

## **BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY CALL IN MEETING**

April 12, 2018

Georgia National Guard Armory  
Glennville, Georgia

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Danny Bryant  
Mr. Steve D. Cronic  
Commissioner Greg Dozier  
Mr. Lester D. Rampy, Jr.  
Chief Mark Revenew  
Mr. Charles D. Sikes  
Sheriff Joey Terrell  
Chief Craig Tully  
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Wayne Abernathy  
Mr. Kacy Cronan  
Sheriff Dane Kirby

### **OTHERS:**

Ms. Rebecca Dobras, Attorney General's Office  
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison  
Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety  
Lt. Colonel Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety  
Major Tommy Waldrop, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Jason Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Major Hank Fielding, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Captain Jeremy Vickery, Department of Public Safety/MCCD  
Lt. Shawn Prather, Department of Public Safety/GSP  
Mrs. Amy Stancil, Department of Public Safety  
Mrs. Laura Thompson, Department of Public Safety  
Mrs. Erika Yermack, Department of Public Safety  
Mrs. Gay Johnson, Department of Public Safety  
Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Director Chris Wigginton, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Tony Hightower, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mr. Bruce Stanford, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Ms. Cheryl Greathouse, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Cindy Jones, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Sharla Shockley, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Mrs. Judy Couch, Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Ms. Debbie Shaw, Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Mrs. Louise Rampy  
Mrs. Maureen Bryant

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Board of Public Safety meeting to order. Chief Craig Tully opened the meeting with a prayer.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the March 2018 minutes. Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Chief Mark Renew and voted approved by the BPS members.

### **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety stated the Department of Public Safety had two agency bills that were passed during the legislative session. One being the annual Motor Carrier updating with a date change, making sure the federal statues are now codified in Georgia law for another year. Commissioner McDonough stated the other bill, concerning vehicle markings, noting after previous code revisions, some language was left out and the code revision committee suggested the bill be updated with new legislation and did so. Commissioner McDonough reminded the BPS members that several years ago the DPS had asked for the ability to purchase solid colored cars and did so, because a two tone paint job costed a significant amount of money, and wanted to have the ability to save up those funds. Commissioner McDonough noted there was a sunset clause on the bill and when the sunset went into effect and the code revision occurred, some language was left out and there were challenges around the state saying the vehicles that DPS was using that were not two tone paint cars, the arrests that were made of the solid car vehicles were challenged. Commissioner McDonough stated the DPS asked for the authority to not only have solid colored cars, but in the future if the DPS did need to save money, the Commissioner would have the ability to purchase solid colored vehicles for the same reason it was initially put into place. Commissioner McDonough expressed in the end the bill passed, there is no sunset clause, and solid colored cars are recognized. Commissioner McDonough stated the GSP vehicles are their trademark, it is something that is recognized nationally and for the employees, the blue and gray vehicle is the one they prefer. Commissioner McDonough noted when the DPS started handing out solid colored cars, this did not go over to well and when the GSP went back to all blue and gray cars, this was very popular, but there is an expense to this, about \$1300.00 a vehicle. Commissioner McDonough stated when the legislature put the sunset clause on the bill, they added they liked the two tone paint job and want GSP to keep that.

Commissioner McDonough stated the PEER support bill became agency legislation, which passed overwhelmingly and establishes an office within the structure of DPS, but does not go in to effect until there is a funding mechanism. Commissioner McDonough declared it is in statue, but on hold. Commissioner McDonough added the protected language for PEER support passed and this bill specifically establishes within DPS organizational structure, an office specifically for PEER Support and the next challenge will be the funding piece. Commissioner McDonough noted it became a DPS agency legislation as the initial legislation was designed to be a stand-alone agency and they said no and asked that it be put under DPS in their structure.

Mr. Charles Sikes complimented Savannah Police Department Chief Mark Renew for the tremendous undertaking with Vice-President Pence attending the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Mr. Sikes noted there were tremendous security issues and commended Chief Renew for taking the Chief

position during this time period and for putting on a great St. Patrick's Day celebration. Mr. Sikes also complimented the GSP Blue and Gray leading the St. Patrick Day's Parade and stated this parade is a big thing for coastal Georgia. Chief Revenew stated he reached out to Commissioner McDonough and DPS sent additional troops to assist with the parade and he sincerely appreciates the men in blue.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation updated the BPS on GBI legislation. Mr. Kirk stated most of the GBI legislation went through and concerning the nondisclosure on subpoenas to internet providers and so forth, which keeps the internet provider from letting the customer know that their records have been subpoenaed, also passed. Mr. Kirk added attached to SB336 was rap back, for two state agencies. Mr. Kirk stated when one applies for a particular position and a criminal history is run on that person, normally the information goes away once the fingerprints are run and the information goes back to the agency, but with rap back, the information stays in the system, and if the employee gets arrested and gets fingerprinted, it is then reported back to that agency.

Mr. Kirk advised the legislation concerning the authority to inter and disinter human remains passed and the GEMA and GISAC billed passed that cleared up some authorities, and the update to the Death Investigation Act passed. Mr. Kirk stated a bill tracking benefits of elderly and disabled was not a GBI bill, but had concerns and noted there are individuals that take advantage of a person's benefits and put them in a home, not caring for them, there is legislation that puts penalties to that.

Mr. Kirk advised the abandoned vessel bill did not pass, which is an administrative bill, and people will have to continue to report their abandoned/loss vessel to the GBI and DNR.

Mr. Kirk advised the GBI was interested in the mental health care bill, where right now a person that is committed involuntarily, those records are purged after five years, were trying to get this changed, but did not happen.

Mr. Chris Wigginton, Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center shared that Cheryl Greathouse has worked on a program with CIT, hitting the communication officers, an area that is sometimes forgotten. Mr. Wigginton noted as the calls initially go into the 911 center or dispatcher, unless they know how to interpret the information they are receiving, listen to the cues, they get a lot of information that is passed onto the responding officers. Director Wigginton acknowledged the communication officers and the 911 dispatchers have been left out of the CIT portfolio a long time and Cheryl and Debi Shaw have been working behind the scenes to develop curriculum. Director Wigginton stated GPSTC will start including a course specifically for dispatchers and 911 operators so while they are in the middle understanding the call when they receive the call and will then know how to dispatch it to the officer and can sometimes diffuse the situation before the officer arrives. Director Wigginton noted this is a big update that will affect the entire state, especially with some of the communication issues that were passed this year with GEMA.

Director Wigginton shared as GPSTC continues to grow statewide and especially the regional academies, historically there are academies throughout the state that GPSTC borrows space from, and

some places GPSTC owns the land. Director Wigginton stated GPSTC has a partnership with the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department, started through a previous administration and when they started the partnership, they did not look far enough down the road to see where both agencies would be at today. Director Wigginton declared Cherokee County Sheriff's Department and GPSTC has outgrown the relationship. Director Wigginton stated GPSTC has had mutual agreements with the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department on several occasions and the center that was built will not suffice their training any more with GPSTC being on campus, GPSTC alone on the campus runs the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department out of the building, and there are no plans to build.

Director Wigginton advised Pickens County has approached GPSTC as they are acquiring a school from the Pickens County Board of Education. Director Wigginton stated the Pickens County Board of Education has signed an agreement with the Pickens County Sheriff's Department and in turn they want to sign into a long term agreement with GPSTC and give GPSTC an entire wing of the school. Director Wigginton stated the wing at the school is a lot more than is needed today and more than is needed in the future, and does not see GPSTC outgrowing this relationship.

Director Wigginton asked for the Board's approval for him to continue negotiations with the Pickens County Sheriff's Department in acquiring training space at a school previously owned by the Pickens County Board of Education.

Sheriff Joey Terrell made the motion for Director Chris Wigginton, GPSTC to continue negotiations with the Pickens County Sheriff's Department in acquiring training space at a school previously owned by the Pickens County Board of Education. This was seconded by Mr. Steve Cronic and voted approved by the BPS members.

Director Wigginton stated GPSTC has been running two sessions at this school which primarily does basic training, 80-88 students and the sheriff had asked us to limit that to one session, so there are 44 individuals that could potentially affect 44 different agencies that are being turned away until the next program, and that is why it is detrimental to GPSTC to accommodate those size classes.

Director Wigginton presented a Resolution requesting the State Properties authorize the surplus of 1.70 acres of land and improvements located at 516 Chattin Drive, Canton, Cherokee County, Georgia after the shoot house has been removed.

Chief Mark Revenew made the motion to request the State Properties Commission to authorize the surplus of 1.70 acres of land and improvements located at 516 Chattin Drive, Canton, Cherokee County, Georgia, after the shoot house has been removed. This was seconded by Chief Craig Tully and voted approved by the BPS members.

Vice-Chairman Wood asked Commissioner McDonough to brief the BPS on the possibility of a new board at some point in the future.

Commissioner McDonough stated a bill was passed in the legislature, which places the Commissioner/Director of the Department of Community Supervision on the BPS, just like the Commissioner of the Dept. of Corrections on the BPS. Commissioner McDonough noted with the Governor's signature, a new Board member will be on the BPS. Commissioner McDonough stated Michael Nail is the Commissioner at Dept. of Community Supervision and will probably be seated at the first Board meeting after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Vice-Chairman Wood thanked the BPS members for their attempts in coming to the meetings, the quorum still set at 8. Vice-Chairman Wood stated with the business part of the agenda, there are reasons this Board needs to take actions on items and cannot do this without a quorum. Vice-Chairman Wood noted it makes it extremely challenging when the agencies need to move issues forward and do not have a quorum to vote on the issues.

**DONATIONS**

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

Five Gardco Window Tint Meters	\$	2,000.00	Baldwin Police Dept.
Two Stalker DSR 2X Radars	\$	5,761.00	Locust Grove Police Dept.
One Stalker DSR 2X Radar	\$	3,012.50	Hartwell Police Dept.
One Stalker DSR 2X Radar	\$	3,012.50	Lavonia Police Dept.
Two Stalker DSR 2X Radars	\$	6,000.00	Savannah Police Dept.
One Stalker SL Radar	\$	2,000.00	Hall County Sheriff's Dept.
Two Stalker DSR 2X Radars	\$	6,000.00	Appling County Sheriff's Dept.

The motion to accept these donations was made by Sheriff Joey Terrell, which was seconded by Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr., and voted approved by the Board members, with Chief Mark Renew abstaining from the vote.

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

One Phillips 55in. LED TV	\$	421.88	National Insurance Crime Bureau
One Stack-on Gun Safe	\$	699.00	Home Depot
One Stack-on Gun Safe	\$	599.00	Home Depot



There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Chief Mark Revenew  
Secretary