

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

October 8, 2015

Brasstown Valley Resort

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Chief Danny Bowman
Mr. Daniel M. Bryant
Commissioner Homer Bryson
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan
Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic
Sheriff Dane Kirby
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.
Chief Mark Revenew
Chief Craig Tully
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Brian Rickman
Sheriff Joey Terrell

OTHERS:

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General
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/GSP
Major Johnny Jones, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Major Billy Boulware, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Mark Lambert, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Buddy Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Mrs. Amy Stancil, Department of Public Safety
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Tony Hightower, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Cindy Franklin, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mrs. Louise Rampy
Mrs. Maureen Bryant
Mrs. Mandy Cronan
Mrs. Lisa Bryson, Dept. of Juvenile Justice
Retired GSP Major George Johnson and Mrs. Jane Johnson
Mr. Tom Phillips

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the October 8, 2015, Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, GBI gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

On behalf of the group, Vice-Chairman Wood thanked Mr. Tom Phillips for his friendship and support and also for the special time at his farm last night. Mr. Tom Phillips stated it was an honor to host the group and looks forward to doing it again. Mr. Wayne Abernathy thanked Vice-Chairman Wood for arranging with Mr. Phillips to have the dinner at the farm and for all the good things he does for the BPS.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked everyone to remember Sheriff Terrell with his upcoming surgery. Vice-Chairman Wood noted Sgt. Anthony Hughes is recovering from recent surgery, as well as Director Wigginton's wife, Brandi who had surgery yesterday. Vice-Chairman Wood advised the BPS members that former BPS member Mr. Murray Kight's house caught on fire this past Sunday morning.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked everyone to stand and introduce their self.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the September 10th, 2015 minutes. Chief Mark Revenew made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Danny Bryant and voted approved by the BPS members.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Commissioner Mark W. McDonough began by sharing something positive for the DPS that has been in recent conversation; the MOU with the GA Port Authority for the Motor Carrier Compliance Division. Commissioner McDonough stated the MOU has been formalized and signed and means that over the next four years, 27 million dollars will go directly into the MCCD budget to fulfill the strategic plan. Commissioner McDonough noted the procurement process has been going well, all the cars and things associated with the goal is moving forward, with thanks to Capt. Kevin Rexroat, Major Jason Johnson and the Legal Division. Commissioner McDonough stated the recruiting effort is broken up into two goals, and right now the goal is to hire the first thirty officers of the sixty before December, and then after the first of the year, hire the remaining 30 officers. Commissioner McDonough shared there are recruiting fairs at the nine weigh stations going on this month.

Commissioner McDonough stated with this federal fiscal year, the department will be moving forward with a program called "Stop the Threat", a motor carrier initiated program that will be supported by the patrol. Commissioner McDonough noted over the next 12 months; 108 separate enforcement activities will occur which will be a minimum of two per week and will be done in a coordinated fashion in different regions all over the state, sustained for a 48-72 hour period. Commissioner McDonough declared this effort is modeled after the old GTAC program, but will be done in a sustained fashion every single week in different locations around the state. Commissioner McDonough stated when thinking about 108, 48-72 hour periods where all of the motor carrier officers and troopers in that particular area are supporting this effort, the word will get out amongst the commercial motor vehicle industry that things are going to be a little bit different. Commissioner McDonough shared one week NW GA and SE GA will participate in the program and the next week, Central GA and SW GA will participate the next week so there will be a consistent emphasis all over the state. Commissioner McDonough stated in GA, it is driver behavior causing the accidents, the same thing that causes

automobile accidents for the most part. Commissioner McDonough declared this effort should get people's attention. In addition to the "Stop the Threat" effort, Commissioner McDonough stated the MCCD has put together a training program, "Just Pull Them Over", reaching out to law enforcement agencies and as of today, 20 agencies have completed the program and 19 more agencies have signed up to participate in the program. Commissioner McDonough stated this effort is just a continuing education piece with the law enforcement community around the state. Commissioner McDonough thanked GPSTC, as well as the division that helped put together a training module that is specific to commercial motor vehicle enforcement in basic mandate training, and will be taught in training academies around the state. Commissioner McDonough noted a portion of the training will be a block of instruction specific to commercial motor vehicles and that same post certified training is being developed to be placed on the blackboard. Commissioner McDonough stated MCCD has moved forward a lot in the last 60-90 days since the governor announced this initiative.

Concerning the DPS Org Chart, Commissioner McDonough stated a lot has occurred with the change of statue in the state in anticipation of some of the things that are being done with the Department of Transportation. Commissioner McDonough declared the DPS will be taking over the administration of the oversize permits, the oversize weight citations, and in the regulatory compliance issue, the DPS has picked up the UCR effort and the administration of it, both inter and intrastate and once the Department enters into in an Estate for Years agreement with the DOT, the Department will be taking over the facility maintenance of the 19 weigh stations. Commissioner McDonough stated with this anticipation and also the change of the statues in some of the areas, this is an additional and complete change in the structure of this section under Major Billy Boulware on the DPS Org Chart.

Mr. Danny Bryant made the motion to approve the changes to the DPS Org Chart. This was seconded by Chief Craig Tully and voted approved by the BPS members.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Commissioner McDonough if there is an ongoing recruitment for MCCD officers and Commissioner McDonough responded there will be specific recruiting events occurring at the weigh stations this month and noted the recruiting section of MCCD has always detailed a minimum of two people specific to the recruitment effort. Commissioner McDonough advised when the DPS goes around to recruit for personnel, the MCCD section of recruitment officers is the exact same effort as recruitment for troopers. Commissioner McDonough noted the DPS has stepped into the realm of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube; the Department needs a good social media program, which has been incorporated in the recruitment for MCCD officers and GSP troopers.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Commissioner McDonough if there are contacts at the technical colleges in regards to recruitment for MCCD officers and Commissioner McDonough responded no, but will work to make the connection with the technical colleges. Commissioner McDonough stated they have great candidates with great backgrounds, who do well in the interview and will then lose 50% of candidates in a background scenario and polygraph. Commissioner McDonough noted there is not an issue with a lack of candidates.

Vice-Chairman Wood shared he received the most compliments from SE GA about the Effingham County High School event last month and stated the school event is one of the more important things the BPS group is involved in, a lot of positive impressions were made last month and thanked all of the agencies represented.

Commissioner McDonough commented some of the research shows that it is not a high school where we need to start, it is Jr. High School where we need to start. Commissioner McDonough noted one of the new troopers sent him a text message, that it was career day in Jr. High School that started his path to being a trooper, we have gotten the feedback to what this research is showing, and this emphasis is somewhere we need to focus.

Mr. Kacy Cronan advised the governor's office has implemented a Student Navigator for each of the technical colleges to help the students go in the right direction.

Chief Mark Renew recommended the technical colleges do better background checks before admitting to basic mandate school, as a lot of applicants apply with a police department and then fail the background process.

Chief Craig Tully congratulated Capt. Buddy Johnson and Troop G for winning the Governor's Office of Highway Safety Troop of the Year Award.

Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation shared he receives a report everyday summarizing bodies/deaths of children in the GBI morgue. Director Keenan stated this morning, there was a 3 month old child who was in bed with her parents and another sibling, woke up and the child was dead and will find out the cause of death through the autopsy process. Director Keenan stated on Monday, there were three children in the morgue, and for most of the children, the cause of death will be sleep related. Director Keenan stated through the child fatality review process, last year there were 139 infant deaths and all were sleep related, a very preventable cause of death. On October 29, Director Keenan shared there will be a statewide training program at the GPSTC with 170 people attending to include coroners, prosecutors, investigators, and DFACs workers all coming together to learn how to investigate sleep related deaths. Director Keenan stated the BPS members would be receiving the training flyer and are welcome to attend the training. Director Keenan stated he had just reviewed the final version of the training video over sleep related deaths and will be distributing the video throughout the state to anyone who has interaction with an infant. Director Keenan noted the video explains the dangers of sleeping with a child and what is the proper and safe way to put a child to bed; certainly not in the bed with a care giver. Director Keenan stated Governor Deal and the First Lady will be doing a PSA this week which will be distributed out for the purpose of educating everyone on the dangers related to unsafe sleep practices. Director Keenan stated the GBI and the Dept. of Public Health are involved in a national initiative through the CDC to look at sudden unexplained deaths of children and in many cases, there will be an infant that has died and through the medical examiner process, they cannot determine the cause of death. Director Keenan stated many times the death will be sleep related, and determine that other times there is a child's death, and no one can medically explain the death. Director Keenan advised the pilot project with CDC is to take the

evidence from the autopsy with the parents/care givers permission, send tissue samples and bodily fluids to the CDC to be analyzed looking for a genetic answer or some type of medical answer that has caused the child to die, when they cannot explain what has happened. Director Keenan stated GA is the number one state in this pilot project in submission of samples to the project, this is ongoing and will continue to hear about this as the governor is talking this up throughout the state trying to prevent infants from dying of unsafe sleep practices.

Director Keenan stated he very much appreciated Chief Mark Revenew helping the GBI obtain the land, the City of Pooler was going to donate to the GBI for the purpose of building a new crime lab, but there are two issues with the new Savannah Crime Laboratory, the land is on a flood plain and the state will not allow the facility to be built there. Director Keenan stated the City of Pooler is working again to identify other land that would be suitable and very much want to have the new lab constructed in Pooler area. Director Keenan shared the crime lab would be double the size of the existing crime lab; the governor's office wants the GBI to slow down the process and give additional money in the bond package for the design and then come back next year and ask for the construction money to build the lab, this will slow the lab down a year, but will work out since the land has to be identified. Director Keenan added there is a lot of great support from the governor and the legislative delegation in the Savannah-Chatham County area. Director Keenan stated the crime lab will double in size and build out for the next 20 years.

Director Keenan advised the GBI received a 2 million dollar grant to address the backlog of rape kits in the state of Georgia and in the GBI Crime Lab. Director Keenan stated he told law enforcement agencies for the last two years to not hold rape kits in their evidence room, to submit the kits to the GBI Crime Lab so they can be put in a process to have the kits analyzed. Director Keenan stated the GBI found out Grady Hospital has 600 rape kits in their inventory that has not been returned to law enforcement to be submitted to the GBI and have found out there is another large Atlanta metropolitan agency that had several hundred kits in their evidence room and are now beginning to come into the laboratory. Director Keenan estimates the GBI will need a total of 7 million dollars to do all this as it costs around \$1,000.00 to analyze a rape kit. Director Keenan stated they plan to outsource this type of analysis to private labs and not impact the GBI staff, as there are ongoing cases for investigations and prosecutions and do not want to slow down this work as they try to address the backlog of rape kits which there are many of them decades old. Director Keenan advised with 2 million dollars, the GBI is already going through the contract bid process to put it out to the private labs.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Director Keenan why a law enforcement agency would allow a rape kit to stay at Grady Hospital until they accumulated over 600 kits and why would not the agency already involved in asking the GBI to be involved in this. Director Keenan stated there are various reasons, with the primary reason the kits were put there and forgot about. Director Keenan stated the answer to this issue is for the law enforcement executives to keep processes in place so that this is not allowed to happen, but if it is left up to the individual investigators, they are overwhelmed with work, this is a case that is in the past and then there is this case that is just happening and the previous case gets neglected. Retired Sheriff Cronin asked if the law had changed because at one time the officer did not have to have a case number to do a rape kit, and did this have any effect on the kits. Director Keenan

stated the GBI sent out an OPS Bulletin telling law enforcement they do not have to have a suspect to send in the rape kit, from decades old business, whatever you have send into the lab and the GBI will prioritize it, but are still finding hundreds of rape kits. Chief Mark Revenew added they allowed victims to make a report without giving their name and submit this same report and then the agencies look at it as a non-prosecutable offense without an identifiable victim. Mr. Dan Kirk added in some cases, the victim does not give permission for the kit to go back to the agency for whatever reason.

Deputy Director Tony Hightower, Georgia Public Safety Training Center stated the GPSTC has a certificate of occupancy on the active shooter shoot house and have had three training classes to date.

Mr. Hightower advised GPSTC has received approval from POST for the latent fingerprint certification and the SWAT officer certification and will be putting this program together and moving forward on this training.

Mr. Hightower asked for approval in supporting the move of the academy from Dalton to Rome. Mr. Danny Bryant made the motion to approve the move of the academy from Dalton to Rome, which was seconded by Chief Mark Revenew and voted approved by the BPS members.

Concerning the Fire Academy, Mr. Hightower advised the industrial building should be completed in another month, the punch list is being closed out on the fixed fire extinguishing lab and should be able to hold classes in the next few days.

Mr. Hightower thanked the BPS for their support of the GPSTC, as well as Department of Corrections Commissioner Homer Bryson and Department of Public Safety Commissioner McDonough for their support.

Mr. Hightower reminded the BPS members of the meeting at the GPSTC next month.

DONATIONS

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

Equipment/Training	\$	20,000.00	The Coca-Cola Company
Ten (10) E-Seek License Scanners	\$	4,050.00	Whitfield County Sheriff's Dept.
Two (2) X26P Tasers/Batteries Ten (10) Taser Cartridges	\$	2,158.00	Gilmer County Sheriff's Dept.
One (1) Stalker DSR 2X Radar	\$	3,057.00	Hart Co. Board of Commissioners
Equipment and or/Training for State Law Enforcement Personnel	\$	5,270.89	Gwinnett County Sheriff's Dept.

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Two (2) Stalker Dual Radars	\$	3,951.00	Butts County Sheriff's Dept.
One (1) Reaper System License Plate Reader	\$	9,800.00	City of Locust Grove, GA
Twenty-six (26) X-26 Tasers and Fifty (50) Cartridges	\$	150.00	Sandy Springs Police Dept.
Four (4) X2 Tasers Four (4) Holsters, Eight (8) Cartridges and Four (4) Battery Pack	\$	4,921.14	Fannin County Sheriff's Dept.

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

Vice-Chairman Wood remembered Lt. Colonel Fred Snellings who was a mentor to him, speaking on more than one occasion when speaking to cadets and patrol officers at times about one's representation to the public and remember him saying on more than one occasion when you take this oath to serve, you are not only taking the oath to serve while in uniform, you are taking the oath full time. Vice-Chairman Wood stated this is something that all of us need to remember, that we represent our communities and our state whether we are in uniform or not. Vice-Chairman Wood stated Lt. Colonel Snellings had a way of presenting this, that there was no gray area to a trooper, whether he was off duty or on duty, whether we are here or somewhere else, we are still representing somebody and asked everyone to keep that in mind as we go through some of the turbulent times we have been through.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian M. Rickman
Secretary