

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

June 12, 2008
Cleveland, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Bud Black
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III
Sheriff Steve Cronic
Chief Lou Dekmar
Sheriff Bruce Harris
Mr. Pat Head
Chief Jack McElfish
Chief Dwayne Orrick
Sheriff Cullen Talton
Mr. Jerry Willis
Mr. Ellis Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Vice-Chairman James E. Donald
Mr. Dub Harper

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Joe Drolet, Board Attorney
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Colonel Fred Snellings, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Captain Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Chief Mark McLeod, Motor Carrier Compliance Division, DPS
Major Chris Long, Motor Carrier Compliance Division, DPS
Captain John Harrison, Motor Carrier Compliance Division, DPS
Mr. Lee O'Brien, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Sergeant Al Whitworth, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
SergeantFC Dean Allen, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Sergeant Russell Hayes, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol
Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Mark Jackson, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Dan Kirk, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
SAC Mike Ayers, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Lynn Langford, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Dr. George Herron, Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Lab
Several members of Region 8 of Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Ms. Patrice Kerner, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Butch Beach, Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Mr. Ray Saxon, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Sheriff Neal Walden, White County Sheriff
Ms. Justine Palmer, Assistant to Mr. Bud Black
Major Reuben McGhee, Office of Houston County Sheriff
Mr. Billy Kerner, son of Ms. Patrice Kerner
Fire Chief David Kimbrell, Hall County Fire Department

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III, Secretary of the Board, welcomed everyone to the June Board meeting. Mr. Bowen thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. He thanked Mr. Bud Black and his family for the hospitality they showed last night and appreciate everything they did for making this meeting successful up here. Mr. Bowen called on Sheriff Steve Cronic to lead the meeting with prayer and pledge of allegiance. Mr. Bowen thanked everyone for attending today's meeting, stating the Board wanted to recognize the guests. He then requested each person to stand and introduce himself/herself.

Mr. Bowen requested a motion to approve the May Minutes. Chief Lou Dekmar made a motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Chief Jack McElfish, and voted approval by the Board members. Mr. Bowen requested a motion to approve the May Teleconference Minutes, which was made by Mr. Bud Black, seconded by Chief Jack McElfish, and voted approval by the Board members.

DIRECT REPORTS

Colonel Bill Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, began with a handout for each Board member. He stated that before the State Patrol can make any changes in the organizational structure, it has to come before the Board for approval. Colonel Hitchens stated that the handout is a reorganization of the regions in the Atlanta metropolitan area for Motor Carrier Compliance Division. What the State Patrol is essentially doing is combining the High Occupancy Vehicle lane enforcement and regular Motor Carrier organization, in order to have better unity of the command. Chief Lou Dekmar motioned approval of the organizational chart, which was seconded by Sheriff Steve Cronic, and voted approval by the Board members.

Colonel Hitchens thanked Mr. Bud Black for entertaining last night. Colonel stated he always looks forward to coming up to that area; everyone thoroughly enjoyed the lake house.

Colonel Hitchens stated he and other staff members will be taking another trip to Tallahassee. This comes as a result of the trip that Board members took with some staff to Florida Highway Patrol's Command Center. Colonel Hitchens plans to have a Troop Commander meeting with all Captains on June 25th in Thomasville, and, the next morning take everyone to Tallahassee to

visit the Command Center. Colonel stated there are a lot of questions; what Colonel wants to do is resolve any conflict that some people may have. Additionally, Colonel Hitchens is having this visit videotaped; so that when distributed, everyone can see what it is and how it works and will have a better understanding. Colonel Hitchens stated he would like to have some involvement with the people in the field, before going further with this technology. He stated this will do a lot for manpower, for organizational structure, and be more efficient. Colonel Hitchens invited the Board members to be a part of the visit.

Colonel Hitchens stated that he reported last month that the State Patrol had been waiting a year for the vehicles to come in. The State Patrol has received 120 new Dodges and has issued out 18 vehicles. Another 36 will be delivered, bringing total to 156. Colonel Hitchens had reported last month there had been problems with delivery. After discussion with Chrysler Motors, they are going to rebate \$500 per vehicle because of the late delivery. Half the vehicles will not have electric seats, as the contract requires. There is the option of having those replaced, but the State Patrol does not want to wait for those replacements so the State Patrol is accepting those vehicles as is. Chrysler Motors has agreed to rebate the State Patrol for those 'as is' vehicles. This means State Patrol will be able to order another 44 cars. The State Patrol has already asked for approval from Office of Planning and Budget. In response to a question of the Dodge vehicles versus the Crown Victoria vehicle, Colonel Hitchens stated the Dodge vehicles are much more high performance. He recently viewed a video of a trooper passing a motorcycle running about 90 miles per hour, coming from other direction; and within a mile the trooper was right on the motorcycle. Had the trooper been in a Crown Vic, he would not have seen the motorcycle again because those do not have get-up-and-go. The computer traction system in the Dodge is very adept, too.

Mr. Rooney Bowen stated that any Board member, who has not seen the computerized dispatch system, that it would be worth the trip to go to Tallahassee and look at this; it is well worth the effort of a Board member. As a result of Sheriff Harris, Mr. Abernathy, and Mr. Bowen visiting and learning about the garage operations and how Florida does their installs, it would benefit a group to look at that operation to see if there is anything to bring back to Georgia to make its operation more efficient. Mr. Bowen stated that they learned other things during the visit besides the communications aspect and that this will pay off for State Patrol.

Colonel Hitchens reported that the Southeastern Colonel Conference was convened on May 26 in Savannah. This is held every year for highway patrol and state police organizations in the south; it is primarily about traffic safety. This Conference went for three days and was very informative. It had a lot of interaction; lot of problems that are universal were discussed and resolutions made.

The 85th Trooper School is set to graduate on August 22nd; there are 49 cadets remaining. Governor Perdue has committed to be a keynote speaker. An invitation will be sent to everyone in the mail. The ceremony is at 10:00 on that Friday morning at the Public Safety Training Center.

The 86th Trooper School will start on July 6th. State Patrol has been much more successful this year in recruiting people than in recent four years. Currently, there are 82 candidates and 89 possible candidates.

Colonel Hitchens stated he testified before the Budget Committee, which had concerns about the gas issue. State Patrol is budgeted each year for Motor Vehicle, Maintenance and Field. At this juncture, State Patrol has spent about \$7 million. When asked why, it is pointed out that State Patrol is 449 operational positions short. What has become increasingly difficult is moving money from Personal Services for salary money, received for people State Patrol does not have, over to Vehicle Maintenance to cover fuel cost. Everybody throughout state government has not received a raise for the amount of fuel cost; it is budgeted on about 85¢ or 90¢ a gallon. Colonel Hitchens stated that last November, State Patrol instituted a program for 25% voluntary compliance. Some of the media had been concerned about the impact on operational effectiveness, but Colonel Hitchens has not seen that impact. One reason in looking at this technology is that it will allow working people out of their house; they will not have to report to the post every day; everything they do can be done on the computer and transferred automatically. The computer aided dispatch brings the trooper up when going on line and can be identified on the map anywhere the trooper is at the time and it provides for accountability. This will get to the point where people will be able to work as close to home.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigations, welcomed everyone to the GBI complex for northeast Georgia. The Board meeting was held today in the investigative side. The dedication for this building was held in 2003, and, Governor Perdue came for the ceremony. At a previous time, a Board of Public Safety meeting was held on the Crime Lab side of the complex. Director Keenan stated he will ask SAG Mike Ayers to come forward and explain how his Investigation Division office operates here and the counties they cover. Then, Dr. George Herron, who is Director of State Crime Lab, will explain what type work that the Crime Lab does next door.

Director Keenan thanked Mr. Bud Black for hosting this group and allowing Director to bring his wife, Joan, to the dinner last night. Director Keenan and his wife celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary.

Director Keenan stated he had three areas to update the Board members. First, the GBI has worked an arrangement with the Department of Driver Services (DDS) to set up a system, which will be forthcoming in the near future, where local law enforcement will be able to access directly the driver's license photograph. The way the system operates now, when the driver receives his driver's license, that person is photographed. Those photographs are not owned by the State of Georgia. They are owned by a company that runs the system that provides the driver's license. When state and local law enforcement needed photographs for investigative

purposes, the GBI had to go to the Department of Driver Services who then had to go to the private company to get access to the photographs. DDS has worked an agreement with the company, that GBI is using Homeland Security funds to pay \$250,000, to allow the local law enforcement agencies to go directly into the database and pull down photographs for investigative purposes. The same restrictions will be that are in place now; accessing the system will have to be for official business. This will be set up through the GCIC network, so that local law officers can go in and pull the photographs down themselves. The GBI is finalizing this now because the funding had to be obligated before July 1. Director Keenan stated he will bring an overview on what the technical capabilities are; right now, this is being worked out.

Director Keenan stated that he was notified, since the past Board meeting, by the International Association of Chiefs of Police that Georgia law enforcement will receive the IACP Civil Rights Award. The GBI had prepared a nomination to IACP on behalf of the Chiefs Association, the Sheriffs Association, and state level law enforcement, nominating the Georgia CIT program for Civil Rights Award. This is a major award. This is based on the CIT program which has trained over 2,000 local law enforcement officers from over 160 agencies in the process of handling humanely and effectively persons that are in psychiatric process. Georgia is held out as a national model for law enforcement in dealing with persons who are suffering from Mental Illness. The state mental health system has its own problems, but frankly, Georgia law enforcement has led the nation in training law enforcement officers in dealing with persons suffering in psychiatric crisis. Director Keenan stated that through the training, law enforcement lessens their need to use force in dealing with persons in crisis. This is a great program and a true partnership of Sheriffs and Chiefs, including Department of Human Resources (DHR). DHR provided a grant that covered much of the training.

Director Keenan reported that in April the GBI completed a drug operation in the City of Atlanta that had been ongoing since the beginning of the year. As this Board will recall, there was a very tragic situation in the City of Atlanta where a 92-year-old female was killed during a police drug raid. As it turned out, the Atlanta Police Department drug investigators were involved in fabricating probable cause for the warrant, which lead to an encounter wherein 42 shots were fired and the victim was shot. As a result of that incident, Chief Richard Pennington of the Atlanta Police Department completely dismantled his entire drug unit; transferred every drug investigator out and started from scratch. Chief Pennington asked the GBI to come in and to help train his new staff. The GBI brought in most experienced drug agents in October and held extensive classroom training for the Atlanta Police Department investigators for the new drug unit. The GBI continued working with the new drug unit on the street. The end result was that in around ninety days, they made 150 cases in Atlanta; most being cocaine and methamphetamine sales. This is a major accomplishment. The GBI partnered with Atlanta Police Department, Georgia State Patrol sent troopers to help, and several other agencies assisted in doing a round-up. The round-up began the end of April to arrest 150 drug dealers; this is still an ongoing process. Director Keenan felt it was very important for the GBI and State of Georgia to support the Atlanta Police Department in its restructure of the drug enforcement efforts. They are one of the largest agencies in the state and the Atlanta area is the hub of drug trafficking in

the southeast. It is in everybody's interest that they have a very viable and aggressive drug enforcement program. The GBI feels very confident APD handles their day-to-day business of drug enforcement. As far as the expenses, such as 'buy' money, lodging, and travel expenses, they were paid for by High Intensity Drug Trafficking Agency. It worked out very well and the City of Atlanta is pleased and GBI is pleased with the outcome.

Chief Lou Dekmar commended Director Keenan and GBI on the CIT program. Chief Dekmar was on the Executive Board of the Chiefs when Director's leadership brought that program to the Chiefs. It is a real vision and real leadership, and, Chief Dekmar stated his appreciation that the GBI has had in training local and county law enforcement around the state.

Director Keenan called on Special Agent in Charge Mike Ayers to talk a few minutes about the operation of his office.

Special Agent in Charge Mike Ayers stood before the Board, welcoming the Board members to the GBI office and family. In giving an overview of what they do in the mountains of north Georgia, SAC Ayers began with asking Board members to look back at New Year's Day of this year. A young lady by the name of Meredith Holt Emerson wrote a short note on the bulletin board in her house in Lawrenceville. She was getting ready to go hiking on Blood Mountain. The note read "Gone hiking with Ella. Hope you had fun last night." Those were the last words she would leave her family before embarking on a nightmare of torture, which ultimately lead to her death at the hands of Gary Michael Hilton. For a moment in time, the eyes of the country were focused on the mountains of north Georgia. A manhunt ensued for the arrest and capture of Mr. Hilton. That same focus spotlighted the GBI and the efforts of the agents assigned to this work unit. Agents worked long arduous hours trying to piece together fragments of information as it was gathered. The Crime Lab worked around the clock nonstop to give almost instantaneous information based on DNA evidence collected during the case. But as the agents began to learn more and more about Meredith, her personality, and love of life, they began to feel something of the pain the family was experiencing. These same agents spent hours interrogating Hilton. They had to begin the grizzly process of recovering Meredith's body from Dawson forest. SAC Ayers explained this is the life of a GBI agent. SAC Ayers stated that he is reminded of the words of Jesus Christ in the book of Matthew, when he said "To Whom Much Is Given, Much is Expected." The price is paid with each loss. To be really good at this job, an agent feels something of a loss that comes with every tragedy. Not only feel the urgency, but curb those same emotions and channel them in such a way as to remain fully committed and fully objective. This is a difficult task. SAC Ayers stated Mr. Dan Kirk asked him to give a brief overview of the office and what GBI does in northeast Georgia. Mr. Ayers sat down and thought about that; the GBI does a little bit of everything. SAC Ayers stated he is able to do that because he is staffed with some really extraordinarily dedicated people. Many of his staff attended today's Board meeting; others are in court or doing other things to serve the citizens of this state. SAC Ayers said the mission is quite simple, and, that is to protect and serve the citizens of Georgia by delivering quality and criminal investigative services, while utilizing well trained work force to incorporate cutting edge technology team work and effective planning.

The Meredith Emerson investigation is but one footnote in the history of the GBI in this work unit. Region 8 was relocated to this state-of-art facility back in 2003, and the Crime Lab opened its doors in November, 2003. The GBI was able to obtain this building through the legislative efforts of Senator Carol Jackson, the leadership of Director Keenan, former Director Nix, and support of Members of Board of Public Safety. SAC Ayers thanked the Board Members for standing behind the GBI and helping achieve this facility and serve the citizens of the fourteen counties. Currently, Region 8 covers the counties of Gilmer, Fannin, Pickens, Lumpkin, Dalton, Forsyth, Cherokee, Stephens, Rabun, Towns, Union, Habersham, Hall, and White counties. Region 8 covers fourteen counties with five agents. The GBI would like to be able to be more to the people of these counties, than unfortunately sometimes the GBI can provide. The GBI does give everything they can and assist any possible way they can. In addition to providing investigative services to these counties, this office also provides services of a fulltime polygraph operator. That operator, Pam Rushtin, conducts criminal internal polygraph examinations for not only the counties in this region, but also for the surrounding regional borders of Region 1, which is Calhoun; Region 11 out of Athens; and occasionally Region 10 which is out of Conyers. Region 8 has a fulltime Crime Scene Specialist, Agent Jeff Branyon. Agent Branyon is a veteran agent; working many years as a Special Agent before becoming a Crime Scene Specialist. He has conducted literally hundreds of complex crime scene investigations. As a result of that, he subsequently provided expert testimony in the most serious criminal trials. Agent Branyon is a graduate of National Forensic Academy in Tennessee; he has been selected as an adjunct professor. Region 8 offers these services, not only in those cases we work, but also the local departments and federal agencies needing professional competent assistance in complex crime scene examinations in reconstruction. Because of the facility here, it also houses a state-of-the-art Bomb Disposal vehicle that was purchased with Homeland Security money. That vehicle is equipped with latest x-ray and other equipment, robot, bomb suits, and other equipment. Agent Mitch Posey is the primary bomb tech assigned to this office, and, he works closely with bomb techs scattered throughout the state with the GBI. SAC Ayers stated he had wondered why Region 8 would need a bomb tech; there is not that big of a problem. But to give an idea of how important that capability is to the state, last year a 15-year-old child walked into the Jackson County High School and announced to the lady at the front desk, "I have a bomb on." The child had a PVC pipe sticking outside his belt and both his thumbs were down over a pressure switch. SAC Ayers stated when he looked in the window at that office, the child's eyes were as big as silver dollars. Whether he had a bomb or not, the child thought he had one. And, so did Sheriff Evans, when he got in the office and started talking with the child. The device the child was wearing was legitimate; was an explosive device. This situation could have easily spun out of control. Bomb Techs from the GBI walked into that office, knowing that if his finger comes off that button, there is nothing to protect the agents. The agents went in the office and took that device off the child. They saved his life and the lives of other people; their action clearly averted what could have been a true disaster. SAC Ayers continued with explaining the responsibilities of GBI agents. Even today agents still search to find and understand and utilize clues to solve the most heinous of crimes. People pretty much commit a crime for the same reasons they always have; but a lot has changed since the day of Cain and Abel. SAC Ayers

stated agents locate evidence, interpret it, and search for the truth. SAC Ayers completed his presentation with thanking the Board members for their support in helping achieve the goals.

Dr. George Herron, Crime Lab, welcomed everyone and stated he wanted to give an overview of what is going on at the Crime Lab next door. Right now, the Crime Lab is staffed with two Drug Chemists, three Laboratory Technicians and one Manager. This will change shortly. The Headquarters Crime Lab is transferring the DNA Convicted Offender program, that the lab has been doing since 1998, to Cleveland lab. Some of the equipment was delivered yesterday and is being installed today, as the tour in the lab will show. The Crime Lab is doing this in a two-step approach, to not lose that functionality, because there are a lot of hits on convicted offenders every month of unsolved crimes. This testing will start in July. The Legislature and Governor Perdue graciously appropriated money to hire some new positions to staff this program. Dr. Herron hired two scientists last fall under federal grant; training has been going for last eight or nine months. Next week, two new laboratory technicians start on that same grant and they will be trained. Two clerical staff to enter the samples from the Department of Corrections will be hired around the first of July. Dr. Herron stated that within the next two or three months there will be six additional people in this lab. For the last two years, Crime Lab has been training a Firearms Scientist for this lab. The scientist will be finished with his training but will be up here by November or December. It is critical to make sure when transferring scientists, especially in a discipline like firearms, that they are very well qualified before putting them in a regional office and work on their own. It will take two or three more months to get the DNA operations up here fully operational because going under an audit to meet national quality standards. The results of that audit have to be sent to the FBI and they have to approve it before actually entering the samples from this lab into CODIS, which is used for matching process. If everything goes smoothly, everything will be up here by November of 2008. This will give the citizens of State of Georgia a lot more consistency in the Offender program. Historically, Crime Lab has been up and down in how much backlog there is in that program because staff has not been dedicated to that. Now, there will be dedicated staff and that should be a lot more consistent, so should be lot better in operations in that respect. Dr. Herron stated that one of the topics that always comes up about laboratories is the backlog. The backlog is the best it has been in years. At the end of May, the backlog in the lab, excluding Offender program, was about 3200 cases, which is the lowest it has been in six or seven years. The average turnaround time for a case is somewhere between 35 and 42 days, which is an average. The backlog in this Cleveland Laboratory, which only does Drug cases right now, has twelve cases over 30 days old. They did about 2300 cases so far this fiscal year. There are only two scientists doing this, so that is a lot of work in a very short amount of time. The Crime Lab has done a really good job of getting that backlog done. Dr. Herron stated that overall, the Lab is doing pretty well. He stated it is doing better now than in a while. It is through the support of this Board and support of Governor Perdue and Legislature that the Lab will get to where it needs to be. Dr. Herron addressed several questions and completed his presentation.

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, began with stating there is an international group of Forensics Profilers of 32 people from all over the world; from Netherlands, from United Kingdom, meeting at the Training Center this week. Director Mann stated that tomorrow they are working active cases; there are people from Florida who are bringing up active cases to let the profilers work through those. There are several representatives from the FBI Profile Division. The first presenter will be a Profiler from University of Missouri, who has paid his own way. His specialty is serial murderers in institutions. Mr. Keith Howard, who is a Profiler, is the one who put this together. Director Mann invited the Board members to come by and talk to the Profilers.

Director Mann reported that the Training Center spends a lot of money on ammunition. Ammunition is up over 40% and is heading higher because of fuel cost. Also, food cost is up. Anything with wheat in it or anything with rice base, the Training Center is paying three times as much this year as last year. Those are staples; the Training Center goes through a lot of those. The budget just for food cost, fuel, and ammunition has been more than \$600,000 in those categories than budgeted for. Director Mann stated that the problem is they are giving away a lot of meals. The Training Center always comes full circle around the fine and forfeiture issue. The position that the Training Center is in is that the number of meals that are served is over 100,000 a month being prepared now. From those meals, about 50% of those go to the prison. The Training Center loses about \$1.50 a person on the meals provided to the prison. The trade off is saving \$1.4 million in prison labor; working 180 inmates or more a day in the cafeteria, in the workshop, vehicle maintenance. And that is the original agreement with the Department of Corrections that the Training Center will take off some on the meal cost in exchange for using prisoners. Given the situation with the increased cost, a lot of what Training Center does involves gasoline; driver training is very expensive and all the other things using gasoline. The Department of Administrative Services has dropped a vendor from the approved list for ammunition. When talking about precious metals, like copper, that go into ammunition, it is very expensive. The bottom line is this: when looking at the budget in the \$800,000+ range, these costs are going to continue going up. There are three options. First, decrease the service which means cutting out some free meals. Second, increase appropriations, which means going back to General Assembly for the supplemental budget. Third, there is a differential in tuition charged to people who are not approved by local law enforcement; there are some who pay their own tuition. The tuition now for general hour of instruction is \$12 per hour, except for the Fire Academy which is now \$15 per hour. What Director Mann would like to do is increase the tuition to \$15 per hour for every hour; the Training Center can recover some of that money for the folks who are having to pay anyway. Director Mann continued with explaining that the Training Center charges \$4.25 for lunch and dinner to those folks who are not covered; not talking about the free meals. Director Mann requested approval to increase the cost of those meals, given the increase of cost of food. As a side note, the Training Center used to provide a big cooler full of Power Aid drinks, charging 25¢ a bottle for those who wanted to buy them. The problem is that students who did not want to eat a meal there, used their meal card and bought four Power Aid drinks and still stayed under the amount of money approved to get their meal. So, Training Center took out those Power Aid drinks. The Training Center looked for

efficiencies and stopped providing some things. Director Mann explained that the folks who will be charged for these meals are those who come in for one-day seminars; folks from private prisons; and others. Director Mann also explained the ones who get free meals are firefighters, police officers, deputy sheriffs, EMTs, correctional officers. Director Mann explained the other option; the Training Center does generate some money through the folks who are in pre-service training for Basic. The pre-service training rate for Basic is \$5.56 per hour. The Training Center is charging \$12 per hour for everything else right now. Basic Training is only \$5.56. If the Training Center goes up on Basic Training and get that approved, HOPE is going to pay that for the pre-service students. Some of the tech schools that Training Center has been dealing with for about a year will actually charge \$4,000 for Basic Training. If the Training Center raises that Basic tuition rate, this will have a precedent to do this because of what the tech schools are going to do, and that will be approved by HOPE, then the Training Center could generate more money to make up that huge difference by going up on Basic Training. It is at \$5.56 per hour right now; if the Training Center went up to \$7 per hour and get more pre-service folks in, the Training Center might make it. Right now, Basic Training costs \$2,580. Director Mann requested the Board members to consider the three solutions; one is to raise the standardized tuition to \$15 per hour; second, to raise the meal cost to \$5.50 per meal in July and \$6.00 in January, 2009. At this point, Mr. Jerry Willis asked the logic of having a two-step increase when knowing to go to \$6 anyway, why not take the whole bite right there. Director Mann responded that it is in incremental steps just to help folks. The Board members discussed the increase of going to \$6 now, and, Director Mann responded that he liked the idea. The third recommendation, would be to raise the Basic Training tuition to \$7 per hour. Director Mann stated he had talked to Director Ken Vance, who stated it is up to whatever the Board approves. In response to a question of national average of similar programs, Director Mann stated that some states use state money to supplement their tuition rate. As an example, North Carolina's tuition rate is around \$2,000 and it is supplemented by the state through their Regents agency. Some other states have Basic Training for ten weeks and they are in the \$6,000 to \$8,000 range. Some states are a lot higher than Georgia. In response to a question on the budget, Director Mann stated that with these recommendations and the efficiencies in the kitchen and cutting back on gasoline, the Training Center will be okay. Board members discussed the recommendations.

Mr. Bowen called for three motions on the recommendations.

Mr. Bowen called for the first motion to raise the meal cost from \$4.25 to \$6.00 per lunch and dinner for only the people who are not eligible for free meals, effective July 1, 2008. Chief Jack McElfish made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Jerry Willis. There being no discussion, the Board members voted approval.

Mr. Bowen called for the second motion to raise instructional cost from \$12.00 to \$15.00 per hour for those people not receiving free instruction, effective July 1, 2008. Chief Lou Dekmar made the motion and was seconded by Sheriff Steve Cronic. There being no discussion, the Board members voted approval.

Mr. Bowen called for the third motion to raise Basic Training tuition from \$5.56 to \$7.00 per hour for those people who are paying tuition, effective July 1, 2008. Chief Jack McElfish made the motion and was seconded by Chief Dwayne Orrick. Mr. Jerry Willis requested discussion if this would work with bumping it up to something else; Director Mann explained that the percentage shows that this raise is within the high percentage range and he does not want to double the rate; it is realistic to ask for \$7.00 per hour. After discussion, the Board members voted approval.

Director Mann reported that Sheriff Steve Cronic and others have concerns about the basic Emergency Vehicle Operator Training (EVOT). Research is being done now to look at other states to see how they do basic EVOT. There is a failure rate of about 14%. If there are about 100 people to come to take basic EVOT, about 14 would be unsuccessful and would not pass. This has been going since July 1, 1997; it is a requirement to get EVOT before getting certified as a peace officer. It started out at 9%. When the Training Center started, if a person failed EVOT, the person went home. That made EVOT so important that a lot of people focused on this program. After pressure, EVOT was changed to that if a person fails, the person comes back and stays in the Academy. Immediately, the percentage rose from 9% to 12%. The attitude is now, and students have stated, that it does not matter; it is not as focused as it used to be. In looking at other states, North Carolina keeps remediating; they extend the length of the program. The Public Safety Training Center does two 3-day classes in five days; starting a class on Monday then starting one on Wednesday. Starting in 1997, the Training Center trained about 1300 a year and last year trained almost 1800. The number of people coming in the door has gone up by about one-third and the amount of time is still the same. If the Training Center had the money, had the instructors, and the place to do it, the Training Center could change the training into five days and drive down the failure rate. Director Mann stated that with the folks who failed the first time, 75% of them pass the second time. With looking at more time and resources, that failure rate could be down. Director Mann stated that the Training Center can look at issues, such as the concern about too much time backing. The Training Center went back and looked at a distance measurement of how many feet they back out of almost 3500 feet in the cone course, that 18% of the time they are backing. If doing it by time, with the slowest student less than 25% of the time is backing. This is a frequent complaint; a student failed because of a neck injury and cannot turn around then not able to back. Backing is only about 18% in distance. Director Mann stated these issues are large enough that he would welcome a study committee to come and look at the driver training compared to driver training in other states. It may be time to ask for additional resources and need additional instructors and additional vehicles; need to go from 24 hours to 40 hours. The Training Center cannot do that right now; there are not enough weeks in the year to do that. Sheriff Steve Cronic added that his point is to have more driver training, and in the critical areas where officers and citizens are injured or hurt. About one in ten accidents involve backing up; those are usually minor fender benders and things where nobody gets hurt; lost an officer two years ago while on duty; there have been several pretty serious injuries; all in situations of emergency response. Sheriff Cronic stated he had suggested looking at other states to see what the criteria is broken down into from the standpoint of backing and parking emergency response. He stated he didn't think there is

enough emphasis on the Emergency Response, where people are actually getting hurt. Mr. Bowen stated this needs to go to the Public Safety Training Center subcommittee and let them study this issue. When new committees are appointed, then the new subcommittee will meet. The second point is that last night Mr. Bowen had several people express an interest about not only looking at the Training Center, but also looking at FLETC about their driving program for training secret service and others. That could be a good discussion on where they put their emphasis on backing; that would be a federal fresh objective. Sheriff Cronin added that what Training Center has done about backing training may not necessarily be the best way to do it. Director Mann stated that in the long run he would like for DTAE take over Basic Training and let them do the Basic Driver Training; and, turn Training Center back into Advance Specialized that it is designed for. The Training Center stepped in because there was no other way to basic EVOC; there are no other facilities in the state to do it. Mr. Bowen announced this issue is assigned to the subcommittee.

Mr. Bowen requested if the Board members have an interest to serve on a particular committee, now is the time to let Ms. Jones know before leaving today.

DONATIONS

Mr. Joe Hood, Department of Public Safety/Georgia State Patrol, requested approval of the following donations:

Decatur Speed-trak Elite Dual Ka Band Radar	\$ 1,620.00	Harris County Commissioners
Kustom Pro-Laser III	\$ 2,995.00	Whitfield County Sheriff
Six Garmin Nuvi 350 GPS Units	\$ 1,770.00	Screven County Sheriff
Seven Kustom Pro Laser III	\$20,965.00	Douglas County Sheriff
Five Stalker DSR 2x Radars	\$13,333.30	Irwin County Commissioners and Coffee County Sheriff
Two 2008 Dodge Charges And Partial Equipment	\$70,000.00	Lowndes County Sheriff
Cash to Purchase Digital Cameras	\$ 1,000.00	Statesboro Kiwanis Club

Seven Genesis II Select Directional Radars	\$10,395.00	Candler County Commissioners
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Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III called for a motion to accept these donations. The motion was made by Sheriff Bruce Harris, seconded by Chief Lou Dekmar, and voted approval by the board members.

Mr. Joe Hood requested to withdraw a donation, approved in June of 2007, of the following:

2004 Ford F-150 Pickup Truck	\$14,565.00 to \$16,805.00	Donated by Brannen Motor Company
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This donation is being withdrawn on this vehicle because of a lien on this vehicle; the best approach is to withdraw the donation effective today.

Mr. Bowen called for a motion to withdraw this motion. The motion was made by Mr. Bud Black, seconded by Chief Jack McElfish, and the Board members voted approval.

Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, requested approval of the following donation:

Donation For Peace Officers Memorial Fund	\$1,000.00	His Highness Prince Aga Khan
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Chief Lou Dekmar motioned approval of this donation, which was seconded by Chief Jack McElfish. After discussion, the Board members voted approval.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Chief Jack McElfish handed out two articles from metro Atlanta area about trauma care and funding; that the Legislature failed to fund that. There are trauma care facilities in this state, and, he fears they may go away. Many times the people who are treated at trauma centers are police, firefighters, corrections officers, deputies, and, Chief McElfish hates to see the system be decimated. It is very expensive to run a trauma center. It is a life and death situation at any time. Chief stated that even though he has only been on the Board a few months, any help that the Board could give to the Legislature about getting continued funding for trauma centers would be greatly appreciated by fire rescue service. Mr. Bowen stated he believes that both sides of the General Assembly were for the trauma care funding; and, thinks there will be a bigger effort at the next session to have consensus to get this taken care at the first of the session. It would be

prudent for the Board members to talk to legislators and tell them how important it is and how trauma centers are needed in Georgia.

Mr. Bowen stated the next meeting is July 10th. As was brought up at the last month's Board meeting, the meeting could be held at other locations. After discussion, the July meeting will be held at GBI Headquarters in Decatur.

Director Keenan invited the Board members to attend the tour today of the Crime Lab next door.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III
Secretary