear a helmet and loop belt. Mr. Chris Brasher, Board Attorney, added that this is a low risk environment; a trooper is to understand the dynamics of the vehicle that he has never been exposed to. In response to a question, PIT training is done through State Patrol; the Training Center not having the resources to do that training.

Regarding G-8 Summit training, Mr. Bob Buffington and Mr. Don Sperry are assigned to G-8 planning. After the operational plan is identified as to how many officers are assigned, who will be assigned, what is specifically needed, then the Training Center will be ready to implement training.

A retired police chief has requested that he be allowed to attend training, without having to pay tuition. With Training Center policies, Director Mann requested the Board's approval on this

issue. The Training Center's policy is that if someone is not in the business, then that person is required to pay the hourly rate. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III requested that this issue be tabled until the next Board meeting.

Each regional academy has an advisory board. Recently, the advisory board for the academy at Cave Springs voted unanimously to seek a new place to put the academy. The day after the advisory board's decision, a state representative called Director Mann to protest the move. It was recommended that Chief Hubert Smith talk with the state representative.

Director Mann met with Chief Dekmar, Chief Dwayne Orrick, and several Training Center staff on ways to integrate ethics training within every block of instruction. When talking of arrests or of constitutional law, there is always an ethics component. Director Mann received material from National Institute of Ethics and there are several academy directors who are integrating that into blocks of instruction.

Director Mann requested permission from Georgia Technology Authority to allow the board members to go on the Training Center's web site. A CD rom was given to each member, which will allow being hooked up to the web site to view policies and procedures.

In follow-up to a committee meeting held this morning, Sheriff Bruce Harris made the motion that the Board of Public Safety accept the recommendation to temporarily change from 45 miles to 60 mile radius, effective January 1, 2004. Chief Lou Dekmar seconded said motion, and, with the board's approval, said motion was carried.

Director Mann mentioned an audit will be done of the operations of the training academies. As an in-house evaluation, he plans to see if the academies are consistent with standards.

RULES: Chief Hubert Smith called on Ms. Terry Long, who requested final adoption of Rule 570-1-.01, which changes the description of the Department of Public Safety. In the Department's reorganization, the rule eliminates Drivers Service Division.

Rule 570-19-.01 clarifies that all officers are using citations that are computer generated. This is being updated to meet with modern standards, so officers in the field utilizing in-car computers can use those that are generated.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made the motion that these rules be approved for final adoption; Ms. Lisa Godbey Wood seconded said motion, and the Board members voted approval.

DONATIONS: Chief Smith requested donations be presented at this time.

Mr. Terry Landers, Georgia State Patrol, presented the following donations for the Board's approval:

Kustom Pro Laser III	\$ 3,000.00	Camden County Sheriff Bill Smith
Nine Measuring Wheels	\$ 630.00	
Eight Measuring Wheels	\$ 632.00	Kiwanis Club of Statesboro
Fifteen Flashlights	\$ 227.50	
Decatur Genesis II Radar	\$ 1,600.00	Chief Greg Bowers Buchanan Police Department
Two Stalker Dual RADAR Devices	\$ 6,020.00	Dooly County Board of Commissioners
1967 Ford Custom 500 Serial No. 7A53C194013	\$ 18,000.00	Joseph E. DiCopro, PA

Sheriff Bruce Harris motioned for approval of the donations, Ms. Lisa Godby Wood seconded said motion, and the Board members unanimously voted approval.

Mr. Richard Guerriero, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, had one donation:

Hopper Car DSLX 59006	\$17,555.00	Mr. Brad Schweon degussa corporation
--------------------------	-------------	---

Mr. Wayne Abernathy made the motion to approve the donation, seconded by Mr. Joe Ferrero, and the Board members unanimously voted approval.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen requested a change in a policy. Previously, when the State Patrol and the GBI answered through a Commissioner of Department of Public Safety, the Board had set a policy on the way the Commissioner would advise the Vice-Chairman of the Board of potential media coverage, so that all Board members would be made aware of the coverage. Previously, the GBI and State Patrol were advised to go through the Commissioner of Department of Public Safety to notify Vice Chairman. The Board would like to change that policy today, on just directing the Director of GBI, Director of Training Center, and Colonel of Georgia State Patrol to notify the Vice Chairman, or his designee, in the event there is potential to receive considerable media coverage for that particular agency. There being no discussion, the Board members voted approval and motion carried.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy requested a revision and update of the By-Laws.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III requested that the Department of Public Safety post on its web site the Board Minutes. He said it would be good for the people and for the Board, so that someone could look up the Minutes, and someone might have an idea of what the Board could do differently. After the Board Minutes are approved, a copy of the Minutes should be posted on the web site.

Chief Smith announced that the December meeting will be held on December 17, 2003, at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Bud Black, and the meeting was adjourned.

Chief Hubert Smith
Acting Vice-Chairman/Secretary