

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

April 13, 2017

National Guard Armory-Glenngville, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Danny Bryant
Mr. Steve Cronin
Commissioner Gregory Dozier
Sheriff Dane Kirby-via phone
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.-via phone
Chief Mark Revenew
Mr. Charles D. Sikes
Chief Craig Tully
Mr. Ellis Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan
Mr. Peter J. Skandalakis
Sheriff Joey Terrell

OTHERS:

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety
Major Tommy Waldrop, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Hank Fielding, 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 Chris Wright, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Chad Riner, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain Billy Hitchens, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Captain J. C. Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Lt. Sammy Young, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Lt. Ken DeLoach, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Lt. Jeff Royals, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Lt. Randy Wickstrom, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Lt. Mike Hatcher, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Wayne Mobley, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Tony Byrd, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Clint Durrence, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
SFC Henry Williamson, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
SFC Josh Lamb, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Sgt. Anthony Hughes, Department of Public Safety
Sgt. B. J. Kennedy, Department of Public Safety/GSP
SFC Neil DeLoach, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
SFC Susan Vaughn, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Corporal Frank Mize, Department of Public Safety/GSP
MCO2 Brandon Wall, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
MCO2 Robert Carter, Department of Public Safety/MCCD

Minutes of Board of Public Safety

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MCO1 Chance Howell, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
MCO2 Kyle Williams, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
MCO3 Derek Strickland, Department of Public Safety/MCC
Mrs. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety
Ms. Kelly Martin, Department of Public Safety
Ms. Natalie Austin, Department of Public Safety
Mrs. Gay Johnson, Department of Public Safety
Director Vernon M. Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Bahan Rich, Public Affairs, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
SAC Bill Bodrey, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
SAIII Tracy Sands, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Tony Hightower, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. David Wall, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Bruce Stanford, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mrs. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mrs. Olivia Duke, Office of Planning and Budget
Ms. Kristen Kinney, Office of Planning and Budget
Mrs. Maureen Bryant
Mrs. Joan Kennan
GA Dept. of Labor employees
GA Dept. of Corrections Board members and employees
GA Dept. of Juvenile Justice Board members and employees
GA Pardon and Parole Board members and employees
GA Dept. of Community Supervision Board members and employees
Director Harris Blackwood, Governor's Office of Highway Safety
Sheriff Kyle Sapp, Tattnall County SO
Sheriff Mark Melton, Appling County SO
Chief Deputy Gene Davis, Appling County SO
GEMA/HSA Director Homer Bryson
Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner and employees
Peace Officers Annuity and Benefit Fund employees

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the April 13th, 2017, Board of Public Safety meeting to order.
Vice-Chairman Wood asked Mr. Steve Cronic to lead the group in prayer.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the March 10th, 2016 minutes. Board Attorney Joe Drolet suggested an amendment on page 9, noting there was a motion and a second to authorize Director Wigginton to move forward with the planning of the 30 year anniversary and to accept donations, but the minutes failed to show the BPS members voted on the motion and second. The addition would be the motion was approved by the board. Mr. Charles Sikes made the motion to accept the amended minutes, which was seconded by Chief Mark Revenew and voted approved by the BPS members.

Director Reports

Lt. Colonel Russell Powell, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety shared the DPS celebrated its 80th anniversary with a banquet and awards ceremony, thought it was a huge success and learned some things that will help with future banquet and award ceremonies. Lt. Colonel Powell noted the banquet was in conjunction with the 99th trooper school graduation, graduating seven cadets.

Lt. Colonel Powell advised there are currently 13 cadets in the 100th trooper school and will be starting the 101st trooper school at the end of May.

Lt. Colonel Powell advised there are six troopers at the White House this afternoon being recognized by President Trump for their role in the I-85 evacuation.

Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation reemphasized the importance of the fellowship program that is being established at the medical examiner's office and added it has taken a year for the program to be accredited. Director Keenan stated the GBI is partnering with the Medical College of Georgia and the reason this is important is that to become a forensic pathologist, one has to first, be a doctor, then one has to go through two years of forensic pathology, and then do a one year fellowship program. Director Keenan acknowledged this program will give the GBI an applicant pool to draw from. Director Keenan stated there is a current medical examiner who came from a fellowship program years ago and now the program has been reestablished. Director Keenan stated he has talked with Governor Deal and his staff at OPB and told them his biggest fear as GBI director is to one day not have enough medical examiners to handle the workload of what comes into the medical examiner's office. Director Keenan noted if the GBI was to ever get in that situation, the state would have to stop receiving bodies and doing autopsies and one can imagine the impact that would have on the local authorities, particularly when doing autopsies in 153 counties; the sole provider of that service. Director Keenan stated Governor Deal and the legislature gave the medical examiners a 12% pay increase on top of the pay increase they received two years ago. Director Keenan stated the department has to be competitive when it comes to recruiting and retaining these doctors, cannot have a turnover rate or shortage of doctors, which is what the department currently has. Director Keenan advised there are 13 doctors on board, and for the past two years, two positions have been vacant. Director Keenan stated the two vacant positions will be filled July 1, due to the pay raise and other things that have been kicked in, will be fully staffed with 15 doctors.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Director Keenan how the other six counties in the state handle their autopsies and Director Keenan stated the other counties have their own medical examiner offices and pay for that themselves. Director Keenan stated he is afraid that one day the local authorities will look up and ask why they are spending 5 million dollars a year in Fulton County for a medical examiner's office when the state of Georgia does this for the rest of the state at no charge. Director Keenan noted there is a backlog with evidence in the crime lab, but you cannot have a backlog of bodies. Director Keenan stated with the 6.5 million expansion of the morgue at GBI headquarters, the cooler will be completed in the next few days and will be able to receive bodies, which will help out the locals tremendously, as currently the local authorities have to maintain the bodies at the county level, until a

space is available at HQ to receive them. Director Keenan added the new morgue will be able to receive 100 bodies. Director Keenan acknowledged the Governor and the legislators has looked out for the GBI and when it came to getting the funding for the Savannah Crime Lab, came to getting new scientists positions, pay raises and the fellowships and all that funding, the legislators did not blink an eye, the requests when straight through with the governor's support. Director Keenan stated the GBI is fortunate to have that type of support in the GA General Assembly.

Director Keenan shared the groundbreaking for the Crime Lab in Pooler will be in August and will take 18 months to build the facility.

Mr. Charles Sikes asked Director Keenan if the six metro counties that have their own medical examiner, if they use the GBI forensic services outside of autopsies and Director Keenan advised they do their own autopsies and their toxicology and histology comes to the GBI crime lab.

Mr. Danny Bryant asked Director Keenan about the backlog status of the rape kits. Director Keenan stated this is very much on the attention of the public concerning the rape kits and sexual assault kits that were being held at the local level and hospitals and not being submitted. Director Keenan stated a law was passed last year that will require local law enforcement to inventory their rape kits and submit them to the GBI, and the law also requires when the rape kit is done, it is to be submitted to the agency. Director Keenan stated what this did for the GBI is exactly what the governor said would happen, the GBI has a backlog of rape kits in the crime lab. Director Keenan stated there are about 4500 kits that are backlogged and are working on the process. Director Keenan acknowledged there was a lot of controversy in the Savannah area about the rape kits not being submitted to the GBI crime lab in Atlanta, when in fact the kits are at the crime lab and are being worked. Director Keenan stated they are making progress on handling the rape kits, it requires additional staffing, and have been outsourcing the rape kits, but nationally this is a problem. Director Keenan stated there is limited capacity in private labs for doing rape kit analysis and the GBI is limited to outsourcing 50 kits a month to a private laboratory. Director Keenan reiterated the GBI is making progress, but will just take a while.

Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center thanked Board attorney Joe Drolet for his support and advice. Director Wigginton thanked OPB staff for the 24 positions which will include two curriculum professionals.

Director Wigginton stated with the influx of Basic Training, every academy is above capacity as far as students. Director Wigginton advised the GPSTC will have an additional 10 positions in Basic Training and noted the Basic Training staff has not increased since 1973. Director Wigginton advised the other 12 positions will be for the CIT program, Crisis Intervention Training which has been one person from the GBI, one person from NAMI and dependent on local support moving throughout the state. Director Wigginton stated with the 12 positions, CIT will be a statewide program, will stay local as what they have in Pooler, GA, is not the same as to what is in Atlanta, GA, and will be delivering the CIT program to local communities.

Director Wigginton advised the Fire Academy received a new 75' ladder truck last week, which was used in training the day after receiving it. Director Wigginton advised the GPSTC is busting at the seams, the GPSTC looks like a demolition site, as the windows on front of the building are being replaced and with the driver track expansion, they hit rock, so there have been explosions and hopefully this will continue on track.

Mr. Charles Sikes asked about the cost on the fire truck. Director Wigginton stated the truck was around \$649,000.00, was obtained with a grant paying \$500,000.00, and has a life span of around 30 years.

Concerning basic mandate training, Vice-Chairman Wood asked Director Wigginton if the GPSTC has many non-sponsored basic mandate students. Director Wigginton replied it varies with sections of the state and the majority of students are sponsored and do get a few pre-service students.

Director Wigginton reminded the BPS members of the Public Safety Memorial that will be Monday, May 22, 2017, at 0900 hours, and on July 22, 2017, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly expanded driving track and the 30th year celebration.

DONATIONS

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

Four Stalker Lidar XLR Lasers	\$ 27,750.00	Lowndes County Sheriff's Office
Six Stalker DSR X2 Radar Units		
Six Kustom Signals Pro Laser Units	\$ 14,958.00	Bartow Co. Commissioner's Office
Four Stalker Radars	\$ 11,666.00	Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office
25 Year Maintenance Services for New DPS Tower	\$ 58,318.00	Southern Linc
Eight ELSAG LPR Cameras	\$ 48,520.00	GBI W. Metro Regional DEO
One Great Dane Trailer		

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

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation requested approval of the following donation:

Phillips Heartstart AED	\$ 1,500.00	Georgia Fraternal Order of Police
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The motion to accept this donation was made by Mr. Charles Sikes, which was seconded by Mr. Steve Cronic, and voted approved by the Board members.

Ms. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center requested approval of the following donation:

Monetary Donation	\$	1,000.00	GA Fire Investigators Association
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The motion to accept this donation was made by Chief Craig Tully, which was seconded by Mr. Danny Bryant, and voted approved by the Board members.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Melissa Rodgers, Legal Director, Department of Public Safety, presented a Resolution asking the BPS to approve authorizing the Commissioner of Public Safety, in conjunction with the Georgia State Properties Commissioner, to take steps necessary to establish a new headquarters and barracks for State Post 33 in Baldwin County/Milledgeville.

Chief Craig Tully made the motion for the Board of Public Safety to authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to enter into all agreements and supporting documents as necessary to take full possession, use and control of the eastern five (5) acres of state property located at 200 Carl Vinson Road, Milledgeville, Georgia, and to construct a new Post 33 headquarters and barracks on said property with the use of funds properly appropriated from the sale of the 139 Highway 49 property. This was seconded by Mr. Danny Bryant and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, presented a Resolution asking the BPS to request the State Properties Commission to approve by Executive Order, the demolition of the old Georgia State Patrol abandoned building on 1.72 acres of certain real property located in Thomson, McDuffie County, Georgia, property of the State of Georgia, with custody of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Chief Mark Revenew made the motion for the Board of Public Safety to approve the demolition of the abandoned building for the future construction of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Region 7 Investigative/Drug Task Force Office and requests that the State Properties Commission prepare and process appropriate documents reflecting this Executive Order for the demolition. This was seconded by Commissioner Greg Dozier and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mr. Dan Kirk presented a Resolution asking the BPS to request the State Properties Commission to approve by Executive Order, the demolition of the abandoned building on the 4.141 acres of certain real property located in Calhoun, Gordon County, Georgia, and property of the State of Georgia, with custody of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Charles Sikes made the motion for the Board of Public Safety to approve the demolition of the abandoned building for the future construction of the Bureau of Investigation, Region 1 Investigative

office and requests that the State Properties Commission prepare and process appropriate documents reflecting this Executive Order for demolition. This was seconded by Mr. Steve Cronic and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mr. Kirk presented a resolution asking the BPS to approve the acquisition of approximately 4.92 acres of real property from the City of Pooler, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia.

Mr. Charles Sikes made the motion for the Board of Public Safety to request the State Properties Commission to proceed with the acquisition of the approximately 4.92 acres of real property along with any mineral rights, easements necessary for access and signage, to the State of Georgia in custody of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation from the City of Pooler, by deed in fee simple. This was seconded by Chief Craig Tully and voted approved by the BPS members.

Major Jason Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Public Safety presented a Bond Resolution for the aggregate principal amount of \$1,925,000.

Mr. Danny Bryant made the motion to adopt the Bond Resolution for DPS, which was seconded by Mr. Steve Cronic, and voted approved by the BPS members.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation presented a Bond Resolution for the aggregate principal amount of \$40,145,000.

Commissioner Greg Dozier made the motion to adopt the Bond Resolution for the GBI, which was seconded by Mr. Charles Sikes, and voted approved by the BPS members.

Ms. Cindy Franklin, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center presented a Bond Resolution for the aggregate principal amount of \$895,000.

Chief Craig Tully made the motion to adopt the Bond Resolution for the GPSTC, which was seconded by Chief Mark Revenew, and voted approved by the BPS members.

Board Attorney Joe Drolet introduced Ms. Rebecca Dobras, an associate that works in his section at the Attorney General's office.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Chief Mark Revenew
Secretary