

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

April 18, 2019

Georgia National Guard Armory
Glennville, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chief Bruce Carlisle
Mr. George Hartwig-via phone
Sheriff Dane Kirby-via phone
Commissioner Michael Nail
Mr. Lester D. Rampy, Jr.
Mr. Charles D. Sikes
Sheriff Joey Terrell
Chief Craig Tully-via phone
Commissioner Timothy C. Ward
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Kacy K. Cronan
Mr. Steve D. Cronic
Chief Mark Renewew

OTHERS:

Ms. Tina Piper, Attorney General's Office
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison
Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel Tommy Waldrop, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Lt. Colonel Jason Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Hank Fielding, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Chris Wright, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Mark Lambert, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Mark Perry, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Billy Boulware, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Chad Riner, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Al Whitworth, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Lt. Shawn Prather, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Tony Hightower, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mrs. Cindy Jones, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Debbie Shaw, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Jimmy Sumner, Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Mrs. Louise Rampy
Mr. Bobby Christine, DOJ, United States Attorney
Mrs. Darlene Terrell
Katie Terrell
Joey Terrell

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the April 18th, 2019 Board of Public Safety meeting to order. Commissioner Mark W. McDonough opened the meeting with a prayer.

Sheriff Joey Terrell introduce his family that was at the meeting.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation introduced Mr. Bobby L. Christine, US Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked everyone to stand and introduce themselves.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the March 2019 minutes. Commissioner Michael Nail made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the BPS members.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety shared the Department of Public Safety had three agency bills, HB225, HB392 and HB459 that were passed during the legislative session. Commissioner McDonough stated HB 225 is the annual Motor Carrier bill and HB459 is a school bus safety initiative and now every school bus driver in the state, through an automated means will have their driver's license checked for expiration, as well as suspension or revocation prior to the start of every semester of the school year. Commissioner McDonough stated this will keep an active role of all school bus drivers and the school bus driver will have to make the notification if there is a problem with their license to their employers. Commissioner McDonough stated the aim is to make sure twice a year, we know before the start of the semester, the school bus driver has a valid license and that they have reported to their employer if there has been a suspension or revocation.

Commissioner McDonough stated HB392 is specific to the Board of Public Safety and will take effect July 1. Commissioner McDonough noted the BPS members will be on a list of Boards that are able to receive per diem.

Commissioner McDonough stated the DPS has had 2.9 million dollars put into the budget for planning a new DPS Headquarters Building. Commissioner McDonough added the process for this will start on July 1 and plan to demolish the old public safety training center and build the new DPS HQ on this site. Commissioner McDonough stated the concept of design is to try to put parking underneath the building and out to the side of the building and build vertically from there and would like to use a lot of granite in keeping with the Grant Park area. Commissioner McDonough shared they would like the foyer area to be a tribute to the Historical Society where one could walk in and see all of the historic items of the agency and then on the corners of each building, a glass display area for some of the antique cars. Commissioner McDonough stated he hopes to have the planning done, so that when they put in for the budget next year, the planning will be done with the contractual estimate and noted this is a new way of doing business with the Georgia Building Authority. Commissioner McDonough added DPS will be the first agency where they will have done the planning and contracting building sequence, where the builders are involved in the planning and when the planning comes to fruition and

the builders have been involved, they have a contractual price for an estimate they can put out there for budgetary purposes. Commissioner McDonough stated the goal is to have this done so that when the budget is submitted in the fall, the dollar figure for a new building will already be in the submitted plans for the governor's recommendation for next year and noted if this goes through, DPS could be breaking ground July 1, 2010 on a new DPS HQ.

Commissioner McDonough shared last week, the City of Savannah recognized TFC Kenneth Strickland's accomplishments for being Trooper of the Year, recognized the work of the Nighthawks and to say thank you for the agency's assistance with the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. Commissioner McDonough noted in honor of TFC Strickland's hard work, the City of Savannah gave him the Key to the City, which is something the City of Savannah rarely does.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation shared HB282, which has to do with the storage of sexual assaults kits out to 50 years, will not affect the GBI, but will affect law enforcement in general across the state, as they will have to now store the kits.

In regards to HB213, known as the hemp bill, Mr. Kirk stated the GBI had this worked out pretty good where it would not be an issue for the GBI, and noted the bill has not been signed, but the hemp bill in the last moments of the session, changed, everything the GBI put in it, got taken out and now it has the potential to be a problem for the GBI. Mr. Kirk reminded the Board members the GBI has the marijuana identification program where they train officers out in the field to do the marijuana identification with microscopes and color tests. Mr. Kirk added with HB213, the officers will not be able to do this and that would mean essentially doubling the current staff of 30 people, if all of the 30,000 marijuana tests across the state last year had to come to the lab. Mr. Kirk stated the lab would have to do the physical identification and quantify the amount of THC in the leaf, on any amount of marijuana confiscated. Mr. Kirk noted the problem with hemp is that hemp is the same plant, but with a much lower THC level, but unless the test is done to show that, is it hemp or marijuana.

Mr. Kirk stated HB471, the Implied Consent-DUI bill which goes along with the Elliott decision and for the GBI at this time, does not know exactly what will happen, but will get more blood kits. Mr. Kirk stated the GBI has a survey out to the police chiefs and the sheriffs and has already spoken with the Georgia State Patrol and based on these conversations, GSP had a little over 12,000 DUIs last year with 75% blood and 25% breath. Mr. Kirk noted with the way things are going, it is going to go mostly to blood and will probably be another 3,000 cases the GBI will have to do, which amounts to two and half more people. Mr. Kirk expressed this could have a potentially large impact, however if next session they redo the implied consent, it may only be a short effect.

Concerning HB470, Mr. Kirk advised this is a good bill, was supported by the GBI, had asked for half million dollar in resources and did not get them. Mr. Kirk stated if the bill does pass, the GBI will work as they can.

In regards to the school safety bill, Mr. Kirk advised the GBI received resources for this, mostly in the GISAC section to help with the See Something, Send Something App.

Concerning SB153, trauma scene cleanup, Mr. Kirk stated this bill has been around a couple of years and finally passed. Mr. Kirk noted the GBI will be regulating trauma scene cleanup companies and had asked for a couple of administrative people to help manage this and did not get them and are working with OPB on this for the positions.

Mr. Kirk stated HB324, Medical Marijuana, low THC oil will have a great effect on the GBI. Mr. Kirk stated in the bill, the GBI is responsible for all articles in the bill which means the GBI will have to do inspections, help with licensing and a lot of administrative and enforcement things. Mr. Kirk stated the GBI asked for six people and did not receive anything for it.

Mr. Kirk stated the GBI could potentially have a lot of issues with the bills, but they have not all been signed and in this fiscal year, does not expect to see hemp jumping out of the ground as there will be a process that will have to take place before this happens and the same for the medical marijuana and shared the biggest impact for this will be next year, but the DUI bill will hit the GBI this year.

Mr. Kirk stated the GBI had a good budget year and are thankful for that.

Mr. Charles Sikes asked about the personnel for the Cyber Crime Center and Mr. Kirk replied the GBI received seven or eight more positions and had asked for eleven.

Concerning the Savannah Crime Lab, Mr. Kirk advised the building is expected to be completed by July 1.

Director Chis Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center shared a couple of weeks ago, a cadet died on the first day of training. Director Wigginton stated there will be some issues coming up in the future that will be addressed. Director Wigginton advised POST Council sets the rules of the minimum qualifications to become a peace officer in Georgia and noted one has to go to a medical doctor and get cleared and the questionnaire is very vague. Director Wigginton stated the cadet had underlying health issues and on the first day of training he ran about 200 yards, collapsed and had a massive heart attack. Director Wigginton stated an ambulance was on standby that administered first aid immediately, was transported and treated and died at the hospital. Director Wigginton stated the minimum qualifications have got to be changed to be a peace officer in Georgia. Director Wigginton stated he will need the support of the Board of Public Safety, along with five agency heads at the meeting that can help influence and spread the message that we have to change the culture of law enforcement and how we look physically, not only the appearance, but staying alive. Director Wigginton stated if an individual is approved by a doctor to come to the academy and dies on day one, there are underlying problems and this has to be addressed. Director Wigginton added that currently there is no minimum physical standards to come to the basic academy. Director Wigginton stated at the academy for those with poor physical fitness, they are dismissed at some point later on for academic or disciplinary problems, so if we get rid of that problem up front, a lot of time will not be wasted by the staff and can focus on the cadets that need it.

Director Wigginton shared the GPSTC has started four major construction projects in one week. Director Wigginton stated it will be better in six months and ask everyone to bear with the changes.

In regards to the suicidal awareness video, Director Wigginton stated there are several states interested in getting the video in their states and added this video is gaining nationwide attention. Director Wigginton advised it is a poor job that a lot more lose their life at their own hands than they do at a suspect's gun and have got to do a lot better job of taking care of our own.

Director Wigginton advised the Peace Officers Memorial Day will be May 20th at 2:00 p.m., for seven Georgia police officers.

Mr. Charles Sikes shared the actual day for Peace Officers Memorial Day is May 15th, and asked the GBI and DPS to make sure the patrol posts bring the flag to half-mast on this date.

Commissioner Michael Nail thanked the GPSTC Director Wigginton and his staff for what he does for his agency, the Department of Community Supervision.

DONATIONS

Major Mark Perry, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Public Safety requested approval of the following donations:

Three NOCO GB40 Battery Booster Boxes	\$	900.00	Bo's Wrecker Service
One Stalker DSR 2X Radar	\$	3,095.00	Wayne Co. Sheriff's Department
One Applied Concepts Stalker Dual Radar	\$	2,186.50	Johnson Co. Bd. of Commissioners
One Dragon Eye DESL Laser	\$	2,050.00	Tallulah Police Dept.
One Dragon Eye DESL Laser	\$	2,050.00	Cornelia Police Dept.
Two Stalker Dual SL Radars	\$	5,600.00	Sumter Co. Sheriff's Department
One Stalker DSR 2S Radar	\$	3,000.00	Webster Co. Sheriff's Department
One Stalker DSR 2X Radar	\$	3,000.00	Smarr and Smith Foundation
One 2020 KIA Telluride SX Prestige	\$	47,000.00	KIA MFG, Inc.
Two Troopers Attendance at the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Conv.	\$	2,000.00	Veterans of Foreign Wars

One Stalker Dual SL Radar \$ 2,800.00 Webster Co. Sheriff's Department

The motion to accept these donations was made by Sheriff Joey Terrell, which was seconded by Commissioner Timothy C. Ward, and voted approved by the Board members.

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

Used Conveyor Belts \$ 500.00 Site Works

The motion to accept this donation was made by Mr. Lester Rampy, Jr., which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell, and voted approved by the Board members.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Major Mark Perry, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Public Safety requested issuance of \$14,465,000.00 in aggregate principal amount of State of Georgia General Obligation Bonds.

Mr. Charles Sikes made the motion to adopt the Bond Resolution for the Department of Public Safety, which was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell, and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation requested issuance of \$14,255,000.00 in aggregate principal amount of State of Georgia General Obligation Bonds.

Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion to adopt the Bond Resolution for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, which was seconded by Mr. Charles D. Sikes, and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mrs. Cindy Jones, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center requested issuance of \$2,575,000.00 in aggregate principal amount of State of Georgia General Obligation Bonds.

Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion to adopt the Bond Resolution for the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, which was seconded by Mr. Lester Rampy, Jr., and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mr. Jimmy Sumner, Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety shared the GOHS is doing things different from the past and are trying to be a little more innovated on how they reach out and educate the public.

Vice-Chairman Wood advised the BPS made a donation in memory of Dan Kirk's mother and former GBI Director Vernon Keenan's mother.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Chief Mark Renew
Secretary