

## **BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

November 13, 2014

Georgia Public Safety Training Center-Forsyth, Georgia

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Wayne Abernathy  
Chief Danny Bowman  
Mr. Daniel M Bryant  
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan  
Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic  
Mr. C. Murray Kight  
Commissioner Brian Owens  
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.  
Chief Mark Revenew  
Mr. Brian M. Rickman  
Sheriff Joey Terrell  
Chief Craig Tully  
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Sheriff Dane Kirby

### **OTHERS:**

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison  
Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety  
Lt. Colonel Russell D. Powell, Department of Public Safety  
Major Tommy Waldrop, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Hank Fielding, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Mark Lambert, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Jason Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain James Steen, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Lt. Tony Pilcher, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Mr. Peter Adams, Department of Public Safety  
Mrs. Amy Stancil, Department of Public Safety  
Ms. Christina Calloway, Department of Public Safety  
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mrs. Connie Buck, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Director Tim Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Harlan Proveaux, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Ray Saxon, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Mike Barton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Marty Smith, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. David Wall, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Mike Byrd, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Jeff Dean, Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Mr. Billy Mixon, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Sharla Shockley, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Louise Rampy  
Mrs. Rachel Kight  
Mrs. Maureen Bryant  
Mr. Timothy Ward, Department of Corrections  
Mr. Kenneth Mantle, Department of Corrections

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Board of Public Safety meeting to order and thanked Director Tim Bearden and the GPSTC staff for hosting the BPS meeting.

Commissioner Mark W. McDonough gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the October 2014 minutes. Mr. Danny Bryant made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy and voted approved by the BPS members.

### **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety began by stating mission complete, as all of the fallen trooper road memorials have been completed. Commissioner McDonough thanked all of the BPS members that attended the memorials, and hoped it was enjoyable for them as it was enjoyable for DPS, it meant a lot to the families and asked everyone when they see Colonel Hitchens in the future tell him mission complete, we got it done. Commissioner McDonough added there will be one more road dedication, not a line of duty, it is for Captain Larry Simmons; training commander for the DPS and the date will be determined and will bring it to the attention of the BPS members in the future.

Commissioner McDonough advised the existing trooper school cadets will go to field training on November 21<sup>st</sup>, and the training that was planned for January for the new trooper school, potentially will be postponed. Commissioner McDonough shared this has been done so, as all are facing a period of retirements and budgeting for employee retirement system payouts, which is something that is challenging all agencies, not something specific to the patrol, the GBI, the GPSTC, DOC has the same issue and with potentially a lot of people retiring, DPS has to make sure the funds are available for these payouts. Commissioner McDonough declared this was the last thing that DPS wants to do, but may be the thing that has to be done in order to have the funds available for the retiring employees.

Commissioner McDonough shared the rules for Asset Forfeiture has changed as far as what one agency can do for another agency. Commissioner McDonough stated it is no secret to the BPS that people are very good to the DPS, a lot of the DPS equipment comes through donations where asset

forfeiture money is used. Commissioner McDonough stated the rules have changed such that an agency can no longer purchase a piece of equipment and give to the department, they have to give the money for what the intended purpose is. Commissioner McDonough stated from this point forward, the DPS has changed the donation form and when someone comes forward with a donation, the DPS ensures there are not asset forfeiture funds that are being expended if it is something that is being purchased and given to the DPS. Commissioner McDonough advised the DPS is currently involved in an audit with the Federal asset forfeiture and are going through all the donations since 2008 to current time frame, not completed, but when the audit is completed, the results will be brought before the BPS.

Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation updated the BPS on the GBI-DEA Clandestine Drug Laboratory Cleanup Program stating the funding to do the toxic waste disposal meth labs has been dissipated and are going forward with setting up the program of having storage sites for local law enforcement when they come across a meth lab and the cleanup waste will be carried to the storage facility maintained in the area and the DEA will come and pick up the waste. Director Keenan stated the areas that have been identified for storage containers for the agencies taking on this responsibility are the Gwinnett County Police Department in Lawrenceville, Gilmer County Sheriff's Office, Ware County Sheriff's Office, Emanuel County Sheriff's Office, Carrollton City Police, Sumter County Sheriff's Office, Richmond County Sheriff's Office and Walker County Sheriff's Office. Director Keenan advised they have the equipment associated with the cleanup, have to have specific containers to transport the waste in to the container site. Director Keenan noted the investigators that are cleaning up the meth lab and doing the transport have to be specially equipped and trained and most of the equipment has already been ordered and delivered with training ongoing. Director Keenan advised there have been two meth lab cleanup classes held and classes will continue on through the remainder of 2014 and 2015, an ongoing process and on track to have the container sites open and ready for business by the time the grant funds are dissipated.

Director Keenan stated he was at the International Association Chiefs of Police Conference two weeks ago and attended a briefing done by the DEA, who is in the process of putting out an officer safety alert related to heroin. Director Keenan added what is occurring is that the heroin that is now coming into the US is being cut with a drug called Fentanyl and some other drugs, which are extremely toxic and what the DEA is saying is any officer who comes in contact with a quantity of heroin that has been cut with this substance, can go immediately into seizure and lapsed into death. Director Keenan stated the DEA is recommending the drug investigators who are associated with these types of investigations be equipped with a Narcan which is an antidote for heroin and the other drugs as what will happen when the drug investigator comes in contact with the substance, they will not survive until the EMTs arrive who have the Narcan. Director Keenan advised the GBI has looked at having Narcan for their investigators but decided not to do it, as they are not first responders and do not go to the heroin overdoses. Director Keenan stated the GBI has now revisited this and the drug investigators have to be equipped with the Narcan as if they come in contact with the substance; the Narcan will be needed immediately. Director Keenan added the DEA will be putting out safety bulletins on this and the GBI will continue to educate GA law enforcement drug investigators on this.

Director Keenan shared the GBI will have a class graduating Tuesday, a combination of the GBI and the Department of Corrections' investigators. Director Keenan stated there would be 15 GBI agents and 10 DOC investigators, who had a joint class going on for the last few months and this is the first time this has ever been done, worked out very well, with each agency splitting off for more specific training, the overall investigator course has been a great success. Director Keenan shared the GBI is looking forward to having the fifteen agents report for duty as the GBI is shorthanded, as everyone else is.

Director Tim Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center began his report by stating the GPSTC has placed armed security at the front gate and noted on the night before the armed guards were to start, a car came up to the front gate, person got out of the car and jumped the fence, the observer called Monroe County SO and deputies caught the two people out front and GPSTC also has warrants out on individuals that brought cell phones and narcotics for inmates into the GPSTC.

Director Bearden noted Islamic terrorists gives the lone wolves the OK to attack military and public safety, and GPSTC has military and public safety persons on the GPSTC campus at all times and while GPSTC did not really have the money for armed security, the GPSTC cannot afford not to have armed security at the front gate.

Director Bearden stated the GPSTC has a ground breaking going on for the 1.4 million dollar active shooter shoot house, which will occur no later than December 5<sup>th</sup> and this will be up and going. Director Bearden noted through the last decade, active shootings occurred at a rate of about 60 events per year and for the last few years this has jumped up to 16 events on average per year. Director Bearden stated the GPSTC has to make sure officers are prepared to handle the active shooting situations.

Director Bearden thanked DOC Commissioner Owens for his assistance with a construction crew in the face lift of the Mock Village and is currently working on the mock runway for the airport firefighting.

Director Bearden recognized firemen Mike Byrd and Jeff Dean. Georgia Fire Academy Chief David Wall shared in the fire service and public safety, leaders do not recognize their troops when they do enough and do some great things. Chief Wall stated what Mr. Byrd and Mr. Dean has recently achieved is something few in the country have. Chief Wall stated their achievement is similar to the accreditation process that law enforcement agencies go through with CALEA, called the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. Chief Wall noted one of the professional designations is the Chief Fire Officer Designation, less than a thousand in the country and been around since year 2000, a pretty elite or robust achievement involving education, technical competencies, basically a seven part portfolio which takes months to put together and then put in front of a group of peers to tear it apart and send back if it is not good, Mike Byrd is now one of the few designees in the state of Georgia that has achieved the Chief Fire Officer Designation. Chief Wall stated GPSTC is proud to have him as a CFOD, he teaches and developed the fire officer program at the GPSTC and he is setting an example

as a leader by not just teaching it, but also practicing what is preached, and thanked Mike Byrd for all the work he does and for his accomplishment.

Chief Wall advised Mr. Dean has gone after a designation from the same accreditation body, one of their newer designations, the Chief Training Officer Designee, which started in the year 2013 and Mr. Dean is one of only 55 in the country and one of only three that are with state fire training organizations throughout the country that has achieved this. Chief Wall advised both designees is a three year designation so they have to keep working on it to keep it, a demonstration of one's professional development and an encouragement to keep on doing the professional development. Chief Wall shared both of these guys are managers equivalent in rank to the regional academy directors and is very proud to announce these designations.

Director Bearden advised Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm is the Governor's Public Safety Awards program at the GPSTC.

Director Bearden acknowledged questions were raised last month in regards to the GPSTC partnership with Middle Georgia State College. Director Bearden stated the technical colleges are doing something similar where the students go through the basic academy and get hours towards their technical school training which will give them an associate's degree. Director Bearden stated the GPSTC has agreements with Rinehart University, Argosy University, University of Phoenix and Thomas University. Director Bearden noted Rinehart University will take 12 or more courses and give 35 hours in college semester hours, Argosy University will take the basic law enforcement training and give six hours of college credit, University of Phoenix will take 91 of GPSTC courses for 188.5 hours of college semester credits and Thomas University does basic law enforcement for 30 hours of credits for those that go through the GPSTC basic mandate. Director Bearden stated the intent with Middle Georgia State College is to make sure when the students go through the GPSTC basic mandate training they have access to the University System of Georgia Board of Regents to receive hours of training for the basic training and advance classes. For those tied up with promotions in public safety and law enforcement with associate's degrees, four year degrees, masters degrees, the higher one goes in secondary education, the higher one's promotion can go. Director Bearden stated this gives the 1500 students that go through the GPSTC for basic mandate training annually, the ability to be enrolled in the university system, get their basic mandate training and have the credit hours for college towards their degree. Director Bearden made it clear there is nothing against the technical colleges, it was not the GPSTC against the technical colleges, this is something the GPSTC is trying to do at their academies and the training center to make sure the students have the ability to continue their secondary education. Director Bearden stated the technical colleges can do whatever they want to do, the GPSTC does not have any control over them or oversight, and this is between the technical colleges and POST.

Vice-Chairman Wood stated he understands the technical colleges already had in place a transferrable system of where a student at one of the technical colleges going through their basic mandate program could transfer to a higher educational facility with some of the credits the student had received and this process had not been in place at the GPSTC without the expansion that is being worked on now.

Director Bearden stated the before mentioned universities were in place for college credits, but with the Board of Regents this gives the students a chance for the HOPE scholarship to help pay for some of the education as the student goes forward at the Middle Georgia State College and now has the opportunity to offer to students and hopes as GPSTC moves forward, more universities across the state will help out with the higher education.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy asked how the technical schools and universities will work together. Director Bearden remarked the technical schools are their own stand-alone academies, whatever the technical schools do, goes through POST, the GPSTC has no oversight of this and understood when this first started there was a two year period where there was oversight by the GPSTC and POST and after the two years and everything went well, the academies are stand-alone academies now with the oversight only coming from POST. Director Bearden stated the technical colleges can continue doing what they are doing, doing the basic mandate courses with some PELL grants for the students if needed for pre-service, but this allows the GPSTC to make sure the 1500 students that are trained at the GPSTC has the ability to get the college hours and keep on with Middle Georgia State College for a bachelor's degree in public safety and will create a master's degree in public safety to go along with the associate's degree in public safety. Director Bearden stated the GPSTC is trying to provide something for the GPSTC students that will be beneficial for them in the future as they continue their law enforcement career.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy asked if there would be less activity at the technical colleges and Director Bearden advised there should be no change. Director Bearden acknowledged the technical schools have a good program, with 200-300 students a year for basic mandate training. Director Bearden stated the technical colleges offered more credits than the GPSTC and this will give the GPSTC the same ability to provide the same type of credits in a university setting to students the GPSTC serves and will serve in the future.

Vice-Chairman Wood stated this will give another transfer capability for a basic mandate student in an existing technical college.

Director Bearden stated there are many certifications the GPSTC has worked on over the years that is more like a college certification through the narcotics crime scene and criminal investigators courses that has hundreds of hours, the training the students have to do to obtain the certification, this is just another tool to provide a better service for the students that GPSTC works with at the GPSTC and the regional academies across the state. Director Bearden stated there is a lot of work to do between the GPSTC and the university system, but GPSTC is very proud of this, moving forward into the 21st century for the future officers.

Commissioner Brian Owens commended Director Bearden for pursuing further education for the students and noted in the DOC profession, degrees are far more important for promotions. Mr. Owens stated his department has been down this road for 5-6 years and cautioned Director Bearden that the schools like Thomas University and Phoenix University are good schools, but are extraordinarily expensive for the line officers salary. Commissioner Owens encouraged Director Bearden to work with

the Fort Valley schools and north Georgia schools who have very reasonable costs associated with the schooling and can be mostly obtained online, very easy and inexpensive.

Vice-Chairman Wood stated since this is an opportunity for a technical college enrollee that had not been previously available and since the GPSTC is developing a relationship with an institution that had not been there before, it might be a good idea for the GPSTC to exchange this dialogue with the technical colleges and let them know this relationship is established and see if the technical schools might want to pursue with their students.

Mr. Danny Bryant stated he was very disappointed in the Richmond Hill High School system, the turnout was poor from the school and was not what he expected from the school system for the October BPS meeting.

**DONATIONS**

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

Four LWRC Patrol Rifles	\$	7,148.96	Hall Co. Multi Agency Narcotics Squad
Two Kustom Raptor RP-1 Radars	\$	3,940.00	Pooler Police Department

The motion to accept these donations was made by Chief Danny Bowman, 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 donation:

Wooden Pallets	\$	5.00	Ms. Vicki Corbitt
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The motion to accept this donation was made by Chief Craig Tully, which was seconded by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., and voted approved by the Board members.

**FISCAL REPORTS**

Mr. Peter Adams, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety presented the DPS fiscal report ending September 30, 2014, and stated DPS should be at 75% of budget remaining, but are at 70% and noted during the first quarter there are prepays for rents and leases that hit in July. Mr. Adams noted the Aviation program fund is low due to the purchase of a helicopter, a 6.9 million dollar purchase, and that is why it is distorting the number down so low.

Mrs. Connie Buck, Fiscal Officer, Georgia Bureau of Investigation presented the GBI fiscal report ending September 30, 2014, and stated the GBI is on track to spending 25% this quarter with no surprises. Mrs. Buck noted for the Criminal Justice Information Services, they have spent closer to

30% which is due to payment of maintenance agreements on the databases at the start of the fiscal year.

Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center presented the GPSTC fiscal report ending September 30, 2014, and stated the GPSTC has 76% of the state general funds budget remaining.

**OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Christina Calloway, Legal Officer, Department of Public Safety presented for initial adoption, proposed Georgia Department of Public Safety Rule 570-6-2 Transportation – Tire Chains.

Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr. made the motion for the initial adoption of Rule 570-6-2 Transportation - Tire Chains, which was seconded by Mr. Kacy Cronan and voted approved by the BPS members.

Director Tim Bearden, Georgia Public Safety Training Center presented changes to the Public Safety Memorial Committee Bylaws and the Governor’s Public Safety Awards Program for the BPS’s approval.

Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic made the motion to accept the changes to the Public Safety Memorial Committee Bylaws and the Governor’s Public Safety Awards Program. This was seconded by Mr. Danny Bryant and voted approved by the BPS members.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded the BPS members the December 11<sup>th</sup> BPS meeting will be at DPS HQ with lunch to follow at DPS HQ.

Vice-Chairman Wood shared he received a phone call from the Bulloch County Sheriff’s Office where 20 deputies attended the GPSTC for PIT training and could not be complimentary enough for TFC Brian Cuendet, the facility and the reception, and what TFC Cuendet did for the deputies. Vice-Chairman Wood asked Commissioner McDonough and Director Bearden to please thank their staff appropriately.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Brian M. Rickman  
Secretary