

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

October 13, 2011

Gainesville High School, Gainesville, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III
Chief Jon Canada
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan
Mr. Patrick H. Head
Mr. C. Murray Kight
Sheriff Dane Kirby
Commissioner Brian Owens
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Daniel M. Bryant
Sheriff Steve Cronic
Chief Louis M. Dekmar
Sheriff H. Cullen Talton

OTHERS:

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison
Colonel M. W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel R. D. Powell, Department of Public Safety
Major Hank Fielding, Department of Public Safety, GSP
Major Wayne Beck, Department of Public Safety, MCCD
Captain Grady Sanford, Department of Public Safety, GSP
Captain Allen Marlowe, Department of Public Safety, GSP
Lt. Tommy Waldrop, Department of Public Safety, GSP
SFC Dean Allen, Department of Public Safety, GSP
Sergeant Kevin Rexroat, Department of Public Safety, GSP
Corporal Timothy Meyer, Department of Public Safety, GSP
TFC Dave Snyder, Department of Public Safety, GSP
Mr. Joe Hood, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety
Mrs. Allison Hodge, Department of Public Safety
Mr. Lee O'Brien, Department of Public Safety
Dr. Butch Beach, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Patrice Kerner, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Nelly Miles, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mrs. Louise Rampy
Mrs. Allison Bowen
Mrs. Megan Cronan

Mr. Bryson Worley, Assistant Principal of Gainesville High School welcomed everyone to Gainesville High School and recognized and introduced Gainesville High School Principal, Mr. Chris Nance. Mr.

Worley gave a brief history of the Gainesville High School Mascot Red Elephants and the podium on stage that was used during the BPS meeting. Mr. Worley then turned the meeting over to Vice-Chairman Wood who called the October 13th, 2011 Board of Public Safety meeting to order and stated that the BPS was very grateful to be at the Gainesville High School and appreciates all the courtesies of the staff to allow the BPS to come and meet here. Vice-Chairman Wood added that this BPS is very lucky to have three local people on the BPS, Chief Jon Canada, Sheriff Steve Cronic and Mr. Kacy Cronan. Vice-Chairman Wood called on Chief Canada to begin the program.

Chief Canada began by thanking Gainesville High School and the Board of Education and introduced Board member, Mr. Sammy Smith and Dr. Merrienne Dyer, School Superintendent. Chief Canada thanked the Gainesville High School for their hospitality and allowing the BPS to be part of their program today.

Chief Canada called on his friend and pastor, Dr. Thomas Smiley, pastor of Lakewood Baptist Church in Gainesville to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and to give the devotion.

Dr. Smiley led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence and personal prayer for Hall County Deputy Anthony Seda who was killed in a motorcycle crash last week. Dr. Smiley then gave the devotion.

Chief Canada called on Harris Blackwood, Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and a local resident of Gainesville to come forward. Director Blackwood stated it was great to partner with the agencies that the Board of Public Safety oversees and in particular the Georgia State Patrol to help make the roads safer. Director Blackwood shared that the Georgia State Patrol will be honored at the IACP Conference in Chicago as the best state police agency in the US and that the Gainesville Police Department will be receiving an award as the best in their size category for police agencies in the US.

Vice-Chairman Wood explained to the students that the State of Georgia has a number of Boards and Authorities and the Board of Public Safety works with three state agencies, Department of Public Safety which includes the GA State Patrol and the Motor Carrier Compliance Division, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Georgia Public Safety Training Center which all will give presentations. Vice-Chairman Wood added that there would be a presentation from Chief Jon Canada's staff on fire safety and also a presentation from the Department of Corrections who oversees all the prison systems in GA. Vice-Chairman Wood told the students that today was a real good friendly place to meet all of these people and that they did not want to meet them in another venue. Vice-Chairman Wood expressed to the students that the entire concept of today's presentations is to try and help them and their education and told them that the BPS is very grateful to be here today and began the presentations.

PRESENTATIONS

Colonel Mark W. McDonough, Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety spoke to the students about making good and poor choices concerning driving. Colonel McDonough offered to the

students' three steps for the students to make good choices by asking; what would Jesus do, what would Mama say, and if it is good for the country and the community. Colonel McDonough told the students that our country needs them and to make good choices.

Director Vernon Kennan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation told the students that the GBI is fighting the prescription drug problem and also synthetic marijuana on the market. Director Keenan introduced Ms. Nelly Miles, supervisor over the drug chemistry section at the GBI who explained to the students the dangers of synthetic marijuana.

Dr. Butch Beach, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center gave an overview and slide show of the GPSTC and finished up his presentation with Secrets to a Happy Life.

City of Gainesville Fire Chief and Board member Jon Canada spoke about fire protection for the City of Gainesville and introduced Gainesville Fire Marshall Chad Payne who spoke to the students about fire safety and fire arson.

Department of Corrections Commissioner and Board member Brian Owens introduced Mr. Buster King, supervisor for the DOC Canine Unit and his assistants who presented demonstrations involving a drug dog, an explosive dog and a handler protection dog.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for the approval of the September 2011 Board minutes. Chief Jon Canada made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. C. Murray Kight and voted approved by the Board members.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Dr. Butch Beach, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center began by advising the Board members that the GPSTC Board report would stand for itself and noted that training is consistent or up across the board and gave testament to the GPSTC staff to continue to keep this level of training for the last two years even with the budget and staff woes. The GPSTC is proud that the staff could do this and to move forward.

Dr. Beach updated the Board members on the repairs of the big track and stated the vendors have been on site and the bid will be received next week and should be repaired without any further interruption of training.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III asked Dr. Beach about the roof repairs and Dr. Beach replied that the roof repairs are on target as scheduled, but the project has not begun. Vice-Chairman Wood asked about the electrical circuitry and Dr. Beach advised it was being repaired at this time. Dr. Beach stated the GPSTC continues to work with Office of Planning and Budget and the repairs to the electrical circuitry will run around five and half million dollars.

Vice-Chairman Wood congratulated Dr. Beach on obtaining his PhD.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation began by updating the BPS with a few items. Director Keenan advised the Board members that the GBI has put together a white paper on the issue of synthetic marijuana, outlining the problem and also the GBI's recommendation for a solution which is going to require enacting legislation. Director Keenan added that he has a meeting with Governor Deal's public safety policy advisor next week to present this white paper and what our recommended solutions are. Director Keenan stated what will be required is for the GBI to change the way that we have been enacting drug laws in Georgia where we go after a specific substance and now we will recommend that we go after compound combinations as this is the only way to defeat the synthetic marijuana. Director Keenan stated that there are other states that have enacted legislation and the GBI can pull from their experiences and that is what Director Keenan will be discussing with Governor Deal's staff. Director Keenan reminded the Board members that each state agency before they are allowed to go forward with a legislative proposal they must have approval from the governor who will vet the proposal through his staff.

Another issue Director Keenan stated he would be discussing with Governor Deal's public safety advisor involves a problem that we are seeing manifest itself not only in Georgia but in the US and this is with a group of persons who loosely classify themselves as sovereign citizens. Director Keenan stated many of these persons are very anti-government; they file liens against public officials, law enforcement and are very disruptive. The GBI will be recommending to the public safety advisor that GA will need to mirror some of the federal laws that have been enacted to address persons who are engaging in basic paperwork terrorism. Director Keenan stated he had received calls from across the state from law enforcement and officials, including judges who are having liens placed against their personal property and the liens are actually false documents, there is no legal foundation for any of this.

Director Keenan stated the Governor has directed that the CJCC provide the GBI with nearly a half million dollars in federal grant funds to replace the meth lab clean-up funds which have been cut from the DEA budget. Director Keenan reminded the Board members that the DEA had clean up funding for the local and state law enforcement if they came upon a meth lab, with the costs running anywhere from 3000.00 to 5000.00 dollars per meth lab. The GBI has received the grant funding and the issue that the GBI is dealing with is that the GBI has to have a statewide contract to pay for the meth lab clean up as the GBI cannot designate someone to be a meth lab clean-up company. The GBI will have to go through a competitive bid process and we are working with the Drug Environmental Division of DNR to help write the contracts and will put this out for bid. Director Keenan advised the Board that the GBI is proceeding with this as rapidly as we can, but there is a contract process that the GBI has to go through.

Director Keenan stated last week the GBI began internet café gambling raids across the state and has executed two search warrants in the Blairsville area and also executed one search warrant in Villa Rica where the GBI seized over 100 machines. Director Keenan advised that the Governor has asked the GBI to make internet café commercial gambling a priority, working with local law enforcement and prosecutors across the state in doing what needs to be done which is executing search warrants, seizing bank accounts and building criminal cases against commercial gambling and internet café' gambling.

Director Keenan relayed that there will be a series of raids that will occur across the state and as of today the GBI is preparing to do another wave of café raids.

Director Keenan stated that on October 1, 2011, the GBI hired 24 GBI agents, the first agents to be hired since 2007. Director Keenan stated the Governor directed the CJCC to provide the GBI with the federal grant funding to hire the 24 agents. Fifteen of these agents were already P.O.S.T. certified and are in a two week school orientating them to the GBI and the other nine are in basic mandate school at GPSTC. Director Keenan relayed that after all the agents are on equal footing, they will come together for a seven week GBI school and then go out to their assignments where they are sorely needed in the field offices where some of the field offices are operating with a supervisor and four agents, which means basically an agent is on call all the time.

In regards to the meth lab clean-up, Sheriff Dane Kirby asked Director Keenan if an agent will have to open a case file on the meth lab clean up. Director Keenan responded that there will be a pool of money when local law enforcement encounters a meth lab and they need funding to cover the cost of the clean up, the law enforcement agency will call the GBI and get an authorization number to contact the company that has the state contract and it will go from there. Director Keenan added that the GBI does not have to be involved in the investigation at any point; the GBI has to keep the records and control the funding.

Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety began by advising the BPS that for the month of September, troopers visited over 4,000 critical infrastructure sites, spent about 5,000 man hours doing this and out of this the troopers reported 44 Suspicious Activity Reports to the Fusion Center. Commissioner McDonough added that the department has not received any feedback as a result of the SARs but thinks that some of the positive things to come out of this is that it has made the patrol posts take a hard look at what potentially could be a target in this day and time and have gotten our folks to these sites, building relationships and thinks a lot of people will see a positive outcome from this.

Commissioner McDonough reported that on October 1st, the new grant from the Commercial Motor Vehicle Federal grant went into effect and one thing that is different this year is that DPS removed the sub grantees and the rationale for doing so is that the legislature gave the DPS 2 million dollars this year to hire civilian weight inspectors and to put them into the weigh stations and in doing so this would free up the sworn people to be out on the roadway enforcing the law. Commissioner McDonough added by doing this, it frees up local law enforcement to not to have to worry about those responsibilities and to be able to spend their time on things that are important in their communities. Commissioner McDonough advised that there has been some push back and we have dealt with this, Major Beck and himself are meeting with the GACP Executive Group on Tuesday of next week and thinks for the most part that there is an understanding why this is being done and it will just take time through our efforts in enforcement to show that not only can the MCCD pick up the slack but also will exceed those enforcement efforts that were done by the sub grantees.

Commissioner McDonough reported that Dr. Butch Beach and he graduated yesterday from the GACP School.

Commissioner McDonough stated the 88th Trooper School graduation will be November 10th, 2011 and extended an invitation to those present and stated that what is even more positive about this graduation is that there will be two trooper schools on stage as the 89th Trooper School starts October 30, 2011.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III asked Commissioner McDonough if the State Patrol was tracking the sovereign citizens' information along with the average stop that the trooper makes. Commissioner McDonough replied this is the whole purpose of the Suspicious Activity Reporting as this is the perfect vehicle to utilize, if one comes across these people, they are usually involved in other activities just as a sign of their ideology and this is one of the reasons for making the SAR form available to all troopers on their MDTs and this is the perfect vehicle to use and to track these people.

On a personal note, Commissioner McDonough thanked the Georgia Sheriffs Association and spoke about TFC Jack Lawrence where a week ago Monday, there was an attempt on his life at a vehicle stop. Three Hispanics ended up in a wooded area of Cherokee County, three sheriff's departments, Cherokee, Bartow, and Paulding responded and helped the DPS SWAT and thanked Director Keenan for the agents that responded and the US Marshalls showed up and within a 24 hour period of time from the attempt on the trooper's life all three were in jail. This is a perfect example of cooperation and cannot thank the Sheriff's Departments and the GBI enough for their assistance.

Sheriff Dane Kirby asked Commissioner McDonough if they were able to capture the suspects before they got out of the woods. Commissioner McDonough responded that all three were captured in the woods, with the last two, cell phone technology was used to ping off their cell phone and a little spirited conversation about how to go about it once they knew where they were, the US Marshalls experienced one out and everyone took the ride to jail.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Commissioner McDonough how many sub grantees were removed from the Commercial Motor Vehicle Federal Grant and Commissioner McDonough replied there were 20 and of those 20 sub grantees only two of them actually received funds. There is about \$165,000.00 of federal funds that went to two counties, DeKalb County and Cobb County; thus far there is an understanding from everybody what we are trying to attempt to do. Commissioner McDonough stated the Department sees this job as a state job and we are taking our job back and they understand exactly what we are doing and why we are going about it, this is not an issue of trying to take an authority from a police chief and in time it should settle out and it will come through as to why we are doing what we are doing.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Commissioner McDonough to comment if the DPS was emphasizing enforcement on HB87 or anything related to the new immigration law. Commissioner McDonough replied that DPS has 14 troopers that are trained in immigration training and that a standard officer cannot enforce those statues unless they have been trained by the federal government in the 287g

program. Commissioner McDonough added that the CIU has been trained and continues to work with the federal government as we have to have access to the equipment in order to do this and have to have clear indications where to take the immigrants, so it is an ongoing effort.

Mr. Kacy Cronan asked Commissioner McDonough how many cadets have been lost in the 88th Trooper School and Commissioner McDonough replied the standard loss is usually 33%, it seems like from the time we start recruiting, testing, interview, physical fitness, you can pretty much whatever the number ends up at that point cut another 33% off. Commissioner McDonough added that the upcoming class began with over 800 applicants and right now we have 60 that are available to start trooper school. In the last school we started with 62 and we have 37 for graduation, so this class has exceeded 40% but traditionally it 33%.

DONATIONS

Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

One X26 TASER	\$ 814.95	Winder Police Department
One Stalker 2X Radar	\$ 3,000.00	Walker County Commissioners
One Falcon HR Handheld Radar	\$ 705.00	Kustom Signals, Inc.

The motion to accept these donations was made by Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III; seconded by Mr. Patrick H. Head and voted approved by the Board members.

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Lee O'Brien, Deputy Director of Legal Services for the Department of Public Safety came before the Board of Public Safety with a Resolution asking the Board of Public Safety to request a revocable license be issued to the City of Cartersville for improvement to road adjacent to and upon certain real property in the custody of the Department of Public Safety located at 1300 Joe Frank Harris Parkway, Cartersville, Bartow County, Georgia, formerly occupied by Georgia State Patrol Post 3 Headquarters and Barracks.

Mr. Lester Rampy made a motion that the members of the Georgia Board of Public Safety, agree that a revocable license is necessary and appropriate for the purpose requested by the City of Cartersville, do authorize the issuance of a revocable license to the City of Cartersville, Georgia and do further, authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to take all appropriate action and prepare the appropriate documents, including signing such documents on behalf of the Board of Public Safety, for the express purpose of granting such revocable license. This motion was seconded by Mr. C. Murray Kight and voted approved by the Board members.

Mr. Lee O'Brien presented a second Resolution requesting that the Board of Public Safety authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to modify the lease agreement with Forsyth County, whereby the Department of Public Safety leases certain property, currently occupied by Georgia State Patrol Post 37 Headquarters and Barracks, in order to decrease the size of such property and to exclude certain property from said lease.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made a motion that the Members of the Board of Public Safety, authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to enter into negotiations with Forsyth County and to modify the current lease agreement between the Department of Public Safety and Forsyth County and execute any and all documents necessary to accomplish the foregoing premises in regard to the property upon which is located the Headquarters and Barracks of Post 37 Cumming in Forsyth. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr. and voted approval by the Board members.

Vice-Chairman Wood thanked Chief Canada and Mr. Cronan for their courtesies and efforts in hosting this meeting.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded the Board members that the BPS will meet at 1600 hours at the GPSTC in Forsyth on Wednesday, November 9th, 2011 with the GPSTC staff hosting the meeting and dinner. On Thursday morning, November 10th, BSP members are invited to the 88th Trooper School graduation.

Vice-Chairman Wood stated the December 8th, 2011 meeting will be at the GBI Headquarters and then January 2012 the Board will meet back at the Twin Towers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III
Secretary