

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Minutes of Meeting Held September 8, 2004

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Hal Averitt
Mr. Charles D. "Bud" Black
Mr. Rooney Bowen, III
Chief Lou Dekmar
Commissioner James Donald
Mr. W. H. "Dub" Harper
Mr. Patrick Head
Chief Hubert Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sheriff Bruce Harris
Chief J. D. Rice
Sheriff Jamil Saba
Sheriff Cullen Talton
Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Governor Sonny Perdue

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Chris Brasher, Department of Law
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Colonel George Ellis, Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Colonel K.W. Hancock, Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Colonel Arthur White, Georgia State Patrol
Major Corky Jewell, Georgia State Patrol
Captain Richard Ashmore, Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Terry Landers, Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Wayne Yancey, Georgia State Patrol
Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Assistant Director Chris Ash, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Ray Higgins, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Consultant with Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Senator Jack Hill
Representative Bob Lane
Mr. Ellis Wood

Vice-Chairman James Donald called the meeting to order, thanking Board Member Hal Averitt and others for their support of the Board holding its meeting in Statesboro. Vice-Chairman Donald noted how it reinforces that Board of Public Safety is not in Atlanta, that it is all over the state, it is good to go out to the field where the people are who are impacted by the policies and decisions that this Board makes.

Vice-Chairman Donald recognized Senator Jack Hill, Representative Bob Lane, and Mr. Ellis Wood, member of the Board of Corrections. Senator Hill welcomed the Board members to the 12th District thanking the state agencies for their dedication and professionalism. He noted that state government has been at its best during emergencies over the past few years. More especially, the G-8 Summit was a good example of how professionals come together and do a great job for the state.

Representative Lane welcomed everyone to his district, saying he appreciates what the agencies do to make it a better state. He stated he hoped the next few months the state will see a complete turnaround of the economy and things get back on track.

Mr. Wood wanted to reiterate welcoming Vice-Chairman Donald and the Board of Public Safety, that it was an honor to have the Board visit Statesboro. Vice-Chairman Donald, as Commissioner of Department of Corrections, thanked Mr. Ellis, member of the Board of Corrections, for his support and for attending this Board meeting.

Vice-Chairman Donald called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the August Board meeting. Chief Lou Dekmar made the motion, Chief Hubert Smith made the second, and the Board members unanimously voted approval.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Georgia State Patrol

Colonel George Ellis began with recognizing Mr. Chris Brasher, Board Attorney, with an Honorary Trooper Certificate for his work during the G-8 Summit. Colonel Ellis described Mr. Brasher with how well he served State Patrol, giving sound legal advice and helping with public safety as a whole.

As a follow-up on the Summit, Governor Sonny Perdue decided to create a Homeland Security Central Command. By Executive Order signed on August 25th, Governor Perdue has directed certain agencies to work together in the event of possible act of terrorism or natural disaster. On another item, Colonel Ellis reported on the body armor, which was used during G-8. Because the Zylon material breaks down after thirty months of use, the company is willing to replace all the body armor, with a different, heavier weight model and warrant it for five years; or, replace with the same lightweight model and warrant it for thirty months. Colonel Ellis is not sure which one he will decide on; however, making the replacements will help with the budget, in that new body armor will not have to be replaced for another three to five years.

Colonel Ellis is concerned about his department not having a records management system. He has appointed a strategic planning committee to research and look into a system to capture all the records in a systematic way.

In follow-up to the marijuana identification issue, State Patrol is purchasing equipment of microscopes and detection equipment for the posts throughout the state.

About three weeks ago, State Patrol troopers were involved in a chase, which originated in South Carolina and ended up on I-95 in Georgia. The vehicle crashed, causing the death of the two occupants. An in-depth investigation is being conducted on the incident. Colonel Ellis will report back to the Board members, after the investigation is complete, at a future Board meeting.

Colonel Ellis addressed several questions, completed his report, and turned it over to Major Corky Jewell.

Major Jewell addressed the Board members, giving an overview of the communications at G-8 Summit. When initially planning the Summit, a plan was put together to put in a five-channel digital quality 800 MHz radio system, from Savannah to Jacksonville. With the \$14 million estimated cost, the plan was submitted to the G-8 budget but was denied. The counter-offer back to State Patrol was to put together a radio system that can be used for public safety. State Patrol devised a plan by starting with the local law enforcement agencies' 800 MHz radio system, asking for enough talk routes to be used by the response teams at the Summit. The plan allowed for eight talk routes on each system, allowing only the commanders to talk on the local radio systems. In addition, the state-owned megahertz radios allowed talk-around channels and kept from interfering with different venues. This system worked because it was not taxed heavily. Also, permission was given by the Navy to put in a gateway device, loaned by Bibb County law enforcement, to connect the Glynn County system to the Savannah-Chatham County system. A three-channel wide area radio system was created; in addition, Savannah communications provided access to a ten-channel system. Major Jewell stated that what was learned is that the agencies can cooperate and utilize existing systems and provide communications to the public safety sector, without having to build more infrastructure. The idea is to apply for grants from Homeland Security, to offer upgrades to existing systems. Before the G-8 Summit went operational, the Urban Area Security Grant was established, and, the Office of Domestic Preparedness Homeland Security gave State Patrol access to \$10.5 million to buy a five site five-channel simulcast digital radio system. This will partner between State of Georgia Public Safety, Fulton County, DeKalb County, and City of Atlanta. For state level, this will give a primary dispatch by giving initial capability in the metro area. In addition, there is an interoperable communication equipment grant, which will allow to replicate that system and give a ten site five-channel simulcast system in the metro area. As a side note, Cobb County has been given the switch capability involved in this system to allow their radio system to be incorporated in this. Through federal monies, State Patrol will come up with a master radio system. Major Jewell would like to go to existing local entities and offer them to upgrade their system, utilize statewide area frequencies to give them better coverage, and leverage federal monies to increase the capabilities. Major Jewell addressed several questions, one specific request that the Board be briefed on a regular basis on this issue.

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Director Vernon Keenan reported on the meeting called by Governor Perdue to involve State Patrol, GBI, Georgia National Guard, and Public Health. Governor signed an Executive Order to create a command structure for future law enforcement events or future disasters. The Executive Order defines the chain of command from the agency heads to Governor Perdue.

Last month, Governor Perdue and Drug Enforcement Administration hosted a methamphetamine summit. There were 200 officials, from the prevention side of drug issues, from the treatment side, and from law enforcement side of drug issues. Governor Perdue made the opening and closing remarks of the two-day summit. The purpose of the meth summit was to bring into focus the problem of increased use of methamphetamine around the state, and the increased number of meth labs. After diligent work, the officials came up with 240 recommendations, which will go to Governor Perdue, who will plan the strategy for the state.

Prior to the meth summit, the GBI held a meeting of officials from law enforcement agencies of Clayton County, Fulton County, DeKalb County, Cobb County, Gwinnett County, and Atlanta Police Department. Director Keenan informed these agencies that the GBI was maxed out in its ability to respond to meth calls. When there is a call from one of the counties, that county will need to be prepared to handle the situation. Director Keenan recommended to the agencies that they form a partnership and form a response team. Director Keenan responded to a question as to informing the local agencies and to provide training. He recommended that the Sheriffs Association and the Chiefs Association meet with the GBI to put together a plan. Vice-Chairman Donald made note that the Board of Public Safety endorsed the GBI meeting with representatives of Chiefs Association and Sheriffs Association on developing a plan on how to handle methamphetamine calls in the future. A suggestion was made to invite a representative from the Firefighters Association.

At the meth summit, the GBI signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Department of Family and Children Services to establish a protocol on how to handle children who are found at meth sites. Steps are being taken now that when knowing children are at a site, DFACS is carried with the GBI on the raid to protect the children.

In responding to a question on marijuana identification cases, Director Keenan stated that through budget cuts, the GBI is working on prioritizing on what cases will be worked; this cut will affect rural law enforcement agencies. Mr. Bowen requested that those areas in Georgia be identified and they be informed as to what crimes will not be worked by GBI. Small agencies do not have the skill level to work certain cases and they expect the GBI to provide their expertise from the crime lab.

Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Director Dale Mann reported that Mr. Johnny Wilson, who worked with Firefighters and Standards Training, died suddenly of a heart attack. The funeral was held in the auditorium at the Training Center. Director Mann also reported of Mr. Larry Simmons, an Academy Director at Calhoun, who died as a result of a heart attack.

Director Mann pointed out that the Training Center has held training on methamphetamine labs. DEA holds that course and it involves teaching HazMat. At a meth lab scene, if there is a command post set up, there is a firefighter team trained to do HazMat. The Training Center will continue to offer that training course.

The Training Center is going through an internal metamorphosis. Based on Title 35-5, there is a requirement to deliver training itself and another requirement to assist other agencies in delivering training. At an upcoming meeting, Director Mann is meeting with instructors and division directors to talk about new emphasis and new focus on course development. He plans to re-think basic training; to possibly lengthening basic training. One thing Director Mann believes should be done is to require state certification testing for those who finish basic training. As part of the new development, he will go to the final end product, specify what that is, and work backwards from that to develop standards. Upon the request from Vice-Chairman Donald, Director Mann agreed to come back at a later date and share his new vision with the Board members of how he is changing the curriculum. After suggestions and questions, Director Mann completed his report.

FISCAL REPORTS

Mr. Landers, Department of Public Safety, wanted to point out that the Department ended up with a very small amount of State Funds that was not expended. In the way of Other Funds or Federal Funds, those surplus amounts are generally rolled forward as needed, so that does not create a problem. Basically, the Department was able to do a number of things at the end of the year, such as go out into a number of posts that are being developed and buy equipment and put in telephone systems. Colonel Ellis asked him to bring up to date one other item, which is not shown on the handout. Department of Public Safety is taking over security for the Georgia Building Authority, taking security for all of the state buildings downtown, with an appropriated budget of \$3,151,435. Additionally, Public Safety picked up the private security contracts through Georgia Building Authority. Public Safety went through DOAS and received special permission to take over the contract temporarily with Wackenhut Security. As required by state policies and procedures, the Department of Public Safety will go through the process to re-bid.

Mr. Ray Higgins, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, briefly reported that the agency spent 99.9% from the state budget, leaving only a small remaining balance around \$12,000. The other balances consist primarily of federal dollars and did not expire on June 30th.

Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, reported that the Training Center expended 99.2% of its state funds; the Police Academy expended 99.5%; and the Georgia Fire Academy expended 99.1%. The Training Center turned about \$94,000 back into the state at the end of the fiscal year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Hal Averitt reported on the Committee of the Whole. On Tuesday afternoon, budget proposals from the three agencies were presented to the Board members, who gave their input. Discussion was held on the training session that was held last month, and, discussion on how to make Sub-Committees more active. Also, a presentation was given by Major Corky Jewell.

Vice-Chairman Donald reported that he had received feedback on the value of the Committee of the Whole versus Sub-Committees. The following points were made by the Board members: the problem of non-attendance of meetings; a Sub-Committee meeting need not be held unless the agency head is ready to convene with its committee; Sub-Committees could hold their meetings early morning, just prior to the Board meeting; the Committee of the Whole should be held on a quarterly basis; holding a Committee of the Whole gives the Board more focus on things that the Board has concerns about. Vice-Chairman Donald finalized the discussion by stating that through more emphasis and timing, try and get everybody to turn out for the committee meetings.

RULE

Mr. Wayne Yancey presented amended Rule 570-19-.01, which governs the Uniform Traffic Citation form. Several months ago, several local jurisdictions came to the Department of Public Safety and asked to amend the rule to take off the limitations of the size for the computer-generated citations. Several local jurisdictions have put computers in cars and can generate UTC's on the computers. The Department looked at it and saw it as a good idea and notified the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety, since all UTC's are filed with DMVS. After initial adoption by the Board in June, the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety sent a letter requesting a limitation that the computer-generated forms be not more than eleven inches in length. The reason for that is that DMVS has a scanner to scan all hard copies into their system and cannot handle paper or information more than eleven inches in length. In conforming with the change of eleven inch limitation, Mr. Yancey requested that the Board of Public Safety approve this second initial adoption. After this adoption, a hearing will be held in October and the rule will

be brought back to the Board for final adoption in November. Mr. Rooney Bowen, III moved for this second initial adoption, which was seconded by Mr. Hal Averitt, and unanimously approved by the Board.

DONATIONS AND RESOLUTION

Mr. Terry Landers, Department of Public Safety/State Patrol, presented several donations for Board approval:

Ten Radar Units	\$20,500	Sheriff Robert Markley Morgan County Sheriff
Two Stalker Radar Units	\$3,922	Mr. Merve Waldrop Burke County Board of Commissioners
Two Stalker Radar Units	\$6,020	Randolph County Board of Commissioners

Chief Lou Dekmark motioned to approve these donations, which was seconded by Mr. Huber Smith and unanimously voted approval by the Board.

Mr. Terry Landers requested approval of a Resolution for property:

That the Board of Public Safety authorize the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety to take necessary actions to coordinate with Bulloch County Board of Commissioners the construction of a new Post 45 facility. Furthermore, the Board authorizes Department of Public Safety to accept custody of said building and real property for the State of Georgia.

Mr. Hal Averitt motioned approval of the Resolution, which was seconded by Chief Hubert Smith, and approved by the Board members.

There being no Administrative and Emergency Issues, Vice-Chairman Donald asked for Old or New Business. Mr. Rooney Bowen, III motioned that a Resolution be prepared for Ms. Lisa Godbey Wood, who served on the Board but has now been appointed as United States Attorney. Mr. Dub Harper seconded said motion and the Board members voted approval.

The October meeting is scheduled for the 13th and that morning the department heads have a meeting with Mr. Jim Lientz. The meeting will be held on that date in Atlanta and is scheduled to start at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Rooney Bowen, III invited the Board of Public Safety to hold its November meeting in Cordele, hopefully to be held in conjunction with a grand opening of a new patrol post.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rooney L. Bowen, III
Secretary