

# **BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

Minutes of Meeting Held May 12, 2004

## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Wayne Abernathy  
Mr. David Hal Averitt  
Mr. Charles D. "Bud" Black  
Mr. Rooney Bowen, III  
Commissioner James Donald  
Chief James D. Rice  
Sheriff Cullen Talton  
Ms. Lisa Godbey Wood

## **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. W. H. "Dub" Harper  
Sheriff Bruce Harris  
Mr. Patrick Head  
Governor Sonny Perdue  
Sheriff Jamil Saba  
Chief Hubert Smith

## **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Jayson Phillips, 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  
Captain Richard Ashmore, Georgia State Patrol  
Captain Johnny Davis, Georgia State Patrol  
Mr. Scott Cown, Georgia State Patrol  
Mr. Terry Landers, Georgia State Patrol  
Mr. Wayne Yancey, Georgia State Patrol  
Ms. Maree Gay, Georgia State Patrol  
Ms. Allison Hodge, 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  
Ms. Dawn Deitrich, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mr. Jon Paget, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Director Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Consultant with Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Bill Hutson, Executive Director of P.O.S.T.  
Ms. Linda Norman

Vice-Chairman James E. Donald opened the May Board meeting, thanking everyone for coming and asking if there were any guests. Chief J.D. Rice introduced Mr. Jerry Smith, who is Assistant Battalion Chief at Valdosta Fire Department. Mr. Rooney Bowen, III introduced Ms. Linda Norman, who is an aide to the Senate Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy motioned to approve the April Minutes of the Board of Public Safety, seconded by Mr. Hal Averitt, and the Board members unanimously approved.

The meeting started with recognizing Mr. Scott Cown. Mr. Rooney Bowen, III presented a Resolution, describing that Mr. Cown was unique in how he handled various issues, whether it was for State Patrol or Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Bowen noted how Mr. Cown gave 110% for the Board of Public Safety. Mr. Cown thanked the Board, saying that he had enjoyed working with the Board since the fall of 1982, when he made his first presentation before the Board.

## **GEORGIA CORONER'S TRAINING COUNCIL**

Vice Chairman Donald moved forward on the Agenda with the item under Coroner's Council. Mr. Rooney Bowen, III brought before the Board two letters, one being a letter from Mr. David Wall, who is resigning from the Coroner's Training Council. The second letter from the Georgia Coroner's Association recommended Mr. Edgar F. Perry, Mr. Dale Frazier, Mr. Richard N. Stanley be reappointed to the Coroner's Council, along with appointing Mr. Earl Darby to fill Mr. Wall's unexpired term. Mr. Bowen made a motion that Mr. Wall's resignation be accepted, which was seconded by Chief Lou Dekmar, and was unanimously approved by the Board members. Mr. Bowen next motioned that the recommended names of Mr. Perry, Mr. Frazier, and Mr. Stanley be reappointed, along with the recommendation that Mr. Darby be appointed to the Coroner's Council. Sheriff Cullen Talton seconded said motion and the Board members voted approval.

## **DIRECTORS' REPORTS**

### Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Director Dale Mann began first, reporting that the Training Center has spent \$122,286.00 on the G-8 training so far; he expects that after G-8, over \$300,000 will have been spent.

The second issue involved the Northwest Police Academy being relocated. As background information, the police academy was first located in the Floyd Junior College, in two doublewide trailers in the parking lot. Later, the academy moved to classroom facilities at the Georgia School for Deaf in Cave Springs, which is ten miles from the Georgia/Alabama state line. Now, the lease with Cave Springs will run by June 30<sup>th</sup>. About eight months ago, Dr. Craig McDaniel of the Coosa Valley Tech approached the Advisory Board for the Northwest Police Academy, offering classroom space and office space to the academy. Director Mann requested the Board for direction in allowing the academy be moved. Director Mann stated that it is a good business

decision, that it is better for that region of the state, and that the Advisory Board had unanimously approved. Chief Lou Dekmar made the motion for the Board to approve the Northwest Police Academy move from Georgia School for Deaf in Cave Springs to Coosa Valley Tech in Calhoun. Before the Board of Public Safety gave its vote, Vice Chairman Donald requested that Director Mann first look to the Training Center Committee for its approval. Because it was necessary for a timely decision from the Board, it was decided that Chief Dekmar's motion would be amended. Therefore, Ms. Lisa Godbey Wood made the motion that the Northwest Police Academy move from Cave Springs to Coosa Valley Tech in Calhoun, unless the Georgia Public Safety Training Center Committee notifies the Vice Chairman of their objection to that move on or before May 28, 2004. Said motion was unanimously carried by the Board members.

Director Mann completed his report with describing how the Training Center held two weekend training exercises as preparation for G-8 Summit. Almost 800 law enforcement officers, military people, and 300 role players participated in the training exercise in April, and an even larger group at the May training exercise. In response to a question about training, Director Mann feels confident that every training request has been completed in preparing for G-8.

Mr. Rooney Bowen, III reminded the Board that the issue of the 60-mile subsistence policy was to be revisited before July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Bowen had spoken with Chief Hubert Smith, Chair of the Training Center Committee, and with Director Dale Mann about the policy, and, because of the shortage of funds in the Training Center's budget, the Board recommended that the policy remain as is. It was also recommended that this policy be discussed and handled through the Training Center Committee. At a later Board meeting, the committee will bring its recommendation before the full Board.

#### Georgia State Patrol

Colonel George Ellis first took a moment to compliment Director Dale Mann and the Training Center for hosting the training exercises for State Patrol. Colonel Ellis then commended Mr. Scott Cown for not only his professionalism and contributions to State Patrol, but also for being a true personal friend. Two other employees are retiring, Mr. Jimmy Crump and Mr. Wayne Yancey. A Resolution has been prepared for Mr. Crump, who is retiring after forty years of managing Fleet. Mr. Yancey, however, has agreed to stay on for a few months under contract.

Colonel Ellis announced that troopers will be working the FTAA, which is at the end of May. The Atlanta Hotel Association has offered complimentary hotel rooms to the troopers working those mobile field forces. Colonel Ellis requested if those troopers, working FTAA could use the complimentary rooms. After round table discussion and with the advice from Board Attorney Jayson Phillips, it was decided the Board could give approval for the offer. Chief Lou Dekmar made a motion that the Board approve the offer for housing during FTAA, to be used on an

emergency basis, contingent upon execution of documents associated with this agreement. Said motion was seconded by Mr. Rooney Bowen, III and unanimously carried by the Board.

The G-8 equipment is in and will be given out to the troopers in the next week. Mr. Bowen raised the question if President Bush had signed Article 32. It was confirmed that it had been signed, which puts the National Guard on the federal pay scale during G-8, while working under the state.

The rules and regulations are being worked on between Department of Motor Vehicle Safety and Georgia State Patrol. Commissioner James Davis will take this issue before the Board of Motor Vehicle Safety, so that the rules and regulations will be transferred to Department of Motor Vehicle Safety. Also, as follow-up to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning buildings shared between the two agencies, Colonel Ellis reported that Commissioner Davis had signed the MOU and is now back in the hands of State Patrol. Mr. Scott Cown has reviewed it and the MOU appears to be satisfactory.

Concerning the budget, Colonel Ellis indicated the agency is in pretty good shape, but is concerned about a potential 1% cut. In response to a question, Colonel Ellis said the budget enhancements were the 25-member trooper school and 23 new patrol cars.

Colonel Ellis reported the trooper count is now at 830, which is 123 below authorized positions. There are 206 radio operators, which is down 47 from authorized strength. And there are still 25 people on active duty in the military; those being operators and troopers.

Another concentrated patrol was put in place last week in the metro Atlanta area, and, 810 tickets were written out of that patrol.

Colonel Ellis announced that State Patrol assisted Barrow County with a cockfighting roundup. Troopers from Troop B, SWAT, and Aviation were called in to assist the GBI, DNR, DOC, and the local sheriff for the raid. This resulted in arresting 230 people and seizing 96 automobiles. This situation was a good example of an multi-agency operation coming together.

Vice Chairman Donald had to leave, due to a prior commitment, and requested that Mr. Rooney Bowen, III continue conducting the meeting.

Another item, a status on patrol posts was given to the Board members. A handout described the percentage of completion, how far each patrol post project has come, and a projected completion date. In response to a question about furniture for each new patrol post, it was reported that costs will average around \$55,000 for furniture and more than \$20,000 for updated telephone equipment.

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Director Vernon Keenan stated his report involved a personnel issue, therefore, he requested that his director's report be done in Executive Session.

**FISCAL REPORTS**

Mr. Terry Landers, Georgia State Patrol, described the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter budget report. Basically, the budget is in line with meeting requirements for this year; State Patrol is still apprehensive about the possible 1% allotment reduction. If the reduction is required, it will affect the end of the fiscal year and will affect the expenditures for the G-8 Summit. Even though overtime will be paid through G-8 funds for those troopers working the G-8, the Department would like to pay overtime to the remaining troopers, who will be patrolling the roads. State Patrol is putting a freeze on the purchase of computers and vehicles for a short time period. There are still a lot of areas that are being monitored closely; but at this point in time, there is approximately 25% state funds remaining. State Patrol has had meetings with the G-8 Summit budget committee, and, almost all the agency's funds expended have been paid. However, there are still a number of areas, such as final costs for meals, overtime, room and board, that are pending before the G-8 Summit budget committee.

Mr. Ray Higgins, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, presented the standard 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter expenditure report. With a copy given to each Board member, Mr. Higgins pointed out the column showing that the agency has spent 75% of state funds. Also, Mr. Higgins reported that the budget reflects all the adjustments from the '04 Amended Budget, which includes austerity and other reductions. Even with those reductions, the agency is right at 75%, which further illustrates the analysis has been accurate, given the circumstances through the first three quarters of FY 04. Mr. Higgins specifically noted the potential 1% reduction and the potential expenses under G-8, both of which will affect the budget. As for budget enhancements, the Governor recommended to provide funds for an additional eleven positions for the State Crime Lab.

Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, reported that the Training Center, for the first nine months of the fiscal year, should be at 75%. However, it is at 72.3%, because of vacant positions being held open. The Fire Academy and the Police Academy are both a little bit above 77%. Mr. Guerreiro believes that by the end of the fiscal year, state funds will have to be transferred over to those two budgets. The Training Center, by the end of April, has expended about \$133,000 for the G-8; there will be an additional cost of about \$123,000. If the 1% budget reduction is implemented, Mr. Guerreiro will have to address it in specific object classes, as opposed to straight across the board cut. As for budget enhancements, the Training Center did

get a \$54,000 transfer from Department of Education for maintenance and security of Tift College.

## DONATIONS

Mr. Terry Landers, Georgia State Patrol, requested the Board's approval for five donations:

Stalker Dual Radar Unit	\$ 1,912.00	Mr. Cory Thomas Colquitt City Council
Genesis II Ka-Band Dual Antenna Radar	\$ 1,790.00	Mr. Bobby Peacock Dodge County Commissioner
Seventeen Tasers	\$13,599.00	Sheriff Charles Jones McIntosh County
HP Officejet 7110 Printer, Fax, Scanner and Copier	\$ 399.98	Sheriff Donny Turner Troup County Sheriff
Ultimate Smith Machine Weightlifting Equipment	\$ 763.19	Upson County Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Cullen Talton made a motion to approve the donations, Mr. Bud Black seconded said motion, and the Board members unanimously voted approval.

Colonel Ellis responded to a question about training on taser equipment. Training has proceeded for those working at the G-8 Summit. Grant funds have been awarded to State Patrol to purchase more taser equipment. After the G-8 Summit, Colonel Ellis will evaluate how the tasers worked; then maybe order another 200 tasers, which he would like to use to equip the troopers on the road.

## RESOLUTION

Mr. Jon Pagett, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, requested approval of the following resolution:

That the Board of Public Safety authorize the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to permanently transfer custody of the building previously occupied by the Region 8 Investigative Field Office located in Gainesville, Georgia, to the Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Hal Averitt made a motion to approve the Resolution, Chief J. D. Rice made the second, and the Board members unanimously voted approval.

There being no Administrative/Emergency Issues, Mr. Bowen asked for any New or Old Business.

Mr. Rooney Bowen, III commended Mr. Chris Brasher and Mr. Jayson Phillips for their legal classes held at the Training Center. More especially, Mr. Phillips demonstrated in class what may happen during the G-8 Summit. Both Mr. Brasher and Mr. Phillips did an excellent job.

Mr. Bowen complimented Sheriff Cullen Talton for a deputy sheriff out of his office, complimenting how the deputy sheriff handled a shootout. A videotape had been done; it is something that should be shown and used as a training tape.

The June Board meeting will be cancelled because the agencies will be working at the G-8 Summit.

Chief Lou Dekmar made a motion to go into Executive Session, Sheriff Cullen Talton seconded said motion, and all members present affirmatively voted to go into Executive Session.

After reconvening into regular session, there was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

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Rooney L. Bowen, III  
Secretary