

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
July 12, 2018
Georgia Department of Public Safety
Atlanta, Georgia

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Steve D. Cronic-via conference call
Commissioner Gregory Dozier-via conference call
District Attorney George Hartwig
Director Sam Heaton
Sheriff Dane Kirby
Commissioner Michael Nail
Mr. Lester L. Rampy, Jr.-via conference call
Chief Mark Revenew-via conference call
Mr. Charles D. Sikes-via conference call
Sheriff Joey Terrell-via conference call
Chief Craig Tully-via conference call
Mr. Ellison G. Wood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Mr. Danny Bryant
Mr. Kacy K. Cronan

OTHERS:

Ms. Tina Piper, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Cheryl L. Buie, Board Liaison
Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel Russell Powell, Department of Public Safety
Major Jason Johnson, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Tommy Waldrop, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Major Johnny Jones, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Jeremy Vickery, Department of Public Safety/MCCD
Captain Mark Lambert, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Corporal Denny Garner, Department of Public Safety/GSP
Mrs. Melissa Rodgers, Department of Public Safety
Miss Kaycee Larson, Department of Public Safety
Assistant Director Dan Kirk, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
SAC John Durden, GBI Region 5-Statesboro-via conference call
Mr. Tony Hightower, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center-via conference call
Mrs. Cindy Jones, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center-via conference call
Mr. Brian Tukes, Department of Community Supervision
Ms. Ashley Larrow, Office of Planning and Budget
Mr. Brian Lawler, Office of Planning and Budget

Vice-Chairman Ellis Wood called the July 12th, 2018, Board of Public Safety meeting to order. Major Jason Johnson gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Wood shared Mr. Wayne Abernathy was admitted to the hospital last night and was to have further tests this morning. Commissioner McDonough stated he visited with Mr. Abernathy last week and continues with treatment for his heart with medications.

Vice-Chairman Wood did a roll call for those joining in on the conference call.

Vice-Chairman Wood welcomed and introduced new Board members, Department of Community Supervision Commissioner Michael Nail, Houston County District Attorney George Hartwig and Cobb County Public Safety Director Sam Heaton.

Mr. Charles Sikes introduced, Mr. John Durden, GBI SAC for Region 5-Statesboro.

Vice-Chairman Wood shared a text he just received from Mr. Abernathy's daughter that Mr. Abernathy was at home following a short stay in the hospital.

Vice-Chairman Wood called for approval of the May 2018 minutes, with an amendment to add Mr. Sam Heaton to the list of attendees. Chief Mark Revenew made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Charles Sikes and voted approved by the BPS members.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Commissioner Mark W. McDonough, Department of Public Safety shared information concerning the visit of the Rainbow Family in Lumpkin County. Commissioner McDonough stated the group is essentially a cult that came out of the Woodstock era, that began in the 1972-1973 time frame, who picks a place annually in the country to have what they refer to as their family reunion. Commissioner McDonough added that over the years it has been an ongoing battle with the US Forest Service as far as the use of public lands and criminal activity and this year the Lumpkin County Sheriff, along with the US Forest Service asked DPS for support. Commissioner McDonough stated Troop B was able to provide support to this and part of the strategy was to in Georgia fashion, was to offer them a good welcome to the state of GA and because of that, the normal crowd of 10,000-20,000 whittled down to about 2500 attendees. Commissioner McDonough stated over the course of the days, there were 40 felony drug arrests, several wanted people and thus far, have heard nothing but accolades from Lumpkin County and the US Forest Service, with the US Forest Service adding they would like to take the GSP with them every place in the country from now on to where the Rainbow Family decides to have their annual event. Commissioner McDonough noted Troop B Captain Steve Rushton is a resident of Lumpkin County and when it is one's home and asked to help, Captain Rushton took this very seriously, along with everyone that was there and the outcome showed the effort and the importance that Captain Rushton put into it.

Concerning the hands free legislation that has been talked about for the last few months and now the implementation, Commissioner McDonough stated everyone has joined in the effort, and the comment was made that this is the seatbelt issue of this time. Commissioner McDonough stated he has asked the troopers to be very compassionate and the statistics show, they have been writing three times the warnings than the citations written. Commissioner McDonough noted when getting people to try and

change their behavior, nobody can say they were treated unfairly when we have that type of records. Commissioner McDonough stated DPS will continue this, but on October 1, one can expect the hammer to fall, at that point, DPS will have educated to death and will make a concerted effort, and will never take the discretion away from DPS officers to write warnings. Commissioner McDonough stated those in leadership positions at DPS, went through the initiation of Click-it or Ticket and can all look back at that as we were on the road during those days, the way DPS went about it was not the right way and will be completely different in this approach. Commissioner McDonough added the DPS will never take the discretion of the officer away on the type of enforcement action they will take, if the officer feels a warning will suffice, that is fine, if they feel a citation suffices, that is fine too. Commissioner McDonough reiterated there will be a concerted effort once October 1st comes, as far as enforcement is concerned.

Commissioner McDonough advised the senate study committee for school security has kicked off and will be assisting the Senate as they go around the state in their open public meeting forums, with the first forum being held at the high school in Ringgold. Commissioner McDonough stated him and Lt. Josh Lamb, who had a fellowship with the FBI that extended out to 9 months where he received extensive training, not only in active shooting, but the response to mass casualties will participate in the forum. Commissioner McDonough stated they would be providing the Senate whatever they need as they go through this study committee process, as the state is looking at potential legislation of what might be done to assist with school security.

Commissioner McDonough noted there are a lot of building projects going on at the DPS complex. Commissioner McDonough shared the tower that is being put up by Southern Linc is almost completed. Commissioner McDonough noted with the relationships that have been built, particularly with Philip Anderson, there is no cost to the department or taxpayers, and the replacement tower is 275 feet tall and will provide public safety access for all of metro Atlanta.

Commissioner McDonough advised the garage, supply and computer services type building is almost complete, with the building being turned over to DPS in the middle of August. Commissioner McDonough stated there will be an open house and ribbon cutting sometime late September.

Commissioner McDonough stated the helicopter pad has completely been reworked, all of the new pads have been put in with paving around it, along with a security fence. Commissioner McDonough advised once the building is complete down at the garage, from the Centennial Conference Room on top of the hill and the apron all down around, all of that will be redone, regraded and repaved. Commissioner McDonough noted this will wrap of the building projects, and no one will be any happier than Lt. Tracy English and Capt. Robert Moody that this is over with, because in amongst that building, they have put out in the last two years during preparation and now construction, produced a little over 500 cars for the fleet while all this has been going on. Commissioner McDonough advised there will be an invitation put out for the ribbon cutting.

Commissioner McDonough advised the 103rd Trooper School will be graduating on Friday, September 21st and are holding steady at 46 cadets for graduation.

Mr. Dan Kirk, Assistant Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation advised the ribbon cutting by Governor Deal at the Cyber Center in Augusta, GA took place on July 10th, and are looking forward to getting that up and going. Mr. Kirk stated they are still in the process of moving stuff in and getting things up and working and this should increase the GBI footprint in the world of cyber, outside what is normally done with porn, doing different types of cases out of that unit, as well as training.

Mr. Kirk stated the GBI has been working with the City of Pooler trying to get a new bomb garage to replace the old one, near the old Savannah Lab and have looked at the possibility of Pooler building and renting the building, but the bottom line is, the GBI does not have the money and will look for other opportunities.

Mr. Kirk advised the Pooler Lab construction is going well.

Vice-Chairman Wood stated the entire complex of the Cyber Center in Augusta is phenomenal.

Mr. Tony Hightower, Deputy Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center stated the GPSTC touched around 19,000 students, 5,000 over last year and continue to grow every single month, offering new courses, new ways of training and thanked GSP, GBI and all supporters for their help.

Mr. Hightower advised GPSTC has officially relocated from Cherokee County Academy to Pickens County, and later on in the year there will be an open house and ribbon cutting. Mr. Hightower advised it facilitates the space and opportunity to expand GPSTC training in that particular area, a great partnership with Pickens County.

On behalf of the BPS, Vice-Chairman Wood congratulated Mr. Hightower on his appointment to the State Commission on Family Violence.

DONATIONS

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

One Samsung 55" TV	\$	488.75	Wal-Mart DC 6054
One Stalker DSR 2X Radar and One Kuston Pro Laser 4	\$	5,341.50	Bartow County Commissioners
Two Stalker DSR 2X Radars	\$	5,725.00	Murray County Commissioners
Three MPH BEE III Radars	\$	7,050.00	City of Cumming
Two MPH BEE III Radars Two Dragon Eye DESL Lasers	\$	8,890.00	Lumpkin County Commissioners

Four Stalker DSR 2X Radars	\$	11,980.00	Paulding Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Two Stalker DSR 2X Radars	\$	6,000.00	Bryan Co. Commissioners
Three Stalker DSR 2X Radars	\$	8,685.00	Worth County Commissioners
One Stalker DSR 2X Radar	\$	3,000.00	Liberty Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Three Brother HL-L2370DW Desktop Printers and Cartridges	\$	534.94	City of Nashville and Nashville PD

The motion to accept these donations was made by Sheriff Dane Kirby, which was seconded by Mr. George Hartwig, and voted approved by the Board members.

Mrs. Cindy Jones, Comptroller, Georgia Public Safety Training Center requested approval of the following donations:

One Honda CMX250C	\$	100.00	Daniel's Body Shop and Wrecker Service, Canton, GA
One Suzuki GN125	\$	100.00	Daniel's Body Shop and Wrecker Service, Canton, GA
One Suzuki Motorcycle	\$	200.00	Daniel's Body Shop and Wrecker Service, Canton, GA
1991 Honda CB250 Motorcycle	\$	500.00	Wrecker 1, McDonough, GA
Scrap Pallets	\$	4,275.00	Pallet One, Forsyth, GA

The motion to accept these donations was made by Chief Craig Tully, which was seconded by Sheriff Dane Kirby, and voted approved by the Board members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Chief Mark Revenew
Secretary