

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

September 10, 2015

Effingham County High School

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Chief Danny Bowman
Mr. Daniel M. Bryant
Commissioner Homer Bryson
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.
Chief Mark Revenew
Mr. Brian Rickman
Sheriff Joey Terrell
Chief Craig Tully
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan
Sheriff Dane Kirby

OTHERS:

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General-via conference call
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison
Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel Russell D. Powell, Department of Public Safety
Major Jason Johnson, Department of Public Safety
Major Hank Fielding, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Billy Boulware, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Jeremy Vickery, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Blair Hanton, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Mark Lambert, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Billy Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Chris Wright, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Chad Riner, Department of Public Safety/GSP
SFC Patrick Sapp, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Sgt. Walter Wrighton, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
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. Nelly Miles, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Tony Hightower, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Cindy Franklin, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Mike Byrd, Georgia Public Safety Training Center-GFA
Mr. Chris Harris, Georgia Public Safety Training Center-GFA
Mr. Stephen Strickland, Georgia Public Safety Training Center-GPA
Mr. Glyn Corbitt, Georgia Public Safety Training Center-GPA

Mr. Brad Johnson, Canine Coordinator, Department of Corrections
Mr. Jamey Jordan, Canine Handler, Department of Corrections
Mr. Leighton Walters, Canine Handler, Department of Corrections
Mr. Devon Henderson, Canine Handler, Department of Corrections
Mrs. Louise Rumpy
Mrs. Joan Keenan
Mr. and Mrs. Murray Kight
Mrs. Maureen Bryant
Rev. Daryl Brown
Senator Jack Hill
DOT Board Member Ann Purcell
Representative Bill Hitchens
Representative Jon Burns
Mr. John Edwards, Executive Director, Peace Officers Association of Georgia
Deputy Mac Edwards, Bulloch County Sheriff's Department
Faculty and Students of Effingham County High School

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the September 10, 2015, Board of Public Safety meeting to order. Vice-Chairman Wood asked everyone to pause for moment and reminded everyone of tomorrow, September 11th, the 14th anniversary of the terrorists attack on the US which killed innocent victims. Vice-Chairman Wood reminded the students, that many of them were very young or not even born on that terrible day.

Reverend Daryl Brown asked for a moment of silence and then gave the invocation, which was followed by the presentation of the colors by the Department of Public Safety Honor Guard and the Effingham County High Jr. ROTC. Reverend Brown led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and Bagpiper Dan Bray played God Bless America. Vice-Chairman Wood recognized those currently serving in the Armed Forces and the Veterans of the Armed Forces.

Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety introduced State Senator Jack Hill, State Representative Jon Burns, former State Representative and DOT Board member Mrs. Ann Purcell, former Commissioner of DPS and State Representative Bill Hitchens. Representative Hitchens presented a Resolution to Mr. C. Murray Kight (former BPS board member) honoring his late brother, Mr. Amos Louie Kight.

Commissioner McDonough explained the functions of the Board of Public Safety to the Effingham County High School students and also told the students Public Safety is a partnership with them and law enforcement.

Commissioner McDonough told the students, they should not be afraid of the police as most of what is being perpetrated is based upon a false narrative in this country. Commissioner McDonough stated the odds of being involved in a violent encounter or a fatal shooting with the police is the same as the odds of being struck by lightning. Commissioner McDonough noted there are those that put forth this

perception as the reality and the perception the encounter with the police is going to be bad, they are wrong, as the facts do not support this, it is not someone's opinion.

Commissioner McDonough spoke to the students about texting and driving and drinking and driving.

Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation explained the mission of the GBI. Director Keenan introduced Mrs. Nelly Miles, former Chemistry Manager, and now Public Affairs Director who spoke to the students about synthetic drugs and the impact of drugs on young people.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center introduced Mr. Mike Byrd and Mr. Chris Harris of the Georgia Fire Academy and Mr. Stephen Strickland and Mr. Glyn Corbitt of the Georgia Police Academy who gave demonstrations to the students.

Lt. Colonel Jeff Weaver, Georgia Department of Natural Resources presented a slideshow on the DNR to the students and spoke to the students about becoming a DNR ranger.

Commissioner Homer Bryson, Department of Corrections introduced Mr. Brad Johnson, Canine Coordinator for DOC. Mr. Johnson and his three canine handlers presented demonstrations with canines from the Department of Corrections.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Commissioner Mark McDonough advised the governor has funded the strategic plan for MCCD with 28 million dollars over the next four years. Commissioner McDonough noted with an increase in CMV fatalities in the state, 60 officers will be hired in and around the port area and with the expansion at the Savannah Port, they will go from 48,000 to 78,000 trucks a day.

Commissioner McDonough stated a trooper school began in August with 45 cadets and are down to 33 cadets.

Commissioner McDonough presented proposed changes to the DPS Organizational Chart with SCRT structured within their troop, as well as Implied Consent, falling under Field Operations. Commissioner McDonough noted the Chief Financial Officer, Major Jason Johnson, will be a uniform position and a Facilities Manager position will be created under Capt. Rexroat, Administrative Services Director.

Mr. Lester Rampy made the motion to approve the DPS Organizational Chart, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy congratulated Commissioner McDonough for looking into the needs of what has been lacking for a long time.

Mr. Lester Rampy asked Commissioner McDonough when GSP would be opening up the Hiram post. Commissioner McDonough responded Post 29 in Paulding County is in its final inspection stage and

hopes within the next few weeks there will be a flag raising to open the post and will ask former Commissioner Hugh Hardison to raise the flag as he was the one who pulled the flag down at Cedartown. Commissioner McDonough reminded everyone P29 Cedartown was closed down over four years ago and Paulding County came forward and committed to renovating a facility for P29.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation began his report by stating the GBI is authorized to have 15 Board certified forensic pathologists to do the autopsies the GBI does for 153 counties. Director Keenan stated the GBI lost two of their doctors to Cobb County, but have hired their replacements, very fortunate to hire a doctor out of Baltimore MD and Charleston SC, a total of 14 doctors on staff, and one the GBI is attempting to recruit for. Director Keenan advised the GBI wrote a white paper last year which was sent to Governor Deal outlining the needs of the medical examiner's office in Atlanta. Director Keenan declared the morgue facility in Atlanta, the major morgue, had limited space for the storing of bodies; and the governor put in his budget and the legislature approved 6.5 million dollars to increase the size of the morgue facility at GBI Headquarters. Director Keenan added this will allow the medical examiner's office to have 50 bodies coming in and 50 bodies coming out. Director Keenan advised construction of the facility will begin in the very near future.

Director Keenan stated the GBI pointed out to the governor the need to have a new crime lab in Savannah-Chatham County. Director Keenan stated the current lab is located on Mohawk Drive, constructed in the 1980s, grossly outdated and too small for the area that is served. Director Keenan stated he and Dan Kirk were at the lab in July and there were air conditioner problems and the temperature in the lab reached 90 degrees and all of the instruments were cutting off with the thermal fuses and bringing everything to a standstill and also had employees trying to work in the hot environment. Director Keenan shared the legislature provided money to the GBI with the governor's recommendation to do a design of a new crime lab to replace the current crime lab. Director Keenan advised the original plan was to partially demolish the lab on Mohawk Drive and begin construction of a new lab. Director Keenan stated the GBI began researching and looking around to see about moving to a new location as where the Savannah lab is located now, there is horrendous traffic congestion trying to get to the site and the site is unsuitable. Director Keenan stated Pooler Police Chief Mark Renew and the governing authority in Pooler have stepped up and recently voted to provide land to the GBI for the purpose of constructing a new crime lab; which will remain in Chatham County, but will be in the City of Pooler. Director Keenan stated everyone they had talked with about the new location that services 22 counties are enthusiastic about the new location, as it makes it easier for law enforcement to bring their evidence to the crime lab in Pooler than to where the lab is currently located. Director Keenan stated they will double the size of the lab and bring in more scientists. In anticipation of future growth in the area and a new morgue, Director Keenan shared they hope to have the availability to staff 4-5 medical examiners in this facility. Director Keenan stated the GBI is very pleased and enthusiastic to have the partnership with the City of Pooler for the ideal location of a great world class crime laboratory.

Director Keenan updated the BPS on a unit in partnership with the Inspector General's office of the Social Security Administration. Director Keenan stated the Inspector General's office of the SSA is

responsible for investigating fraud and abuse of Social Security Disability Funds that Social Security administers. Director Keenan stated billions of dollars are lost each year through fraud of Social Security Disability, and the Inspector General's office has a program where they reimburse the GBI 100% of the salaries, benefits of the agents, provide automobiles, all of the operating costs, all of the associated operational expenditures for four special agents assigned to the unit. Director Keenan stated the Inspector General's office has asked the GBI to provide a 5th special agent. Director Keenan declared this partnership does not cost the GBI anything, as it is a 100% reimbursable expenditure. Director Keenan pointed out this speaks to the amount of abuse in the SSA as they are willing to do this, to try and combat what is occurring with the SS Disability. Director Keenan stated there is no attempt to seek prosecution of these cases, the hemorrhage of the funds going out of the disability fund is so great, and they just concentrate on shutting off those funds leaving the expenditures there. Director Keenan stated the GBI is in the process of filling the 5th special agent. Director Keenan shared the Inspector General's office has such a backlog in disability claims associated with abuse, they want agents working overtime and will pay to catch up with the backlog. Director Keenan stated there are 30 agents going through training to be able to do off duty employment working for the SSA. Director Keenan stated the SSA plan is to have the southeast unit be number one in the nation in the claim that they have prevented the funding going outside of the SSA. Director Keenan shared one might ask themselves why is it important for the GBI to be working with federal agencies, it is because part of those funds going out to the disabilities are state funds, so expect each of the agents to save about one million dollars per agent assigned to the unit. Director Keenan acknowledged this is a success story from the GBI perspective.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy asked Director Keenan what kind of limitations will there be when prosecuting the cases. Director Keenan responded the US attorney's office and the Medicaid fraud unit have very high thresholds because the extent of the fraud is so great and it is typically \$200,000.00 before they look into the case. Director Keenan stated at some point, the nation is going to have to grapple with how to stop the fraud; could pay for a lot of things in this country if fraud and abuse in the social services could be stopped. Director Keenan stated when someone files for disability through the Social Security Administration they operate off a matrix of certain indicators that will point to being fraud or abuse associated with that particular client. Director Keenan added this is turned over to the GBI agents and they go out and do an investigation and collect information that will go to the judge that says this person claims they are disable because of mental disabilities, when in fact they are not or they cannot work because they have a bad back when in fact they are painting houses for a living. Director Kennan stated the agents say it is like shooting fish in a barrel when they have been doing complex investigations and now in the business of shutting off the faucet of the hemorrhaging of fraud money. Director Keenan acknowledged some of the fraud is family oriented, when one gets a certain age in the family, they are expected to go and apply for disability.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center began his report talking about the Dalton Regional Academy, stating a program had not been run out of this academy in two years and was still listed as an active operating facility. Director Wigginton noted due to a leaking roof, money spent on repairs, asbestos found in the building, one thing after another, money was being spent on a building and still not able to service the community with training they needed. Director Wigginton

acknowledged the police chiefs and sheriffs were having to send their people to Forsyth or other regional academies for training at a greater expense. Director Wigginton stated the GPSTC went out to the community and asked for partnerships and while the GPSTC was doing this, the GPSTC was contacted by the GA Highlands College. Director Wigginton stated the college's new president came from an out of state college, who is very rich in the law enforcement community and had a basic academy at the school he had previously been the president of. Director Wigginton shared the GPSTC met with the college president and the advisory board council from the Dalton area and they were in agreement the academy needs to shut down the Dalton campus, relocate to Rome at the GA Highlands facility which is where the academy was years ago. Director Wigginton declared they already have a class schedule for the facility, trying to serve the community and get them what they need and not have to send people all over the state. Director Wigginton stated the agreement with GA Highlands will be a less expense even with the state building and utilities left on, GA Highlands will be responsible for any facility problems or issues; the GPSTC will pay them a lease for the building. Director Wigginton shared the Whitfield County Sheriff and the Rome Police Chief were at the meeting and agreed with the decision 100%.

Director Wigginton stated there are three bond projects the GPSTC is closing in on fairly quickly; two at the fire academy, both are within a month of completion and the other is the active shooter shoot house in the mock village. Director Wigginton stood before everyone and stated it is an exciting time and a sad time for him because we are at a state that we have to be excited to build a facility like a school for training. Director Wigginton stated it touches him that the GPSTC has to prepare the deputies, police officers and troopers to go into schools and the terrorists' attacks are not over since September 11th; we have to be prepared.

Director Wigginton thanked DOC Commissioner Homer Bryson for allowing GPSTC to use correctional officers at the front gate of GPSTC and has not received anything but compliments, they stand out front, greet everyone when they come through the gate and are stopping cars that need to be stopped and are identifying problems. Director Wigginton noted there have been three contraband drops for the prison located on the property.

Concerning the GPSTC Board report, Vice-Chairman Wood noted the number of students for July 2014 was 5,691 and in July 2015 was 8,685 and that was a tremendous increase for 2015. Director Wigginton stated there has been a significant increase in student enrollment and noted the biggest increase was in the online courses. Vice-Chairman Wood was concerned how the GPSTC was handling the increase with the current facilities and staff. Director Wigginton advised the GPSTC is much backlogged, booked at the driving facility and all of the ranges through 2017. Director Wigginton stated they have put in some bond projects to the governor's office and OPB, working with them trying to get some support. Director Wigginton stated the GPSTC has requested a 100 yard rifle range as when the GPSTC was built in the late 80s, the majority of law enforcement was carrying revolvers and shotguns. Director Wigginton declared the targetry the GPSTC has on site does not handle a rifle strike and if there is a rifle strike on one of the mechanisms, it shuts down the entire range for weeks until it is repaired and is very costly. Director Wigginton stated the majority of agencies present today carry patrol rifles and noted Chief Renew has 40 Daniel Defense rifles sitting

in a box in a closet that cannot be used because the officers cannot be trained. Director Wigginton stated the GPSTC is working on this as a new class has been created with the second class being this week and hopes to get Chief Revenew's officers in a class soon. Concerning the staff, Director Wigginton stated the GPSTC is at its limit as far as the students that can be taught and noted if it is an academic or lecture class, students can be accommodated in a bigger class. Director Wigginton declared if the training is on a range or hands on, there has to be a student-instructor ratio for safety.

Vice-Chairman Wood thanked Director Wigginton for his hard work and passion at the GPSTC.

DONATIONS

Major Jason Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

One MPH-900 MS3 Tag Reader System	\$	19,657.00	Randolph County Commissioners
One Kustom Raptor RP-1 Radar Unit Control Devices (used)	\$	2,009.00	City of Monroe Police Department
Two Stalker DSR 2X Radars	\$	6,149.00	Colquitt County Sheriff's Dept.
Four Stalker Lasers	\$	8,780.00	Gordon Co. Board of Commissioners
One Taser X26	\$	900.00	Sumter Co. Sheriff's Dept.
One Elsag 3 Camera Tag Reader System, Eight Kustom Pro Laser Units, Eight LTI Tru-Speed LIDAR Units, Eight Stalker Radar Units	\$	65,673.00	Hall Co. Board of Commissioners
Two Multi-Purpose Field Fingerprint Kits	\$	450.00	Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
One Stalker XLR Laser	\$	2,395.00	Whitfield Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Ten LWRCI-M-6G Carbine 14.7" Rifles, Ten Vehicle Dual Mount Gun Locks, Ten Aim point Patrol Rifle Sights	\$	25,272.40	Fannin Co. Board of Commissioners

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

Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center requested approval of the following donations:

Industrial Dry Chem Paint Booth With Portable Fire Extinguishers	\$	2,500.00	Amerex Corporation
Level A & B HAZMAT Suits	\$	00.00	Kristian M. Johanson
600' of Utility Rope	\$	00.00	Kristian M. Johanson
Broken Wood Pallets	\$	600.00	Flambeau Inc.

The motion to accept these donations was made by Sheriff Joey Terrell, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Abernathy, and voted approved by the Board members.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Miss Christina Calloway, Legal Department, Department of Public Safety presented for final adoption, Georgia Department of Public Safety Rule 570-32 Retention of Weapon and Badge. Miss Calloway added a public hearing was held on August 10, 2015, and there were no oral or written comments.

Mr. Danny Bryant made the motion to adopt the final proposed revisions of the Georgia Department of Public Safety Rule 570-32 Retention of Weapon and Badge, which was seconded by Chief Craig Tully and voted approved by the BPS members.

Miss Christina Calloway presented for initial adoption Georgia Department of Public Safety Rule 570-9 Off-Duty Police Employment.

Mr. Danny Bryant made the motion to approve the initial adoption of Georgia Department of Public Safety Rule 570-9 Off-Duty Police Employment. This was seconded by Mr. Lester Rampy and voted approved by the BPS members.

Miss Christina Calloway presented three Administrative Orders to the BPS which did not require a vote. The first Administrative Order signed August 4, 2015, was the extension of the concrete variance for trucks and will be extended until January 1, 2016. Miss Calloway advised the other two Administrative Orders are updates to the Transportation Rules for the Motor Carrier Compliance Division, with the main update being with drivers not actually complying when asked for their log books or certain types of things and them saying they have certain constitutional rights to not do that and under federal law they do have to present certain information when asked by the officer. Miss Calloway stated this particular information was not in the Transportation Rules and that is the main change in the Administrative Orders.

Miss Calloway presented a Resolution for the Board of Public Safety's approval to authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to enter into all agreements as necessary to continue leasing space for

the branch office of the Justice Federal Credit Union located at the headquarters of the Georgia Department of Public Safety in Atlanta.

Chief Danny Bowman made the motion that the members of the Board of Public Safety, authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to enter into the appropriate agreements and execute all contracts and supporting documents as necessary to enable the JFCU to lease Space at the DPS HQ 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 collect the reimbursement of monthly funds of \$575.00 from the JFCU arising from such lease. This was seconded by Chief Craig Tully and voted approved by the BPS members.

Miss Calloway presented a Resolution for the Board of Public Safety's approval to authorize the Department of Public Safety to enter into negotiations with Houston County and to enter into agreements, including deeds, property interest transfers and lease agreements, with the Houston County Board of Commissioners and the Perry-Houston County Airport Authority, for the purpose of providing for regional aviation operations at the Perry-Houston County Airport, and for the use of such aircraft hangar by the Aviation Division of the Georgia State Patrol.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy made the motion that the members of the Board of Public Safety, authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to enter into negotiations with the Houston County Board of Commissioners and the Perry-Houston County Airport Authority, and to enter into the appropriate agreements and execute all contracts and supporting documents as necessary to enable the Houston County Board of Commissioners to construct the Hangar upon such property of the Perry-Houston County Airport Authority 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 acquire a long term lease of the Hangar, to be located at 575 Myrtle Field Road, Perry, Georgia suitable for use by the Georgia State Patrol Aviation Division of the Department of Public Safety. This was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and approved by the BPS members.

Chief Mark Revenew made a motion to adjourn the Board of Public Safety meeting and go into the Georgia Crime Information Center Council, which was seconded by Chief Danny Bowman and approved by the Board members.

GEORGIA CRIME INFORMATION CENTER COUNCIL

GBI Assistant Director Dan Kirk presented the FY2015 CJIS Security Violations report for the Georgia Crime Information Center which involves unauthorized access and dissemination of criminal justice information. Mr. Kirk noted there were 20 violations reported during FY2015. Mr. Kirk presented the request for approval of actions taken to resolve security policy violations for FY2015 to the BPS members for their approval.

Commissioner Homer Bryson made the motion to accept the GCIC's recommendations; which was seconded by Mr. Lester Rampy, Jr., and voted approved by the Board members.

Chief Craig Tully made a motion to adjourn the GCIC Council and go back to the Board of Public Safety meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Danny Bryant and voted approved by the Board members.

Vice-Chairman Wood reminded the group of the October meeting at the Brasstown Valley Resort and the November meeting at the GPSTC.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian M. Rickman
Secretary