

## **BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

October 10, 2013

Moody Air Force Base, Georgia

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chief Danny Bowman  
Mr. Daniel M. Bryant  
Mr. C. Murray Kight  
Sheriff Dane Kirby  
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.  
Chief Mark Revenew  
Chief Craig Tully  
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Wayne Abernathy  
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan  
Retired Sheriff Steve D. Cronic  
Commissioner Brian Owens  
Mr. Brian M. Rickman  
Sheriff Joey Terrell

### **OTHERS:**

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison  
Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety  
Lt. Colonel Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety  
Major Eddie Grier, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Hank Fielding, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Buddy Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Chris Wright, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Johnny Jones, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Captain James A. Byrd, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Lt. Jimmy L. Price, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
SFC Carl Taylor, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
SFC Chris Bryan, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Mr. Peter Adams, Comptroller, Department of Public Safety  
Ms. Joan Crumpler, Deputy Legal Director, Department of Public Safety  
Ms. Franka Young, Department of Public Safety  
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Maureen Bryant  
Mrs. Rachel Kight  
Chief Deputy Joe Crow, Lowndes County Sheriff's Department  
Senator Tyler Harper  
Senator Tim Golden  
Mr. W. Parker Greene  
Major Brian Loveless

Colonel Steven E. Ramer, Vice Wing Commander of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Wing, welcomed the group to Moody Air Force Base and gave a quick mission brief of what goes on at Moody Air Force Base.

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the October 10th, 2013, Board of Public Safety meeting to order. Vice-Chairman Wood asked Commissioner McDonough to give a briefing to everyone in the room in regards to what the Board of Public Safety does.

Lowndes County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Joe Crow gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Major Brian Loveless, MAFB gave a few comments and thanked Mr. Parker Greene for his continued support to MAFB and the community.

Captain Chris Wright, Troop H Commander welcomed everyone to Lowndes County and thanked MAFB for their help with hosting the BPS meeting. Captain Wright introduced SFC Carl Taylor, SFC Chris Bryan, Chief Deputy Joe Crowe, Captain Byrd and Lt. Price of the MCCD, and Captain Buddy Johnson of Troop G. Captain Wright recognized Senator Tyler Harper and Senator Tim Golden and thanked them for their support. Captain Wright recognized Mr. Parker Greene, who is a great asset to local law enforcement and he is the reason the community and law enforcement have the relationship with MAFB. Captain Wright thanked Mr. Greene for his service.

Mr. Parker Greene shared he was proud to be at the BPS meeting and shared that MAFB is a big part of Lowndes County and the Valdosta community.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the September 12th Board minutes. Mr. Danny Bryant made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Sheriff Dane Kirby and voted approved by the BPS members.

### **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Commissioner Mark McDonough, Department of Public Safety began by telling Senator Harper and Senator Golden that it was good to see them and they have been very supported of the DPS and shared that one of the senators carried MCCD legislation for the DPS. Commissioner McDonough stated DPS has been on a pilgrimage in southwest Georgia for the Fallen Trooper Road Memorials.

Commissioner McDonough acknowledges the memorials have been very heartwarming in particularly the reaction that was received from the family members over the past two days. Commissioner McDonough stated there were cousins that had not seen each other in 30 years, people and families that have never been together and the event for some of them will probably be one of their highlights of their lives and probably spur family reunions. Commissioner McDonough shared Ms. Harrell, age 92, surviving spouse at one of the memorials was absolutely overwhelmed and the memorials have been very humbling for the past two days. Commissioner McDonough advised a memorial will be held in Blue Ridge tomorrow, honoring the life of Trooper Wehunt of Post 27 and on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, a memorial will be in Cartersville for Trooper Looney. Commissioner McDonough advised on Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, the DPS will be in Troop F for the Harrelson and Fields dedication and continuing on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, the DPS awards will be at the GPSTC at 1000 hours.

Commissioner McDonough shared on Friday, November 22nd is the 93 Trooper School graduation at the GPSTC, with breakfast at 0800, inspection at 0900 and graduation at 1000. Commissioner McDonough stated Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia will give the commencement speech and DPS will try to honor all of the Justices of the Supreme Court and have them at the graduation as guests.

Commissioner McDonough noted he had made the DPS comptroller nervous, as this Friday the next group of people will be picked for the trooper school scheduled just after the first of the year, which will have 104 cadets, probably one of the largest trooper schools that has been put together. Commissioner McDonough noted this is being done because the schools have an attrition rate that is very hard, and frankly speaking, GSP is dealing with a soft generation and soft people are not good for being troopers.

Commissioner McDonough thanked Chief Craig Tully, Mr. Ellis Wood and GBI Director Vernon Keenan for being at the memorials yesterday.

Vice-Chairman Wood echoed Commissioner McDonough's comments about the Fallen Trooper Memorial Road Dedications that have taken place so far, as each dedication was unique and each one had a lot of individual qualities and it was amazing to see the emotion and the appreciation from the families. Vice-Chairman Wood stated three of the four memorials done in the last two days were killed in the same accident and one was an early GBI agent. Vice-Chairman Wood stated what was unique about the GBI agent, was that his spouse was still living and in attendance and she was greatly moved by the service.

Vice-Chairman Wood encouraged the BPS members to attend the upcoming Fallen Trooper Road Memorial Dedications.

Director Vernon Kennan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation shared during the last legislative session, HB 78 was passed which completely revamped and modernized the criminal code as it relates to elder abuse. Director Keenan advised the legislation also had an important part in bringing the focus to the problem of elder abuse; not only elderly, but disabled adults. Director Keenan noted elder abuse is now recognize throughout the state as a major crime problem and the more training that is done in this area, the more reports are coming in to adult protective services and law enforcement in regards to the abuse of the elderly and disabled adults. Director Keenan shared that on December 18<sup>th</sup>, the GBI Protective Services, the GA Chiefs of Police Association and the GA Sheriff's Association are sponsoring a one day training session at the GPSTC and intend to train over 300 law enforcement officers in the area of elder abuse, how to recognize the crime and steps to take to alert the proper authorities so that the crime can be addressed. Director Keenan advised the BPS members that he would send out a flyer which will outline the training curriculum. Director Keenan stated they had asked the governor to speak at the training session, but will be unable to, but the attorney general will be there with the intent to train over 300 law enforcement officers who are the first responders in this emerging crime as is being seen across the state.

Director Keenan updated the BPS on a program that the GBI is partnering with, the Georgia Chiefs of Police Association and the Georgia Sheriffs Association in the DEA Toxic Waste Removal Program. Director Keenan stated prior to 2011, before the budgets cuts came into play, noted when a meth lab is operating large or small, there is an amount of toxic waste that is generated in the meth production. Director Keenan declared the toxic waste requires special handling, special storage and special disposal, which takes training and equipment. Director Keenan noted prior to 2011, the DEA covered the costs of all of this and when law enforcement found a meth lab, they could contact DEA and the DEA had contracts across the US, where they had private companies who would respond to the scene, collect and take the waste, and see that it was disposed of, with an average cost for response to handling the toxic waste at \$3,000.00. Director Keenan stated in 2011, the money went away and only had a month's notice that the federal money was no longer available, which meant that any law enforcement agency, state or local, who found a meth lab was then responsible for collecting the waste and disposing of it. Director Keenan advised at the last minute, when the governor found out about it, Governor Deal directed CJCC to provide grant funds to the GBI to administer on behalf of local law enforcement to keep local law enforcement from incurring the cost of \$3,000.00 per site. Director Keenan advised the grant money was around \$700,000.00 which got the GBI through a year, came the second time the money went away now are back in the same boat; no federal funding, the state grant funds have now gone away and now local law enforcement will have to pay for the toxic waste cleanups. Director Keenan stated in August, the grant money went away again; the governor stepped in again, and directed CJCC to come up with some residual grant money, put the money in the waste removal program so local law enforcement is not responsible for the toxic cleanup, and this money will go away in about 10 months. Director Keenan advised they will have to find another solution for handling the waste disposal and found out there are 15 states that are enrolled in a DEA Container Program, where local and state law enforcement is trained on how to collect and transport the toxic waste; where the toxic waste is transported to a container program that the DEA has setup. Director Keenan went on to advise the toxic waste is then put into the container program which is much like a ditsy dumpster on steroids and when the dumpster is full, DEA then pays for a contractor to come in and remove the waste and have it destroyed. Director Keenan noted the program will require a partnership between the Sheriffs and Chiefs as they will have to have mutual aid and GBI will enter into a contract with the DEA to have this program set up, and the Chiefs and Sheriffs have voted to do this. Director Keenan stated the Sheriffs and Chiefs will work with the GBI and GBI will designate where the facilities will be located, which agencies will act in mutual response so that when a deputy sheriff or a police chief finds toxic waste, the local agency and state agency will respond and collect the waste and take to the container site. Director Keenan stated this reduces the cost from \$3,000.00 to about \$300.00, which is all common sense. Director Keenan advised he met with the Georgia Sheriff's Association yesterday and outlined to them what he had outlined to the BPS members today. Director Keenan stated they were very fortunate the governor has given them enough grant funds to get through these months of training that will be required to get the program setup. Director Keenan noted this program will be a success due to the partnership between the Chiefs, Sheriffs and the GBI.

Director Keenan stated he was glad the two senators were present today as he updated the BPS on GBI's proposed legislation for the upcoming legislature. Director Keenan advised the legislation is carry over from last year as the legislation got bogged down in the last hours of the legislature and did

not get passed. Director Keenan stated with the Governor's approval, the GBI has proposed that GA Code 16-12-81, entitled distribution of material depicting nudity or sexual conduct be amended to include the transmission of these type of materials electronically. Director Keenan noted the current GA law only pertains to sending unsolicited pornography through the mail, but if one sends it electronically, the law does not apply. Director Keenan stated the problems facing law enforcement is that we have a group of people out there that will take a nude photograph and superimpose a person's head on the photograph and then distribute the photo widely, and generally it is a public official and many times it is an elected official. Director Keenan noted it is extremely embarrassing and detrimental to the person who is being depicted in that manner, but it is not against the law. Director Keenan reiterated again this is illegal if sent through the mail, but to send email it is not illegal and the GBI is asking the law be amended to include electronic transmission of materials.

Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center stood in for Director Tim Bearden who sent his regrets that he could not be present today. Mrs. Franklin noted the GPSTC's report had been sent to the BPS members and Director Bearden did not have anything further to share with the group.

**DONATIONS**

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

(1) One X26 Taser	\$	900.00	Brooks County Sheriff's Dept.
(2) Two Stalker Dual DSR 2X Radars	\$	6,100.00	Lee Co. Board of Commissioners
(4) Four LWRC M6 Patrol Rifles	\$	7,785.88	Gwinnett County Sheriff's Dept.
Rapid ID System	\$	2,124.00	Byron Police Department

The motion to accept these donations was made by Chief Mark Revenew, which was seconded by Chief Danny Bowman and voted approved by the Board members.

**OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Mark McDonough introduced Ms. Joan Crumpler, Deputy Director of Legal Services with the DPS. Commissioner McDonough shared Ms. Crumpler has experience in law, not only in the private sector, but extensive experience with the AG's office. Commissioner McDonough advised Ms. Crumpler's experience had been dealing with DPS cases and has represented the state on DPS's behalf in some very, very difficult cases. Commissioner McDonough noted Ms. Crumpler is a bulldog and DPS is lucky to have her.

Commissioner McDonough stated Ms. Crumpler would introduce a Resolution for the BPS's consideration in regards to establishing a new post in Hart County, not a replacement of a post, but a

new post to be staffed by fourteen additional troopers from the SC line on I-85 corridor towards Atlanta. Commissioner McDonough reminded the BPS members this section of the interstate from Gwinnett County all the way to the SC line does not have a post territory on it and when looking at the interstate system in the state, one will see the representation of the GSP posts all along the interstate system. Commissioner McDonough stated the DPS has entered into negotiations and the Resolution will outlay what the county is going to do as far as building the post and then DPS will staff the post one year from this date. Commissioner McDonough reiterated this is a new post with additional personnel and asked Senator Tyler and Senator Golden for their support as they will see in the governor's recommendation, both in amendment 14 and 15, the addition to the DPS budget for this post.

Ms. Crumpler asked for the BPS Board's consideration in regards to a Resolution for Post 52 which would authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to enter into negotiations with Hart County for the provision of headquarters and barracks for State Patrol Post 52 Hartwell and to enter into all agreements with Hart County necessary to establish Post 52 in Hart County.

Mr. Danny Bryant made the motion to authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to enter into negotiations with Hart County and enter into the appropriate agreements and execute all contracts and supporting documents as necessary to enable Hart County to renovate and construct such building(s) upon such property of Hart County for the purposes stated in the resolution; and further, to take those steps necessary, including any steps necessary on behalf of the Board of Public Safety, to obtain property located at 1529 Knox Bridge Crossing Road, Lavonia, Georgia 30553, located within the borders of Hart County, being approximately two (2) acres for use as a Georgia State Patrol Post Headquarters and Barracks. This was seconded by Mr. Lester Rampy, Jr., and voted approved by the BPS members

Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Georgia Public Safety Training Center presented a Resolution for the BPS's approval to acquire approximately 1.7 acres of land and improvements located at 516 Chattin Drive, Canton, Cherokee County, GA from Cherokee County Georgia for the consideration of \$700,000.00 as the site of the GPSTC's Cherokee Regional Academy Shoothouse with available Board approved General Obligation Bond Proceeds.

Mr. Lester Rampy, Jr. made the motion to approve the acquisition of approximately 1.7 acres of land and improvements located at 516 Chattin Drive, Canton, Cherokee County, GA from Cherokee County Georgia for the consideration of SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND Dollars (\$700,000), as the site of the Georgia Public Safety Training Center's Cherokee Regional Academy Shoothouse. This was seconded by Mr. Danny Bryant and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mrs. Cindy Franklin presented a Resolution in regards to the sale of the General Obligation Bonds in the middle of November for \$280,000.00, where the funds will be used to redo the atrium flooring at the GPSTC.

Mr. Murray Kight made the motion to approve the Resolution for General Obligation Bonds in the amount of \$280,000.00 for the GPSTC, which was seconded by Chief Craig Tully and voted approval by the BPS members.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded everyone the November 14<sup>th</sup> BPS meeting would be held at the GPSTC.

Chief Craig Tully commented on the Due Regard Training and stated TFC Earl Prince came to the Fire Chief Fire Fighters Statewide Conference and TFC Prince did an outstanding job, was one of the best classes; TFC Prince brought something to the fire service that a lot of people had not seen. Chief Tully shared after the class; people came up to TFC Prince and wanted to know how to get the class for their entire fire departments. Chief Tully stated TFC Prince taught Due Regard Training to his fire department and has asked TFC Prince to offer the training to all emergency responders in his county. Chief Tully stated TFC Prince did an outstanding job and thinks it is an outstanding class that everyone in emergency services need, it was very good.

Chief Mark Revenew asked Director Vernon Keenan what was the status of the video gambling unit. Director Keenan responded the commercial gambling unit is up and running, out doing undercover cases at this time. Chief Revenew commented that some of the amusement services have hired attorneys to come around to the cities to brief them on the law. Director Keenan noted the Coin Operated and Amusement Industry was very interested in the new laws as there is a tremendous amount of money involved in this and were supportive of the law transferring responsibility of regulating the coin operated machines to the GA Lottery Corporation. Director Keenan advised the Coin Operated and Amusement Industry are also providing information to the GBI of businesses operating outside of the law. Director Keenan noted a legitimate business certainly cannot compete with an illegal business and will be going through a process of cleaning up the industry. One of the keys with this, which Director Keenan stated he discussed with the GA Lottery Corporation, is there mechanism in their regulations they use when they issue out licenses. Director Keenan stated the way to cut much of the illegal activity is to have a very strict licensing process with in-depth background so that you keep the illegal people from even getting into the business.

Vice-Chairman Wood thanked Chief Craig Tully and Captain Buddy Johnson for their courtesies for the last two days.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Brian M. Rickman  
Secretary