

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
November 13, 2008
Corrections Board Room, Atlanta

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice-Chairman James E. Donald
Mr. Bud Black
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III
Sheriff Bruce Harris
Mr. Pat Head
Chief Jack McElfish
Chief Dwayne Orrick
Sheriff Cullen Talton
Mr. Jerry Willis
Mr. Ellis Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Dub Harper

BOARD MEMBERS VIA CONFERENCE CALL:

Sheriff Steve Cronic
Chief Lou Dekmar

OTHERS:

Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Ms. Page Boorman, Assistant Attorney General
Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Major Stewart Hicks, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Captain Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Chief Mark McLeod, MCCD, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Captain Mike Fagler, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Ms. Angie Holt, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Ms. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Sergeant Russell Hayes, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Russell Andrews, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Paul Heppner, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Lisa Urich, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Patrice Kerner, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Butch Beach, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Colonel Reuben McGee, Houston County Sheriff's Office
Police Chief Michael Jones, Suwanee Police Department
Deputy Police Chief Janet Moon, Suwanee Police Department
Ragen Marsh

Vice Chairman James E. Donald called the November Board meeting to order, requesting Mr. Ellis Wood to open with prayer. Everyone remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Donald began with stating this week is Veterans Day week to honor all veterans. Vice-Chairman Donald announced that effective October 30, 2008 veterans were approved by law to render a hand salute during the playing of the National Anthem; this having been an issue for veterans who served as to whether they had or did not have the right, while out of uniform, to render a hand salute. Previously, the law was for only those in uniform. However, the new law states whether a person is active, whether or not out of uniform, or whether a veteran, a person can render the hand salute for the playing of National Anthem. Vice-Chairman Donald expressed his thanks to those here today for their service.

Vice Chairman Donald requested if Board members wanted to introduce any visitors. Chief Dwayne Orrick introduced Chief Mike Jones of Suwanee and Deputy Chief Janet Moon of Suwanee. Chief Jack McElfish stated that a son of Chief Jones is a firefighter in Gwinnett County. Sheriff Cullen Talton introduced Colonel Reuben McGee. Then the visitors stood and stated their name.

Vice-Chairman Donald stated that Ms. Page Boorman is sitting in for Mr. Joe Drolet, who is attending a court hearing today.

Vice-Chairman Donald called for approval of the October Board Minutes. Chief Jack McElfish made the motion, seconded by Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III, and voted approval by the Board members.

DIRECT REPORTS

Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, began with stating he has not reported on the budget, and, the reason he has not done so is that there are certain aspects of it that affect many staff. Many people read the remarks made at Board meetings on the web site. Colonel Hitchens stated it is important in his agency that people, who are affected, be notified prior to whatever transpires, and, this has occurred. Colonel reported that he has met with the legislative committees and has had his budget meeting with Governor Perdue. Colonel Hitchens stated he wanted to talk today about the innovative things which has affected the operations as insignificantly as anybody in state government. The first thing his department did, and Joe Hood deserves credit for this, is the department realized that the one big hole in the strategic traffic plan across the state in Motor Carrier Compliance was speed enforcement. It has worked with National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and has been for years; but because of the reduced numbers of personnel to be able to do that, the department has not done it as efficiently as they would like. The department put in for a grant, and, effective the end of this month will transfer 40 troopers from operational posts to Motor Carrier Compliance Division to enforce speed requirements on motor carriers. They will all be working in state patrol cars, have the same equipment, have same authority, do same job, but their primary mission will be speed enforcement on motor carrier vehicles. When the department does that,

essentially it will remove \$2.6 million of salaries from the budget. The second thing the department did was very similar in that it moved seven troopers from operational positions to Capitol Police. When running Capitol Police section, the department receives about \$7.5 million a year from the Georgia Building Authority to undertake that mission. The Building Authority cut the department 10% this year, so the department loses \$700,000 there; but saves \$1.75 million in salaries from the department with the positions. Colonel Hitchens stated that what the department is going to do is replace the private security guards with troopers on an interim basis until there is a sufficient number of people retired, or terminated, or leave the department. Colonel Hitchens reported the third budget cut is in the Headquarters complex. The number of personnel has been whittled down to 53 positions that remain vacant and the department will not filled. That comes to another \$3 million. Essentially, the department has knocked out about \$7 million without affecting its operations.

Colonel Hitchens reported the biggest issue is what the department is going to do with vehicles. The department uses \$2.6 million per year for cars. If the department stays at 6%, the department will be able to use that money and buy cars like always have. If the budget goes to 8%, instead of approximately 130 cars, the department will get 32 cars. If the budget goes to full 10%, the department will not be able to buy any cars this year.

Colonel Hitchens stated that what has occurred is that the department has not affected the operational ability in the field because the Governor had the initiative to add 200 troopers. That has been curtailed; the next trooper school has been cancelled. There had been two trooper schools, one that graduated in August with 49 troopers; another will graduate in February with 47 troopers. The department is essentially operating at the same level that it has in the last three years, with those additional troopers.

Colonel Hitchens reported on an issue, that is something he is really proud of. Last year, the department did similar study on customer service through Georgia State University and was able to identify what the department wanted to engage as far as customer satisfaction. The study used people who were involved in traffic accidents. That is not something that makes a person warm and fuzzy; however, to great astonishment, Department of Public Safety people came out first in many categories that were measured. The department had the highest of all averages in state government for customer service. The study was done again this year and the department determined how people in Motor Carrier worked. What Georgia State University did was contact all truckers that Motor Carrier had done inspections on, and, that is not a pleasant experience. With pulling over on the side of the road, Motor Carrier goes through a complete inspection process that holds a trucker up significantly; or, a trucker comes in the weigh station and is singled out for an inspection on the trucker. Many times there is cause to believe that Motor Carrier affects the trucker's pocketbook in a time when economic times are widespread. Colonel Hitchens stated with the other state agencies that participated in seven categories that were measured, Department of Public Safety had the highest scores of all state agencies. Colonel Hitchens stated when the department first took over Motor Carrier Compliance, he had had the occasion to be invited to Thanksgiving dinner at the weigh station in McIntosh County. Colonel was somewhat astonished that after they finished eating, and, with many trucks coming by and being weighed, those truckers were invited in to get a plate of Thanksgiving dinner. Colonel stated

that was something that you don't often see. Colonel Hitchens congratulated Motor Carrier Compliance people because in every customer service award statewide, there has been at least one person identified as a good customer service agent.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III stated he wrote a letter to Colonel Hitchens to thank State Patrol for their assistance at an event. Mr. Bowen's local church does a 'pumpkin patch' to raise money for missions. There are about 250 kids who come to the pumpkin patch and participate in games; the location being next to a state route highway. State Patrol was gracious enough to send troopers in to watch the road and maintain safety while kids there. Not only did State Patrol get to do that, the troopers got to hand out candy to the kids and interact with parents. Many parents came up to Mr. Bowen and said they had never seen this side of State Patrol; did not realize how nice troopers are. Mr. Bowen stated that is important to mix and mingle with public and show them different side of State Patrol instead of on the receiving end of tickets.

Mr. Bud Black added that at the dinner for the new post in Hall County, Hall County Commissioner Chairman came over to Mr. Black and stated State Patrol are nice guys. The County Commissioner Chairman stated they do not mind building for people like that; they are very nice people.

Deputy Director Russell Andrews, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, began with stating Director Keenan could not attend today and asked Deputy Director Andrews to speak about a particular case that happened in October. Mr. Andrews stated this is an example of customer service, as well as interagency cooperation.

On Friday, October 17, at about 11:00 a.m., a 77-year-old male by the name of Charles Cantrell decided that he was going to blow up a law firm right in the middle of downtown Dalton. The building sits right off the main thoroughfare in Dalton, and, is located directly across the street from an elementary school, which was in session. Mr. Cantrell had taken an Isuzu Rodeo SUV and packed it full of a homemade explosive, as well as four containers of gasoline, a container of black powder and something else in it. He had also taken and fixed up a system on the Isuzu Rodeo where there was a large tank of acetylene, which is highly flammable, in the back of his Isuzu; then tied it to a set of pipes that was put in the front of the vehicle near the front bumper, with the intention of trying the ram the vehicle in the side of the law firm. If it would have gotten inside, the acetylene would have been flowing and would have enriched the explosive environment. It would have blown the building to bits. Mr. Andrews explained that the building was built back in 1915; there is something to be said about quality of construction because Mr. Cantrell could not get the vehicle through the wall. Someone had already called and as soon as the officer from Dalton Police Department got there, Mr. Cantrell jumped out and ran around behind the law firm, threw the container of combined of black powder and something else, then lighted the detonator. The container hit the back window where the attorney, who was the target, was located and it detonated at that point. Mr. Andrews, who is with Bomb Division, responded to the scene that day. Mr. Andrews stated he can say that in the ten years of doing that, he had never seen anything that created that much damage when the blast went off outside the building.

As solidly as the building was built, the blast penetrated and it went down in the basement, it went into the window where the attorney was located, and it literally forced the walls out from the side of the building. It was amazing that the only person killed in this was Mr. Cantrell, who died in the back of the building. One of the main attorneys who he targeted is still in the hospital as a result of his injuries. This was a great example of interagency cooperation in the sense not only did the GBI respond, but the State Patrol responded and assisted, Dalton Police Department was already on the scene, Whitfield County Sheriff's Office, and FBI and ATF responded. This event necessitated a large amount of interagency cooperation, which all worked out well. What was found out through the investigation is that the bomber is mentally unstable, and, there had been a property dispute between he and members of his family and members of the law firm; the bomber held a grudge against the attorney who was targeted in the back of the building. The GBI was able to reach out and assist customers, which in this case was Dalton Police Department and Whitfield County, by sending Bomb Technicians to help neutralize the scene. Mr. Andrews responded to questions and completed his report. Vice-Chairman Donald stated that he had heard nothing but good things about how that went down in terms of interagency collaboration.

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, began with stating that Sheriffs Elect started this past Monday. There are 44 new sheriffs at the Training Center. They will go this week, next week, be off for week of Thanksgiving, and finish up the following two weeks. There are three counties that are undecided; runoffs are scheduled for December 2nd. In response to a question of runoff elections, Director Mann stated the Sheriff Elect of those three counties will come in the last two weeks of training, and then Sheriffs Association will make up the first two weeks. The Georgia law states the sheriffs elect have to attend a program of instruction that is jointly put together by Training Center and by Sheriffs Association. It does not specify the length of program in Georgia Code, so there are no constitutional or statutory issues. Director Mann stated that training is done every four years in cooperation with Sheriffs Association.

Director Mann stated that yesterday there was a meeting of the Board of the new training academy that will be created on December 10; this is located at Ogeechee Technical College. Director Mann asked if Mr. Ellis Wood wanted to speak to that issue. Mr. Wood stated that all six sites will open January 12th. Ogeechee Tech will have the program with good instructors and good group of staff and ad hoc instructors; they have acquired all necessary equipment of donated cars; they have firearms in hand; this will be a 20-week training which is substantially longer; there have been around 150 inquiries and 21 firm applications. Director Mann added that P.O.S.T. will have applications by December 10 to certify academy directors in those academies. The other sites are located in Americus, Savannah, DeKalb County, Augusta, and Calhoun. In response to a question on the exit exam, Director Mann stated he did not think P.O.S.T. is quite finished; but Director Ken Vance indicates that by graduation of the first class, the certification exam will be ready.

Director Mann reported that he got served with a lawsuit that is growing out of the action that occurred last year because of the theft. One supervisor who was terminated has decided to litigate the Training

Center. The Attorney General's office has filed an Answer and moved jurisdiction of that case from superior court to federal court. Director Mann will keep the Board apprised of the lawsuit.

FISCAL REPORTS

Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, reported on the 1st Quarter financial report. The first column is the Actual Fiscal Year 2009 expenditures for July through September. The second column is the Adjusted Budget, the third column is the Surplus or Deficit, and the last column is the Percent Remaining of the budget for each individual program. Mr. Hood stated that one comment he would make is that this budget is representative of the state budget, especially what was passed by the legislature at the beginning of the year. It is subject to change and undergo budgetary cuts of up to 10%, so at the next budget presentation it will be shown on the sheet. The amount under Adjusted Budget is what was appropriated. Mr. Hood stated that up to 10% of that will probably be reduced. Mr. Hood continued with stating that the biggest program, Field Offices and Services, has 78% remaining budget and that is primarily where the cuts will come from. Many cuts will come from Personal Services under Georgia State Patrol; the department is moving those to different activities; some from trooper school where were funds above what will actually graduate this year. That is the largest component that will change; that is also where car budget is. For the most part, the other programs will not experience a significant change. Mr. Hood stated that the Board members will note that the department should primarily be at the 75% mark on each program. For those that are at a little bit below that, that is primarily due to contractual services that are encumbered in this first quarter and will encumber them for a whole year on an annual contract; showing that year's expense within the first quarter even though will be paid for throughout the month, as going through the fiscal year. Mr. Hood stated it is a little bit skewed when looking at, for example, Motor Carrier Compliance Division where it is 69.84%. Mr. Hood stated that other than that, the department is on target and is prepared to move forward.

Ms. Lisa Urich, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, reported on the 1st Quarter. The report is laid out similar to Mr. Hood's report. The main thing is the last column where Percentage Remaining is 75%. Ms. Urich stated that if factoring out the items that already prepaid, or pre-encumbered, the totals are at 75% remaining, which would put the agency very much on target to meet the 8%, if the GBI is required to meet.

Ms. Patrice Kerner, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, reported on the 1st Quarter. The total State Funds spent so far this year is \$3 million. The agency is at 23% spent; that gives only a 2% buffer with the expectation of 6%, 8%, 10% budget cuts. The agency's revenue is currently down. Ms. Kerner stated the agency feels like it should be fine; some classes are reduced. She stated that as classes get reduced, the agency should be fine.

DONATIONS

Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, requested approval of the following donations:

Garmin Nuvi 650 Portable GPS	\$ 250.00	Johnson County Commissioners
Decatur Genesis II Select Radar	\$ 1,495.00	Jefferson County Sheriff
Four DSR 2X Stalker Radars to	\$10,664.00	Chattahoochee County Commissioners Randolph County Commissioners Stewart County Commissioners
Eleven Kodak Digital Cameras and Accessories	\$ 1,178.45	Appling County Commissioners
One Security System	\$ 4,688.75	Chattooga County Sheriff
Two Kustom Pro Laser III Lidars	\$ 9,800.00	Carroll County Sheriff
One Speed Queen Washer and One Speed Queen Dryer	\$ 600.00	Mr. Jamie Slatton

Mr. Rooney Bowen, III made the motion to approve these donations, which was seconded by Mr. Bud Black, and voted approval by the Board members.

Ms. Patrice Kerner, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, requested approval of the following donations:

SKIDCAR Model System	\$ 7,000.00	LaGrange Police Department
2001 Ford Crown Victoria	\$ 1,500.00	LaGrange Police Department

Sheriff Cullen Talton made the motion to approve these donations, which was seconded by Mr. Jerry Willis, and voted approval by the Board members.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bud Black stated that he wanted to thank everybody for their e-mails and calls after his father passed away. He stated that State Patrol Honor Guard impressed the county when seeing something like that at the funeral; his mother talks about that to this day. It meant a lot to him and his family. His father told Bud that he enjoyed when the Board would visit and come up to Cleveland.

Vice-Chairman Donald called on Chief Lou Dekmar for the motion to approve the revised By Laws. Chief Lou Dekmar stated that at the last meeting the Board discussed modifying the By Laws that would provide for meeting eight times a year as opposed to twelve times a year. Those meetings would be set by Chair or Vice Chair, in agreement with the Board; any other meetings that would be deemed necessary would be called by Chair or Vice Chair with approval by the Board. Chief Dekmar asked that this be accepted in the form of a motion. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III seconded said motion and the Board members voted approval.

Chief Lou Dekmar stated that the second issue provides formally for communication from the Board to the Appointing Authority, if during a twelve month period that any Board member is absent without excused absence. This is merely a mechanism to alert the party that appoints the Board member that there is an issue of participation. Chief Dekmar asked that this be accepted in the form of a motion. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III seconded said motion and the Board members voted approval.

Vice-Chairman Donald requested Chief Mike Jones to come forward for his presentation. Police Chief Mike Jones began with thanking the Board for the opportunity to come and express some findings from the Chiefs Association. Chief Jones was appointed Chair of the Traffic Safety Committee by the Georgia Chiefs Association. This occurred in July of 2007. The committee included people from Sheriffs Departments, Police Departments, Georgia State Patrol, Department of Public Safety, and anyone who had an interest in Governor's Office of Highway Safety. All these people came together and met on a monthly basis for about six months. Several were assigned tasks. There were a lot of good people at the table sharing information.

The committee was formed because of a strong desire by the law enforcement and the people involved in public safety to make streets safer, to save lives, to help the State of Georgia do a better job. In today's time when the economy is like it is, law enforcement has to be smart and do things differently and still have to improve services to our citizens in State of Georgia.

With that in mind, the committee began its research. Chief Jones stated he wanted to focus today in one area that had been found that works. This area is using technology and information with putting law enforcement where needed and when needed. In other words, doing things smarter instead of just a random patrol with officers out there finding areas to work. People need to be put in the locations where citizens are being injured and killed, instead of on some vacant highway or some stop sign that

people rarely run through. Departments should put officers and troopers where needed. Chief Jones stated this is the gist of the report.

Chief Jones stated that most Georgians from ages of 1 through 34 years of age are killed in a motor vehicle accident. In the past six years, almost 5,000 Georgians have been killed on highways. Chief Jones stated that is more than homicide, suicide, cancer, and heart problems.

With that information, the Chiefs Association wants to promote in the report a promotion of data driven traffic enforcement by agencies with cooperation among all levels of law enforcement to obtain funding for technology; to allow the use of data necessary for statewide data driven traffic enforcement law. In other words, get the information from the accident report and the tickets, find out what the violations are, find out where the accidents are occurring, and put a police or trooper there. It is that simple.

Chief Jones stated the problem there is the technology. Georgia Department of Transportation releases a year's set of data, approximately seven months after that year has closed. That means that information is 18 months old in some cases. There are some traffic patterns that change in that amount of time. Chief Jones stated 18-month old information is not the best information to have.

The committee also studied a couple of cities and a county; that is, Forsyth County, Gainesville, City of Suwanee, and City of LaGrange. Those agencies actually do what the Chiefs Association is asking all law enforcement agencies to participate in. Agencies have directed patrol; put the officers where needed and when needed and applied the proper traffic enforcement. This has corrected behaviors, saved lives and reduced accidents. There is no way to put an amount on a cost of life or auto injury or damage to vehicles. Chief Jones stated the committee got proven successes; those are documented in the report.

Development continues for Georgia's comprehensive electronic traffic record systems. The two major components of the system will be the capacity for crash reports and citations to be created and submitted electronically. The reports are sent to a central location at Department of Transportation and then the information is put in electronically. What the committee is asking if that information could be electronically submitted. Then that data could be analyzed much quicker. That information could be accessed by all local entities and regions so agencies could design efforts to reduce traffic accidents.

Chief Jones reported that implementation of electronic transfer and analysis can potentially be one of the most effective tools that will be used in accidents, injuries or fatalities on Georgia streets or highways. State agencies have been working on this program for five years and still do not have a product to allow electronic transfer of reports and prompt compilation, analysis, and production of findings. Therefore, the committee recommends state legislation requiring that the process be expedited and be funded. Chief Jones stated that, in other words, the focus needs to be on that. As a local police chief, Chief Jones stated that from his personal experience, by putting officers in problem

areas, he gets a bigger bang for his buck. That is what everyone needs to do now and that is to focus on the problems by using information.

Chief Jones stated that, in short, everyone must police smarter, must use technology and current information to assign officers to direct patrol in problem areas. Agencies must put their troopers and officers at the locations and times as needed. Patrol tactics must change to address traffic safety and the needs of the state. Chief Jones stated that is one of the key components of the committee's finding. This did not come from just a group of Chiefs or from State Patrol or from Governor's Office of Highway Safety; it came from a group of individuals who have the desire to make communities safer. Chief Jones asked for support from the Board of Public Safety.

Chief Jones addressed several questions and comments. He further stated the concern is the statewide issue of being interfaced with electronic reporting. After Board members discussed the issue with Chief Jones and Colonel Hitchens, Vice-Chairman Donald recommended the Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol Committee research this issue. Vice-Chairman Donald requested Chair Bud Black have his Committee take a look at this issue. Chief Mike Jones thanked the Board of Public Safety for the opportunity, and, closed with stating that his Chiefs Association committee worked with a spirit of cooperation and that the group wants to make the state safer.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III stated that there is the idea of holding the December meeting in Forsyth. Mr. Bowen made the motion that the December meeting be moved to Forsyth. Mr. Ellis Wood seconded the motion and the Board members voted approval. Vice-Chairman Donald stated that Mr. Ellis Wood had asked for consideration of holding each Board meeting in Forsyth. Mr. Bud Black requested the Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol Committee meeting be held at 2:00 p.m. on the day prior to the December Board meeting. Mr. Jerry Willis requested that he be allowed to attend Mr. Black's Committee meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III
Secretary