

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

February 11, 2016

Georgia Department of Natural Resources Board Room – Atlanta, GA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Chief Danny Bowman
Commissioner Homer Bryson
Mr. Steve D. Cronic
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.
Chief Mark Revenew
Mr. Charles D. Sikes
Mr. Peter J. Skandalakis
Sheriff Joey Terrell
Chief Craig Tully
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Danny Bryant
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan
Sheriff Dane Kirby

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 Tommy Waldrop, Department of Public Safety/GSP
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 Mark Perry, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Buddy Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Lewis Young, Department of Public Safety/Capitol Police
Captain Jeremy Vickery, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Sergeant Anthony Hughes, Department of Public Safety
Ms. Joan Crumpler, Department of Public Safety
Mrs. Amy Stancil, Department of Public Safety
Mrs. Laura Thompson, Department of Public Safety
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Terri Fisher, Deputy Director, 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. Greg Dozier, Chief of Staff, GA Department of Corrections
Judge Brian Rickman, GA Court of Appeals
Judge Amanda Mercier, GA Court of Appeals.

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the February 11, 2016, Board of Public Safety meeting to order.

Vice-Chairman Wood thanked DOC Commissioner Homer Bryson for working out the arrangements to use the DNR Board Room and asked everyone to thank the DNR staff for allowing the BPS to use the DNR Board Room, and noted the BPS will meet in the DNR Board Room for the March meeting.

GSP Major Jason Johnson gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood welcomed new BPS member Mr. Peter M. Skandalakis. Judge Brian Rickman former BPS member introduced Mr. Skandalakis and stated the best way to describe Pete is that Pete cares about one thing and one thing only, and that is doing the right thing. Judge Rickman stated as an elected prosecutor, prosecutors are often the subject of media or public pressure and Pete is one of those prosecutors that does not believe that that should guide decisions and what should guide decisions are the laws, facts, and what is right. Judge Rickman added Mr. Skandalakis teaches ethics to other prosecutors from time to time and in the Mountain Judicial Circuit, Judge Rickman reminded the group of the Baby Boo-Boo case with the flashbang device which was a very controversial case and Judge Rickman stated he picked up the phone and called one district attorney to do an independent review on top of his case and to help advise him and that was Pete Skandalakis and not just because he would help guide him in what to do, but he knew that the people in the state of Georgia would know and say that if Pete Skandalakis is involved and whatever happens, it is going to end up being lawful, right and follow the law. Judge Rickman told the group they would enjoy Pete on the BPS and he is a fine man and has been a wonderful DA for 24 years. Judge Rickman stated if it is a criminal case, a controversy, a sadness, Pete has seen it all and has worked with every level of law enforcement and could not be a better person to come into this special group, a lot like a mountain family, everybody always wants to make sure the people that are brought in, are the right people and that describes Pete.

Judge Rickman introduced Judge Amanda H. Mercier, new Judge for the Court of Appeals with him.

Vice-Chairman Wood welcomed Judge Mercier and thanked her for coming. Judge Mercier stated she is much honored to be at the BPS meeting and added she was a Superior Court Judge before being appointed a Court of Appeals Judge, and like Brian, the value of law enforcement and their input into our community can never be overstated how very important it is and very honored to be here.

Mr. Peter Skandalakis stated he is honored to be part of the Board of Public Safety, thanked everyone and looks forward to working with everyone, has dedicated his life to public service as others in the room have and it is an honor to be here. Mr. Skandalakis thanked Judge Rickman and will never call him Judge, unless they are in court.

Director Chris Wigginton, GPSTC stated he is a lifelong residence of Carroll County and began his law enforcement career at Carrollton PD and then served at three separate patrol posts that the Coweta Judicial Circuit serves, the post in Villa Rica, Newnan and LaGrange, all under Pete's circuit. Director Wigginton stated during his career he had numerous cases come before Mr. Skandalakis and the assistant district attorneys, they were always very professional, had the public's safety and service in

mind, when they went in to prosecute cases and they really tried to prosecute the cases with the best interest, heart and mind. Director Wigginton thanked Mr. Skandalakis for being a great district attorney and being part of the BPS.

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

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the January 14th, 2016 minutes. Chief Mark Revenew 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 welcomed Mr. Pete Skandalakis to the BPS.

Commissioner McDonough began his report by sharing some of the things the MCCD has been involved in the last couple of months. Commissioner McDonough presented a snapshot between the quarter last year and the quarter this year; even with the reduction in manpower, the inspections have gone up over 25%, from 15,800 to 20,000, driver violations from 9,000 to well over 12,000, vehicle violations from 17,000 to over 21,000. Commissioner McDonough noted a lot of this comes at a time where DPS is using a program called Stop the Threat where every single week across the state, there is a combined effort between MCCD and GSP to specifically look at the crash corridors, where the accidents are occurring and apply concentrated enforcement in those areas. Commissioner McDonough added to this date the summary shows total commercial driver vehicles inspected during those time periods are over 2100, placed 103 drivers out of service and 190 vehicles out of service. Commissioner McDonough stated through traffic enforcement, UTCs have been issued, about 2300 citations, 738 were for speeding and about half and half division between radar and LIDAR. Commissioner McDonough reminded the BPS members in the years past, MCCD did not have the capability with radar and LIDAR and started the use of TruCam which is a LIDAR device and used it specifically on interstate enforcement and has been a pilot that has now gone to a fulltime program where the goal is by the time they are done, every single officer on the road will have a LIDAR. Commissioner McDonough stated there are a little over 150 LIDAR's in the field and then launching off of that, what is the best speed detection device to use in a rural road application and knowing if you have worked the road, one can use LIDAR, but pretty much the violator finds out where the hole is and there is nothing like moving around on those rural roads, so MCCD initiated a rural road radar pilot and are almost at the completion of this. Commissioner McDonough stated from November through January, 30 units were put in the field across the state and just from those stops there have been 1408 inspections that have occurred from those stops, with 2408 citations, 115 vehicles were put out of service for unsafe purposes, 53 drivers were put out of service, were able to make 10 distracted driving charges and then the DUI element alone comes into play where a commercial motor vehicle even in daylight hours, there is that element and with the use of that select enforcement, they were able to make DUI arrests for that. Commissioner McDonough stated he would very quickly move from how MCCD went from the use of Tru-Cam radar from a pilot program to full time to then moving from this initiative that was a pilot that obviously has shown successes and very quickly will move to have this

as a normal component for all of the MCCD officers. Commissioner McDonough stated they are applying these tools specific to what their responsibility is, commercial motor vehicle enforcement and it is very difficult for the MCCD officer when they see someone in a Honda vehicle, not to take action and that is the discretion of the officer, but they are focusing the effort on the commercial motor vehicle and applauds the officer for that, because if that focus is maintained, it will help within the scope of what their duties are in accomplishing of reducing fatalities. Commissioner McDonough noted some people have asked why it has taken so long for the MCCD officers to have radar.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy asked Commissioner McDonough when a driver is put out of service, does the driver automatically leave the vehicle or is he allowed to carry on. Commissioner McDonough replied if the driver is put out of service, the driver is not going to drive the truck off, but if the company is able to have someone respond that is in service and the vehicle has not been put out of service, the vehicle can be removed, if not, the Department will have the vehicle removed from the roadway. Commissioner McDonough added the Department tries to go to lengths that can be, if it is not a vehicle issue but a driver issue, we will work with the company to get a driver, that is a huge expense and if the Department can avoid that for the company, the Department will.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Commissioner McDonough what level is the hiring initiative for MCCD officers at and Commissioner McDonough responded 26 officers have been hired and continue to interview for positions, but the biggest challenge is that the candidates are not passing the background investigation, losing about 50% to that and in the interview process, it is about a 50% loss as well. Commissioner McDonough noted some that are applying for positions should not be in law enforcement, it is a slow process and of the 60 that MCCD is targeting for the effort, 26 have been hired.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked if MCCD was only focusing on Post certified or have a program to put candidates through mandate school. Commissioner McDonough advised the initial effort is to hire someone that is POST certified, as that lowers the time frame that is spent to put them on the road, but because the emphasis is there, the Department is not ruling out qualified candidates, DPS can put through mandate.

Commissioner McDonough presented a letter from the Carroll County Board of Commissioners offering to provide a new post facility for Post 4-Villa Rica. Commissioner McDonough referred to Post 4 Villa Rica as the old barn, one of those places where there are not many frills to it, it's homey with its 1960s-1970s décor, and certain forces within the county have come forward to provide a modern facility. Commissioner McDonough stated the facility is from a foreclosure of a bank branch and want have to worry about an evidence room and its security as there is a vault in the building.

Mr. Lester Rampy made a motion for Commissioner McDonough to engage in the process with Carroll County Board of Commissioners concerning a new facility for Post 4 Villa Rica. This was seconded by Chief Danny Bowman and voted approved by the BPS members.

Commissioner McDonough advised Post 29 Paulding will have a grand opening March 15, 2016, at 1000 hours, with Governor Deal being present to open Post 29. Commissioner McDonough reminded the BPS that five years ago, P29 was closed down in Cedartown and whenever a post is closed, there is a lot of arm wrestling to reestablish the footprint or get it back, and five years later they are ready to open the facility, and reminded the BPS members the post territories were moved around to accomplish this goal. Commissioner McDonough added when the post was closed in Cedartown, former Commissioner Hugh Hardison who is from that area, took the flag off the flagpole and five years later, we would like for him to put the flag back up at the new Post 29 and hope that will work out and pray for a good day for Commissioner Hardison.

Commissioner McDonough presented for approval, the DPS Organization Chart with the change of moving the Canine Training and Certification Unit under Criminal Interdiction headed up by Captain Kermit Stokes who is an experienced canine handler.

Concerning the DPS Organizational Chart, Mr. Wayne Abernathy made the motion to approve moving the Canine Training and Certification Unit under Criminal Interdiction, which was seconded by Chief Craig Tully and voted approved by the BPS members.

Commissioner McDonough advised in the past Morgan County has been very good to DPS providing canine handling facilities, but DPS wants to establish their own kennels and own facility at the Headquarters area on Confederate Avenue, and will repurpose some of the buildings on the property, not new construction, taking buildings that are vacant at this time, but are in good repair and repurposing them for establishing a kennel and training facility on Confederate Avenue. Commissioner McDonough added Ms. Joan Crumpler will be presenting a Resolution concerning these buildings for the kennels and training facility.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked how many dogs will be at the facility when completed. Commissioner McDonough responded the facility will be for CIU that does a lot of work in the Atlanta area and 6-7 dogs, but gives a central location for all the dogs that are around the state to come and do in-service training. Commissioner McDonough noted there are four bomb dogs at the Capitol and the recurring training that both the handler and the dog goes through, particularly for the CIU effort in and around the Metro Atlanta area and for here at the Capitol, having the facility on Confederate Avenue is a lot better than going to Morgan County.

Commissioner McDonough added patrol dogs are not used on the GSP or MCCD, DPS dogs are specific to narcotics or bomb detection.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Commissioner McDonough to comment on Colonel Hitchens. Commissioner McDonough stated Colonel Hitchens had detached his tricep from the bone on his left arm, had surgery and is recovering from that. Commissioner McDonough added Colonel Hitchens had passed out at one legislative meeting and almost passed out at another and then found out he had been walking around with pneumonia.

Sheriff Joey Terrell asked Commissioner McDonough how the trooper was doing that was shot. Commissioner McDonough responded TFC Jake Fields, the son of Ronnie (retiree-head aviation mechanic) and Stacy Fields went home a week ago Tuesday. Commissioner McDonough stated Ronnie came out of the service and spent 30 years repairing helicopters, so Jacob grew up in the organization and all he ever wanted to be was a trooper. Commissioner McDonough stated TFC Fields had been a cadet at the gates at HQ, literally seeing him go from the skinny kid waiting on his 21st birthday to go to trooper school. Commissioner McDonough stated TFC Fields has been a great asset to Post 9 and shared that all of the troopers from the same school, that graduated as rookies went to that post, normally they are spread out over the state, but this group went to the post together and in this particular chase and altercation, the three guys that were the cavalry that came to TFC Fields aid were all his buddies that he went through trooper school and goes hunting and fishing with. Commissioner McDonough noted the support structure within that post and particular within that family is very high; TFC Fields received two wounds, one to his abdomen and one to his ankle and is doing great.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation stated this is Domestic Child Sex Trafficking Day at the legislature and he has been at the Depot with 400 women and some men that are listening to legislators about new legislation that has been introduced and the GBI is supporting two of those pieces of legislation. Director Keenan advised the legislation would increase the penalty for someone who pimps from a misdemeanor, this would make a felony with a penalty of 1-10 years to sell someone for sex and for the person who buys the sex which is pandering, it is currently a misdemeanor and this legislation would make the first offense remain a misdemeanor, but the second offense would become a felony. Director Keenan stated the second piece of legislation came to light when Attorney General Sam Olens came out to the GBI to meet with the agents who work child sex trafficking every day and at the end of the meeting, Mr. Olens asked them if there were any legal tools they needed to help them in their job. Director Keenan stated one of the things they pointed out was that they were seeing an increase in victims, both children and adults that had developmental disabilities, who is the perfect victim, as this person is easily manipulated, sometimes they do not even know what they are involved in and that would increase the penalties for a person who is convicted of buying or selling a child or adult who has development disabilities. Director Keenan shared the agents told him about a case they had just concluded which was a 25 year old woman out of New York who has the mental capacity of a 10 year old and was brought by her family down to Atlanta to support the family by being sold for sex. Director Keenan stated a local law enforcement officer received a report that something was going on with this 25 year old woman and called the GBI who started an investigation, rescued the woman and will put the whole family in prison. Director Keenan stated these are the type cases that are ongoing and yesterday the legislation went through the first subcommittee over the enhanced penalties for persons with disabilities. Director Keenan stated the more cases that are worked, the more loopholes are being found in the law.

Director Keenan advised in the Governor's recommendation to the legislature recommended, the GBI receive 8.3 million dollars to hire 20 agents to help with the increased workload involving officer use of force cases. Director Keenan stated they have received a tremendous amount of support from the legislature for this as everyone understands the demands on the GBI for investigating all of the use of

force cases across the state involving death or serious injury. Director Keenan stated his intentions are to put one agent in each of the 15 field offices and base 5 agents in Atlanta due to the workload in the Metro Atlanta area. Director Keenan stated another recommendation in the Governor's budget is to hire five toxicologists, had asked for 15, and five is fine, more than the GBI had to start out with. Director Keenan declared toxicologists are key to the death investigation process, most of the time when there is a delay in an autopsy it is related to waiting for toxicology to get their work finished, a combination of not enough staff with the other side of that, particular the drug overdose cases, the victim has so many drugs in them, the science of filtering through this toxicology gets very complicated. Director Keenan apologized for being late, but when legislature is in session, one does not own their own schedule.

Vice-Chairman Wood questioned Director Keenan about the possible legislation concerning the GBI being mandated to do all use of force cases, if the legislation had moved out of the committee hearing. Director Keenan responded he does not believe this has gotten out of committee as he has spoken publicly that he does not believe this is a good piece of legislation because if the GBI is mandated to do all of the officer use of force cases, that could be adversarial with some of the agencies and right now currently the agencies ask the GBI and when they ask the GBI to conduct the investigation, then the agency has a responsibility to cooperate with the investigation and to partner with the GBI to get information. Director Keenan added this is not part of the bill which will be heard tomorrow as it relates to grand juries in the grand jury process when there is an officer use of force. Director Keenan stated he supports the bill and the governor has authorized Director Keenan to speak on behalf of the bill because the GBI is working all of the cases and sees what is happening. Director Keenan stated the bill will be an advantage for law enforcement officers, and if the bill passes, the bill will not allow officers to be in the entire grand jury process and then give a statement at the end of the grand jury and not be cross examined. Director Keenan noted the officer can still go into the grand jury at the end, if they want to, be sworn in, make a statement and be cross examined by the prosecutor or the grand jury. Director Keenan added the bill will also require the grand jury proceedings be transcribed and if the case is not referred on for criminal indictment, then the transcript will become public and must be published. Director Keenan declared this is important for officers, as the vast majority of the cases, it is a clear cut use of force, the officers are involved in a gun battle and the officers prevail. Director Keenan stated the social media conspiracy groups out there hijack the incident and it gets all cloudy, this will bring transparency to what has occurred. Director Keenan advised another important aspect of the bill is that 12 months from the date of the incident, the prosecutor has either got to have an indictment against the officer or they have to carry it through the civil grand jury process. Director Keenan noted there are cases out there now, that are three years old, where the prosecutor has not made a decision on the case and this is not fair to the involved officers and not fair to the public for the case to be hung up in the district attorney's office.

Director Keenan stated there have been some questions that come up periodically about cause and manner of death and what is on autopsy reports and sometimes it creates controversy. Director Keenan asked Mr. Dan Kirk to reeducate the BPS so they can help explain this out in the public as there is a lot of misunderstanding about this.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation presented a booklet on Laboratory Drug Submissions and Drug-Related Deaths from 2013-2015, information requested by the governor's office. Mr. Kirk stated drug related deaths in 2013 involving oxycodone, hydrocodone, and methadone were all pretty high and will see this has dropped off the last couple of years and suddenly will see what wasn't there before, heroin deaths increasing. Mr. Kirk stated the drug cartels run their cartels like a business, supply in demand and the state has cracked down on prescription drugs and the pill mills and have seen the price of prescription drugs go high sky on the street, but the drug cartel has countered that with low price heroin and heroin that is also laced with fentanyl, which gives the heroin an extra boost, a boost that if a person does not know what they are doing, they die from the heroin very quickly and is very hazardous to law enforcement.

Mr. Kirk stated there is a lot of confusion in regard to homicide and at times agencies have criticized the GBI for calling a death where an officer was involved in, taking action as a homicide. Mr. Kirk explained that a homicide is a medical legal term, not a legal definition. Mr. Kirk stated homicide is the death was caused by the actions of another person, medical legal definition. Mr. Kirk added many people, including the media, confuse the terms homicide and murder. Mr. Kirk stated murder is a criminal charge or the unlawful taking of a human life by another, and the medical examiner determines the manner of death to be a homicide, then law enforcement investigate that death to determine if there is probable cause to bring the criminal charge of murder against the person who caused the death. Mr. Kirk shared while all murders are homicides, not all homicides are murders. Mr. Kirk noted if a homeowner, fearful for his or her life, kills an intruder or a law enforcement officer kills someone in the line of duty, both are considered homicides, but not necessarily murder. Mr. Kirk stated the GBI has to explain this over and over again and understands the stigma attached with homicides as it is on TV all the time. Mr. Kirk stated he just wanted to explain this and asked the BPS members when they run across this, please explain to people that homicide is not murder, just means the death was caused by someone; could be a trooper doing a PIT, could be himself shooting someone who has broken into his house. Mr. Kirk went on to explain that other types of death are natural-the death was from diseases or medical conditions such as cancer or heart attack, accidental-an unintended death, suicide-a death that is intentionally self-inflicted, and undetermined-there is little or no evidence to establish, with medical certainty of what the manner of death was.

Mr. Kirk stated there is a bill in legislature the GBI is supporting which is calling for all law enforcement agencies to turn in their sexual assault kits within a certain amount of time and the GBI has preached for years, to not turn the stuff in unless you are going to prosecute, unless you have a case. Mr. Kirk stated the reason for this is that it takes a lot of resources to work a kit and the cost that goes along with it, anywhere from \$700.00 to \$1,000.00 for a sexual assault kit. Mr. Kirk stated across the country, it was a resource issue, do not turn the kit in, unless there was going to be prosecution. Mr. Kirk stated many of the victim's rights people, the Violence Against Women act, the supporters have been saying for many years, the rape kits need to be work, because a rapist is a rapist not once, but a rapist many times and what has swept across the country has come through legislation, voluntary compliance, but essentially from a public policy standpoint, the battle field is no more, from a public policy standpoint, people are saying you need to turn the kits in and they need to be worked. Mr. Kirk stated this means there will be more of a backlog, because the GBI has kits they were not doing before

and have kits that have been stored in evidence rooms and hospitals and are keeping these kits separate, still working the normal everyday cases as they come in. Mr. Kirk advised they would handle these kits two ways, one through a 2 million dollar grant, enough to work 2600 kits, outsourcing and then when these kits are analyzed by the company, the information will come back to the GBI to review the results and then the results will be put into CODIS. Mr. Kirk advised there has been a huge number of hits off of the kits in the other states, a lot of cases are being solved. Mr. Kirk declared until the GBI gets all the kits in and knows how many kits are out there and knows what the influx is, they cannot begin to put a budget number on it, so the GBI's thought process is to get them in, documented, find out how many kits and will worry about how to work them. Mr. Kirk stated he feels there will be more grant money in the future for this. Mr. Kirk stated this bill will be going into full committee and the governor's office has given the GBI permission to support this bill, this is something that needs to be done.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center stated when he first came to GPSTC, the biggest complaint he received while talking to chiefs and sheriffs, and fire agencies was the lack of being able to get their people into classes. Director Wigginton stated last fiscal year at this same time, there were 50,000 students enrolled and as of today for this fiscal year there are 65,000 students enrolled, and are attempting to meet the demand. Director Wigginton advised the demand has not been met and are thinking outside the box; for training related to lecture classes, they have been moved to bays or bigger classrooms. Director Wigginton declared what limited the class size was the facilities, and no one ever thought about moving the class to a larger facility to allow more people to come in. Director Wigginton expressed the GPSTC is doing innovated things along those lines to increase class size a good bit. Director Wigginton stated with 15,000 more public safety professionals being serviced with the training that is pretty substantial, over a six month period. Director Wigginton stated at the end of the fiscal year, he is looking forward to see how much the numbers will have increased.

Concerning the proposed budget by the governor for the GPSTC, Director Wigginton stated the driving and firing ranges are backlogged until the end of 2017, due to demand. Director Wigginton shared when GPSTC implemented the basic driving course through POST, there were no additional funds for facilities or instructors to meet the demand. Director Wigginton added the basic driving course took up about 90% of what was taught, so advanced specialized classes took a back seat. Director Wigginton advised the GPSTC teaches a basic driving class 62 weeks out of the year, as they compact a lot of the classes together. Director Wigginton stated another driving facility which will open up the advance specialized driving classes back to where they need to be is also included in the governor's budget package. Director Wigginton stated the news media is showing pursuits where people are being killed and noted first responders, firemen and EMS drivers that need the driver training are not getting it. Director Wigginton advised the majority of law enforcement, after completing basic training, the majority of the law enforcement professionals will not receive any additional driver training before they retire and by getting the new track, GPSTC is hoping to correct that problem.

Director Wigginton stated another issue for the GPSTC is the firearm facility, not being able to shoot patrol rifles, and in law enforcement today more and more agencies are moving towards patrol rifles. Director Wigginton shared GPSTC has used some of the bond money for another range at Forsyth

along with assistance from The Forestry Department, Department of Corrections, the City of Forsyth and Monroe County who have brought in equipment and started the construction of a new range at very little costs to the taxpayers of the state. Director Wigginton stated the GPSTC has been asked when the facility will open, the demand is there and added this is the direction the GPSTC is trying to push for everyone throughout the state.

Due to cuts in the budget, Director Wigginton stated the GPSTC has not been able to service the volunteer firemen in a long time and has received three positions for the fire academy in the governor's budget package. Director Wigginton stated the three positions for the fire academy will be used to primarily push out training to the volunteer fire community and provide service to that community that has not been met in quite a while.

Director Wigginton stated the GPSTC has been working behind the scenes concerning the legalization of marijuana and the training aspect of detecting a narcotic or drug. Director Wigginton advised in field sobriety, GPSTC teaches detection to law enforcement for alcohol and a little bit of drug recognition. Director Wigginton stated the Drug Recognition Expert Program is a very intense program and if one is not dedicated at the start of the program, one will not pass the program. Commissioner McDonough added the average officer would not be a candidate for the DRE School. Director Wigginton stated the student has to go to an interview with the GPSTC instructors, produce a resume on arrests and conviction rates, and tell why they want to go to DRE school before being accepted in the program. Director Wigginton stated in GA there are a little over 660 law enforcement agencies in the state and only 99 of those agencies, have one or more DRE certified officers in their agency, 528 agencies in the state of GA do not have a DRE. Director Wigginton stated they are looking at how to get the training out quickly and have at least one certified DRE per agency in the state in the event the legalization of marijuana passes. Director Wigginton advised it will cost one million dollars to train one officer per agency, 20 people are allowed per class as it is such a demanding class. Director Wigginton added the officer will then go to Arizona to evaluate known subjects under known narcotics, and in three days will come back with their certification. Director Wigginton added in the past, it was taking months and months to complete the class in GA. Director Wigginton stated it is not just recreational marijuana, even if the medical marijuana bill passes, the enforcement aspect to the average law enforcement officer is going to be very significant along with trying to get a conviction in court.

Vice-Chairman Wood shared there was very good news coverage concerning the training academy in Savannah, GA.

DONATIONS

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

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----|----------|-----------------|
| Two Stalker Radar Units | \$ | 6,600.00 | City of Toccoa |
| Two Stalker Radar Units | \$ | 4,600.00 | City of Baldwin |

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| One Stalker DSR 2X Unit | \$ | 2,892.50 | Charlton Co. Sheriff's Dept. |
| One Golden Eagle IIX Radar Unit | \$ | 2,179.00 | Franklin Co. Sheriff's Dept. |
| One X-26 Taser Unit | \$ | 650.00 | Elberton Police Department |
| Troopers Participation in the 98th National American Legion Conference | \$ | 1,580.00 | The American Legion |
| One 64x6 Wooden Fence (Revised) | \$ | 300.00 | Albert and Sandra Autry |
| One E-Seek M260 License Scanner | \$ | 400.00 | Jeff Davis Co. Sheriff's Dept. |
| One Stalker Lidar LR | \$ | 2,750.00 | Bartow Co. Sheriff's Dept. |

The motion to accept these donations was made by Chief Danny Bowman, which was seconded by Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic, and voted approved by the Board members.

Ms. Joan Crumpler, Department of Public Safety Legal Services, presented for approval, a Resolution asking the BPS to authorize the Georgia Department of Public Safety to seek and accept the transfer of custody of real property known as Buildings 8 and 18 located at 935 E. Confederate Avenue, S.E., City of Atlanta, which is currently property in the custody of the Georgia Department of Defense.

Mr. Lester Rampy made the motion for the members of the Board of Public Safety to authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to request the Governor of the State of Georgia to issue an Executive Order transferring such property known as Buildings 8 and 18, located at 935 E. Confederate Avenue, S. E., in the city of Atlanta to the custody, possession, interest and control of the Georgia Department of Public Safety. This was seconded by Sheriff Joey Terrell and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mrs. Terri Fisher, Deputy Director for the Georgia Crime Information Center, presented for final adoption, Rules of Georgia Bureau of Investigation Chapter 92-6 Secondary Metals Recyclers Database.

Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic made the motion to approve the final adoption of GBI Chapter 92-6 Secondary Metals Recyclers Database. This was seconded by Chief Craig Tully and voted approved by the BPS members.

Retired Sheriff Steve Cronic made a motion to present Judge Brian Rickman, former BPS member with a Resolution from the BPS. This was seconded by Chief Craig Tully and voted approved by the BPS.

Mr. Charles Sikes reminded everyone Valentine's Day is Sunday, which is also Vice-Chairman Wood's 68th birthday.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary-Chief Mark Renew