

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Minutes of Meeting Held October 13, 2004

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Hal Averitt
Mr. Charles D. "Bud" Black
Mr. Rooney Bowen, III
Chief Lou Dekmar
Commissioner James Donald
Mr. W. H. "Dub" Harper
Sheriff Bruce Harris
Mr. Patrick Head
Chief J. D. Rice
Sheriff Jamil Saba
Chief Hubert Smith
Sheriff Cullen Talton

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Governor Sonny Perdue

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ms. Kay Baker, Department of Law
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Colonel George Ellis, Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Colonel K.W. Hancock, Georgia State Patrol
Captain Richard Ashmore, Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Terry Landers, Georgia State Patrol
Ms. Allison Hodge, Georgia State Patrol
Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Assistant Director Chris Ash, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Ray Higgins, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Deputy Director Paul Heppner, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Consultant with Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Vice-Chairman James Donald called the meeting to order of the October Board meeting. He welcomed Mr. Bob Keller, a former Board member. Mr. Rooney Bowen, III reported that Lieutenant Colonel Kenny Hancock recently had heart surgery but was already back at work and attending today's Board meeting.

Vice-Chairman Donald called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the September Board meeting. Mr. Rooney Bowen, III made the motion, which was seconded by Chief Hubert Smith, and unanimously voted approval by the Board members.

It was then the pleasure of the Board to honor Mr. Bob Keller with a Resolution. Vice-Chairman Donald, on behalf of the Board, noted how Mr. Keller was valuable to the Board; he will continue to do so with his future job with Prosecuting Attorneys Council. Mr. Keller thanked the Board members, saying he had enjoyed serving as a member of the Board. The Board of Public Safety should constantly strive to ensure that it represents all agencies; the dedication of each Board member can make a difference.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Georgia State Patrol

Colonel George Ellis reported on the issue of body armor. As a follow-up, the manufacturer provided two samples, which were field tested. The choice will be Xtreme ZX, which carries a five-year warranty. The Comptroller and the Legal Department are working out finalizing obtaining the body armor.

Major Jewell and his staff are working with GTA to come up with a better records management system for State Patrol. Colonel Ellis indicated he will have a report on that issue at a later Board meeting.

Trooper school interviews were conducted last week. Initially there were 400 people applying for trooper positions, but have been pared down, based on education, military experience, and employment experience. November 28th will be the start of the new trooper school.

This week Colonel Ellis and staff had a good visit with the GILEE visitors. They have been invited to visit other sites during their visit in Georgia.

As a follow-up on a report given last month, a policy has been changed to bring it into compliance with the law. The policy change will allow someone who is a re-hire to compete for promotion, after completing a minimum of one-year satisfactory service.

Colonel Ellis addressed questions and completed his report.

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Director Vernon Keenan handed the Board members a copy of a report prepared by the GBI Crime Lab. The document was also given at a meeting with the Chiefs of Police Association and one with the Sheriffs Association. Director Keenan explained that the proper way to make business changes is to get input from law enforcement agencies and prosecutors.

As Director Keenan pointed out, the document describes an overview of the current status of the crime lab. Several initiatives are being proposed by the crime lab management team that would have an impact upon the backlog existing in the lab. These initiatives are proposals that would change business practices and save staff positions. As an example, Georgia has an option of doing breath and blood analysis in DUI cases. If Georgia went to a breath-only DUI testing, it would save three to four scientist positions in the crime lab. Those positions could be applied to DNA backlog and the DNA backlog could be applied to other backlog areas.

Another example, is return of evidence. Currently, law enforcement officers bring evidence to the lab, then return to pick it up. If it is not picked up within the proper retention schedule, the GBI would return the evidence in the mail, which is a cost of about \$14,000 a year.

Another proposal, is charging local agencies for testing, or, limit the number of tests local agencies can have. Another option is to cut back on performing fire debris services, such as the analysis of paint and plastic to fall back to the local agency.

After addressing several questions and suggestions, Director Keenan stated that he stands firm with speaking to state officials about these proposals, which would shift costs from the state down to local officials.

Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Director Dale Mann started with first recognizing Chief Hubert Smith, who has been Chairman of the subcommittee Georgia Public Safety Training Center, by thanking him for all he has done for the Training Center and for the Board. Chief Smith's term has expired and was attending his last Board meeting.

As an update on the master course files, Director Mann and his staff are continuing to work on lesson plans and performance objectives. One thing he has done is change the PMF form, which is used in grading an employee. If an instructor is being graded on what he or she may be developing, it gives that instructor an incentive to make changes in the development area. Director Mann indicated that is going well.

The Training Center will submit a Request for Proposal to the Washington Police Corps, Department of Justice, to become a regional police corps training facility. If accepted, the

Training Center will become a regional training site, training students from South Carolina, or Mississippi, or Florida. The Department of Justice is under tremendous pressure to reduce down funding on police corps, hence the decision will be uncertain as to whether Georgia will be chosen as a training site.

Director Mann reported on budget issues, stating the Training Center is in the business to deliver training. There are many small agencies with limited training budget funding. Even though the Training Center will go through budget cuts, he is hoping he can help those small agencies.

The last item, Director Mann informed the Board members of a personnel issue, wherein he changed the requirements of the Division Director position over Fire Academy. The Board members stated this issue should be brought under Executive Session.

RULES

Mr. Mark Jackson, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, requested the Board members give final adoption of Rule 92-2-.10, which basically changes the requirement of a registered public accountant under bingo rules, and Rule 92-2-.16, which authorizes parent organizations and auxiliary organizations to operate each other's bingo sessions. Mr. Wayne Abernathy moved to adopt the rules, Chief Lou Dekmar seconded said motion, and the Board members unanimously approved the final adoption.

DONATIONS AND RESOLUTION

Mr. Terry Landers, Department of Public Safety/State Patrol, presented several donations for Board approval:

Genesis II Select Radar	\$1,750.00	Sheriff Hugh Roach Franklin County Sheriff
Stalker Dual Radar	\$2,095.00	Northeast Georgia Drug Task Force
Genesis Directional Handheld Radar	\$ 500.00	Governor's Office of Highway Safety
TV/VCR Combination & Mounts	\$4,500.00	Chief Randy Moore Holly Springs Police Department

Chief Lou Dekmark motioned to approve the donations, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and unanimously voted approval by the Board.

Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, presented three donations for approval:

Check Donation	\$1,000.00	Atlanta Gas Light Company
Gift Card	\$ 250.00	Northeast Georgia Police Academy 193 rd Basic Mandate
Air Bags	No value	Paul Walsh Nissan Dealership

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III motioned approval of the donations, seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and voted approval by Board.

Vice-Chairman Donald asked for Administrative and Emergency Issues. It was announced that Georgia State Patrol will be holding a groundbreaking ceremony in Statesboro on November 23rd. Colonel Ellis will provide directions for the Board members to the site.

Chief Lou Dekmar thanked Mr. Hal Averitt for hosting the Board meeting in September. Vice Chairman Donald complimented both Bud Black for his hospitality at the July meeting and Mr. Hal Averitt for hosting the September meeting.

As for New or Old Business, Vice Chairman Donald announced that Governor Perdue has appointed a new Board member, Chief Lee New. Chief New will be the representative from the Association of Chiefs of Police.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III motioned that the Board approve reappointment of Mr. Wayne Abernathy for another term to the Board of Public Safety. Mr. Pat Head seconded said motion, and the Board members unanimously approved.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made a motion that a Resolution be prepared and presented to Chief Hubert Smith at a future meeting. Chief Lou Dekmar seconded said motion and the Board members unanimously voted approval.

Vice-Chairman Donald noted stated that the Board members had received invitations to the October Nascar race. Mr. Bowen reported that the owner of the racetrack set a price on the tickets; those Board members who are interested in attending, will be paying for their tickets.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III reported that the next Board meeting will be held in Cordele. A dedication ceremony will be held at the new patrol post during the time of the Board meeting. After roundtable discussion, it was established that several people will not be able to attend the November meeting. Therefore, it was decided that the November Board meeting would be cancelled. Mr. Wayne Abernathy motioned to cancel the November meeting, seconded by Mr. Hal Averitt, and voted approval by the Board members. Mr. Wayne Abernathy made a motion to hold the December meeting in Cordele. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Cullen Talton and voted approval by the Board members.

Mr. Pat Head made a motion to go into Executive Session, Mr. Wayne Abernathy seconded said motion, and all members present affirmatively voted to go into Executive Session.

Following Executive Session, Lou Dekmar motioned to move into regular session, Mr. Wayne Abernathy seconded said motion, and the Board members voted approval.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III
Secretary