

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Minutes of Meeting Held August 6, 2003
Atlanta, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Governor Sonny Perdue
Mr. Wayne Abernathy
Sheriff Jackie Barrett
Mr. Charles D. "Bud" Black
Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III
Sheriff Greg Coursey
Mr. W. H. "Dub" Harper
Sheriff Bruce Harris
Ms. Lydia Sartain
Chief Hubert Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sheriff Jamil Saba

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Chris Brasher, Georgia Department of Law
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Colonel George Ellis, Department of Public Safety
Lieutenant Colonel K.W. "Kenny" Hancock, Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Colonel Arthur White, Georgia State Patrol
Major Tommy Tomlinson, Georgia State Patrol
Major K. E. Sorrells, Georgia State Patrol
Major Freddie Taylor, Georgia State Patrol
Captain Richard Ashmore, Georgia State Patrol
Captain Curtis L. Daniel, Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Scott Cown, Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Terry Landers, Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Wayne Yancey, Georgia State Patrol
Ms. Terry Long, Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Jim Shuler, Georgia State Patrol
Ms. Sandy Grimes, Georgia State Patrol
Director Vernon Keenan, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Chris Ash, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Ray Higgins, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Lee Sweat, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Dan Kirk, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Ms. Angie Holt, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Mark Jackson, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Chuck Severs, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Acting Director Jimmy Dean, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Kevin Rexroat, Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Mr. Richard Guerreiro, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. J. Dale Mann, Georgia Public Safety Training Center
Mr. Alan Adams, Georgia Department of Corrections
Mr. Terry Norris, Georgia Sheriffs Association
Mr. Frank Rotondo, Georgia Police Chiefs Association
Mr. Danny Ray, retired Georgia State Patrol
Lieutenant Curtis Clark, Fulton County Sheriff's Office
Mr. Milton E. "Buddy" Nix, State Board of Pardons and Paroles

Governor Sonny Perdue called the August meeting of the Board of Public Safety to order and thanked everyone for being at the meeting. The attendees were introduced, starting with Colonel George Ellis, Department of Public Safety. Governor Perdue thanked Colonel Ellis on how he took the capitol challenge seriously and provided great leadership in that area. Governor Perdue then called on Director Vernon Keenan, who introduced and complimented his command staff from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Acting Director Jimmy Dean introduced his staff from the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. Also in attendance were Acting Assistant Commissioner Alan Adams of the Georgia Department of Corrections, and, Chairman Buddy Nix of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Sheriff Jackie Barrett introduced Lieutenant Curtis Clark, from the Fulton County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Barrett pointed out that Lieutenant Clark, a 14-year officer, is also a bomb technician, cross-trained in weapons of mass destruction.

Governor Perdue requested approval of the Minutes from the July Board meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III, seconded by Chief Hubert Smith, and unanimously voted approval by all Board members.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Department of Public Safety/State Patrol

Colonel George Ellis brought several issues before the Board for approval.

Colonel Ellis nominated Lieutenant Colonel K. W. "Kenny" Hancock to be appointed Deputy Commissioner of Department of Public Safety. The motion to approve Lieutenant Colonel Hancock to the position of Deputy Commissioner was made by

Sheriff Greg Coursey, seconded by Mr. Dub Harper, and unanimously approved by the Board.

Colonel Ellis requested approval of reassigning Troop E to the South Division, a structural change which will balance the number of troopers between the North and South Divisions. The motion to approve the move of Troop E was made by Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III, seconded by Mr. Bud Black, and unanimously approved by the Board members.

Colonel Ellis requested approval of an organizational chart, reflecting changes in sections in the Department of Public Safety. A copy of the chart is attached to the Minutes. Sheriff Jackie Barrett made a motion to approve the organizational chart, seconded by Mr. Bud Black, and the Board members unanimously approved.

Other issues by Colonel Ellis were brought before the Board, after presentations by the other Directors.

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Director Vernon Keenan reported that at the recent U.S. Department of Homeland Security meeting, hosted by Governor Perdue, reference was made to Georgia's Bomb Disposal Unit. Director Keenan handed out at the homeland security meeting a copy of the Briefing Booklet, a copy also provided to the Board members, describing the plan for disposal of bombs and bio-chemical weapons. Two years ago, Director Keenan provided a bomb disposal demonstration for the Board members, and, since that time, the equipment has been updated. The GBI provides bomb disposal services for every law enforcement agency in Georgia. There are 20 agents trained in bomb disposal; three agents being full-time, the others doing collateral duties. Currently, there are three response zones, equipment strategically located throughout the state, to be able to respond between one-to-two hours from the time of the call. Director Keenan indicated that the GBI is fortunate to have received grant monies, from U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice, in the amount of \$6 million. Through grant funding, the GBI has received two state-of-the-art freightliner trucks. With additional funding, the GBI will be able to procure four more trucks, three total containment vessels. Director Keenan addressed questions and completed his report.

Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Acting Director Jimmy Dean brought to the Board's attention three issues. The Training Center received from Office of Planning and Budget the letter requesting a cut of 2.5% for Fiscal Year 2004, a request affecting all state agencies. Mr. Dean met with all his

division directors to set up FY 04 under the new program-base budget. Mr. Dean made the Board members aware that the Training Center will be working closely with the Sheriffs Association, Chiefs Association, and resident agencies, in making sure future cuts do not negatively impact the training program.

Concerning homeland security training, the Training Center has been working with Director Bill Hitchens, Homeland Security and GEMA, regarding possibilities of grants. The Training Center may be able to get a grant, which will allow \$722,000 to provide homeland security training. Before the next Board meeting, Mr. Dean will get more details on this issue and provide a report to the Board members.

Mr. Dean updated the continuing issue of Tift College. The Board of Regents owns the property, however, the Office of Planning and Budget requested the Training Center to maintain the property. The Training Center continues maintaining security and the grounds keeping of the campus. Director Dean explained that the plan is for the Training Center to sign a contract with Regents.

Mr. Dean made two announcements: a firefighters memorial service will be held on September 30th at the Training Center, and, the Public Safety Awards ceremony will be held in October at the Training Center. The Board members will be invited to attend both ceremonies.

Department of Public Safety (continued)

Colonel Ellis followed with a couple of additional items, one being that several sheriffs around the state have requested to be able to donate radar equipment to State Patrol. Therefore, Colonel Ellis asked for approval from the Board to accept the donations. Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made a motion directing Colonel Ellis to accept donated radar equipment, and, the Board members unanimously voted approval.

Colonel Ellis reported that Legal Services is working on updating Department rules and will provide an update to the Board members at a future board meeting. Another item to report is that the Department will be meeting next week with the Georgia Building Authority to discuss an agreement between the agencies on the issue of security for the state buildings.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been entered into between Department of Public Safety and Department of Motor Vehicle Safety regarding training on commercial motor vehicles. Department of Motor Vehicle Safety will train twenty-five Department of Public Safety employees on commercial motor vehicles, and in exchange, fifty Department of Motor Vehicle Safety employees will be trained on radar operation.

Colonel Ellis pointed out that Department of Public Safety also received the letter from Office of Planning and Budget concerning budget cuts. He feels confident that the 2.5% can be met by continuing with the hiring freeze, which currently includes 92 vacant trooper positions and 23 radio operator positions.

In response to a question concerning the G-8 summit, Colonel Ellis will have State Patrol assisting as security in Savannah and, if needed, in Brunswick. Mr. Bill Hitchens, Homeland Security, is responsible for the overall security, and, both he and Colonel Ellis will tap into resources from several agencies, including Department of Corrections.

DONATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Mr. Ray Higgins presented the following donations to the Board members:

Check	\$ 200.00	Judge Arthur Kaplan
13 MPEL HB100 Dissection Tables	\$66,768.00	Dr. J. Downs Hunley Project

Ms. Lydia Sartain made the motion to approve both donations, Sheriff Jackie Barrett made the second, and the Board members unanimously voted approval.

Department of Public Safety

Mr. Cown presented a resolution for approval to the Board members:

That the Board of Public Safety authorize the Department of Public Safety to transfer custody of 8.5 acres of improved real property, located at 1400 Dean Forest Road, Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia, through State Properties Commission, to the Department of Transportation.

Ms. Lydia Sartain made the motion to approve both donations, Sheriff Jackie Barrett made the second, and the Board members unanimously voted approval.

Mr. Cown then presented the following donations for the Board's approval:

Cash	\$10,000.00	Whitfield County Board of Commissioners
Canine Car Insert	\$ 1,300.00	Gwinnett County Police Department

Folding Ladder
And Fiber Optics Scope

\$ 700.00

Braselton Police Department

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made the motion to approve the donations, Mr. Bud Black seconded said motion, and the Board members unanimously voted approval.

Mr. Bowen requested Mr. Cown provide a status on all posts at the next Board meeting.

RULES

Ms. Terry Long, Department of Public Safety, brought before the Board a proposal to change Rule 570-7-.08, which deals with certification of speed timing devices. In conjunction with O.C.G.A. § 40-14-3 and § 40-14-4, this rule change is to require certification of the device by the manufacturer.

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III made the motion that this rule be initially approved, posted for thirty days, and then brought back before the Board for final approval. Said motion was seconded by Mr. Bud Black and the Board members unanimously voted approval.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III reminded the agencies that the strategy session will be held September 4, 2003, at Georgia Public Safety Training Center. On September 5, 2003, the September Board meeting will be held.

At the strategy session, the Board members are asking the following from each agency: mission statement; list of priorities within the agency; the funds required for each priority; list of budget reductions by priority; showing of results of reductions within that priority; list of requirements that have not been funded. After the compilation of these findings, the Board of Public Safety will prepare a report and priority list to aid the Board while assisting the agencies with different issues. Each agency is requested to make the presentation at the strategy session for the morning and the afternoon be left open for demonstrations at the training center.

Mr. Bud Black made a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session. Said motion was seconded by Mr. Rooney L. Bowen, III. All members present affirmatively voted to go into Executive Session.

After Executive Session, the regular session of the Board meeting reconvened and there being no further business, Sheriff Bruce Harris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sheriff Greg Coursey, and the meeting was adjourned.

Chief Hubert Smith
Secretary