

**MINUTES OF THE
PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS
AND TRAINING BOARD
LETA
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
February 18, 2026**

MEMBERS' PRESENT

Evan Savageau
Joe Cianni
Roger Hutchinson
Travis Stefonowicz
Dave Stromberg
Lyn James via Teams joined at 1117
Steve Armstrong via Teams
Amy Suda via Teams

MEMBERS ABSENT

LEGAL COUNSEL

Jeremy Ensrud

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Pat Helfrich	Executive Secretary
Jessica Linder	Administrative Officer

GUESTS SPEAKING TO BOARD

Thomas Kelsh	BSC Police
Lloyd Halvorson	Lake Region College (Teams)
Chief Freedman	Grand Forks PD (Teams)
John Maritato	Lake Region College (Teams)
Derik Zimmer	Grand Forks PD (Teams)
Chris Bailey	Bottineau Co SO (Teams)
Sheriff Toftland	Bottineau Co SO (Teams)
Sheriff Wanzek	Benson Co SO (Teams)
James Wang	Benson Co States Atty (Teams)
Ed Carter	NDBC! (Teams)

Other listeners joined via Teams

It should be noted that Jesse Kubik was present at the meeting

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Joe Cianni called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M.
Secretary Helfrich took the roll

NEW BUSINESS

1.) Lake Region College wants to do a Virtual Basic Academy for Grand Forks officers. Lloyd Halvorson and John Maritato from Lake Region College and Chief Freedman spoke before the board and answered questions. Member Suda supported the idea of a hybrid way and Member Hutchinson mentioned his concern about precedence with a virtual basic and how it would impact all other basic academies. Executive Secretary Helfrich advised that he reached out through IADLEST and all 16 responses he received were negative in having a virtual basic.

Motion by Member Stromberg to table this until the next regular meeting and asked that Lake Region develop a more laid out and detailed plan of how this would work, seconded by Member Suda. All in favor motion passed.

2.) Matt Beland and Sara Kyte complaints. No representation by Matt Beland or Sara Kyte. Chairman Cianni asked legal counsel how to proceed. Attorney for the POST Board Jeremy Ensrud suggested to go through the complaints individually.

a.) Rodney Clark UND Police Chief. Chairman Cianni read off the complaints. POST Board members received the complaints from Matt Beland and Sarah Kyte as well as the investigation report by the SD DCI and the letter from Attorney Rozanna Larson Special Appointed State's Attorney for Grand Forks County. Chairman Cianni asked for questions or discussions on the complaints and the supplied documents, none heard.

Chairman Cianni asked for Motion either to proceed that the complaint has bearing or motion to dismiss. Motion to dismiss the complaint against Rodney Clark by Member Suda, seconded by Member Armstrong. All in favor motion passed.

b.) Tracy Meidinger UND Police Captain. Chairman Cianni read off the complaints. POST Board members received the complaints from Matt Beland and Sarah Kyte as well as the investigation report by the SD DCI and the letter from Attorney Rozanna Larson Special Appointed State's Attorney for Grand Forks County. Chairman Cianni asked for questions or discussion on the complaints and the supplied documents, none heard.

Motion to dismiss the complaint against Tracy Meidinger by Member Armstrong, seconded by Member Hutchinson. All in favor motion passed.

c.) Joel Lloyd Grand Forks Co SO. Chairman Cianni read off the complaints. POST Board members received the complaints from Matt Beland and Sarah Kyte as well as the investigation report by the SD DCI and the letter from Attorney Rozanna Larson Special Appointed State's Attorney for Grand Forks County. Chairman Cianni asked for questions or discussions on the complaints and the supplied documents, none heard.

Motion to dismiss the complaint against Joel Lloyd by Member Hutchinson, seconded by member Savageau. All in favor motion passed.

d.) Dave Stromberg Chief Deputy Grand Forks Co SO. Chairman Cianni read off the complaints. POST Board members received the complaints from Matt Beland and Sarah Kyte as well as the investigation report by the SD DCI and the letter from Attorney Rozanna Larson Special Appointed State's Attorney for Grand Forks County. Chairman Cianni asked for questions or discussions on the complaints and the supplied documents, none heard.

Motion to dismiss the complaint against Dave Stromberg by Member Armstrong, seconded by Member Suda. All in favor motion passed.

e.) Andrew Schneider Sheriff Grand Forks Co SO. Chairman Cianni read off the complaints. POST Board members received the complaints from Matt Beland and Sarah Kyte as well as the investigation report by the SD DCI and the letter from Attorney Rozanna Larson Special Appointed State's Attorney for Grand Forks County. Chairman Cianni asked for questions or discussions on the complaints and the supplied documents, none heard.

Motion to dismiss the complaint against Andrew Schneider by Member Suda, seconded by Member Hutchinson. All in favor motion passed.

f.) Chris Hutton Corporal Grand Forks Co SO. Chairman Cianni read off the complaints. POST Board members received the complaints from Matt Beland and Sarah Kyte as well as the investigation report by the SD DCI and the letter from Attorney Rozanna Larson Special Appointed State's Attorney for Grand Forks County. Chairman Cianni asked for questions or discussions on the complaints and the supplied documents, none heard.

Motion to dismiss the complaint against Chris Hutton by Member Hutchinson, seconded by Member Stefonowicz. All in favor motion passed.

3.) Benson Co SO non-payment for psychological evaluation on Chantel Brorby from 2024. Sheriff Wanzek and Benson Co States Atty James Wang spoke via Teams. Sheriff Wanzek stated that it's Benson County's policy that their applicants pay for their psychological test, physical, initial license and POST exam fees and not the county. The request for the exam was from the previous administration. Executive Secretary Helfrich advised the board that the fee is charged to the agency and if the agency requires the applicant to pay then that's between the agency and the applicant not POST and the applicant. Benson County State's Attorney Wang stated that POST should pay for this and not Benson County.

Motion by Member Armstrong to deny waiving the fee by POST and Benson County to pay for the psychological test, seconded by Member Stromberg. All in favor motion passed. It should

be noted that Benson County States Attorney Wang stated that the POST board would need to take legal action as Benson won't be paying the bill.

4.) Executive Helfrich requested permission from the Board to waive the service fees for payment to the POST Board by Credit Card.

Motion to waive fees made by Member Stromberg, seconded by Member Hutchinson. Members James, Armstrong, and Suda voted no, Members Hutchinson, Savageau, Stefonowicz, Stromberg, and Chairman Cianni voted yes. Motion passed with majority vote.

5.) Tom Kelsh appeared in front of the Board requesting waiver for his firearms instructor training and his MOI (methods of Instruction) which he acquired when he was in corrections and not licensed as a peace officer at that time. Tom provided the board with his training record and certificates of his training when he was in corrections. Chairman Cianni stated that the Board will need to separate the firearms and MOI.

Motion made by Member Hutchinson to require Kelsh to take the firearms refresher and then allow him to conduct qualifications only, seconded by Member Stromberg. All in favor motion passed.

Motion made by Member Stromberg to deny the waiver for the MOI and require Kelsh to re-take the MOI course, seconded by Member Armstrong. All in favor motion passed.

6.) Executive Secretary Helfrich advised the Board of Member Sheriff Eberle's decision to resign from the POST Board as he's not running for re-election this year and felt that with the Administrative rule changes and the forming of a legislative committee, that it would be in the best interests of the POST Board to fill his position with someone able to follow through on the upcoming plans.

7.) Chris Bailey Bottineau Co SO. Bailey's peace officer license was suspended due to his CJIS revocation stemming from having received 2 DUI's. Sheriff Toftland and Chris Bailey present by Teams. The board asked questions regarding the CJIS revocation and why there was no adverse action on the second DUI. It was explained that after Bailey's second DUI he resigned and there was no request for POST Board review on the submitted PFN5. Sheriff Toftland stated that they appeared in front of the CJIS board and Bailey was reinstated to have CJIS access, which would no longer prohibit him his peace officer license suspension.

Motion by Member Stromberg that once CJIS access is confirmed to reinstate Bailey's peace officer license to active, seconded by Member Stefonowicz. All in favor motion passed.

WAIVER REQUEST

Allison Clifford Basic Academy waiver. Derek Zimmel spoke via Teams advising the Board that Clifford sustained an injury which would prevent her from completing the current basic class and asked for a waiver for her to attend the summer basic instead.

Motion to grant the waiver made by Member Armstrong, seconded by Member Stromberg. All in favor motion passed.

TRAINING FUND REQUESTS

Special Agent Ed Carter from NDBCI representing the ND Peace Officer Association Working Committee on Drugs appeared by Teams requesting funding for the upcoming Conference. SA Carter is requesting \$15,000.00 for speakers and their travel/lodging expenses. SA Carter explained the conference and its attendees and answered questions from the Board.

Motion made by Member Armstrong to fund \$8,000.00 and the money not to be utilized by out-of-state attendees only in state attendees, seconded by Member Suda. All in favor motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Administrative rules review. Attorneys Ensrud and Mickelson (Teams) are available for questions. Attorney Mickelson advised that the board should approve them in the required format.

Motion by Member Suda to approve the administrative rule changes as presented, seconded by Member James. All in favor motion passed.

Next step is for a public hearing where a Board Member and the Executive Secretary present for it.

2. Settlement agreements. Executive Secretary Helfrich advised the Board that most of the settlement agreements came back signed and are currently caught up with them.

3. Legislative committee. Decision to create a legislative committee. Members were asked to volunteer. Members Savageau, Stromberg, Stefonowicz, and Armstrong on the committee. Advised that all meetings will need to be recorded with minutes being posted on website.

4. Matrix guideline. Chairman Cianni brought up concerns that we are setting precedent on suspensions longer than revocations. Administrative rule only says that they have to wait one year before requesting a hearing in front of the Board. 12-63-12 may need legislative change for clarification.

5. IADLEST conference update. There will be four members attending the conference this year. Members Cianni, Hutchinson, Helfrich, Linder

6. Travis Tesch asked Executive Helfrich to request probationary status now that he's registered for the required trainings POST mandated in his agreement. The agreement stated that the board may grant probationary status. This would allow him to look for a job in law enforcement.

Motion denying probationary status by Member Savageau, seconded by Member Stefonowicz. Members Armstrong and Suda voted no. Members James, Hutchinson, Savageau, Stefonowicz, Stromberg, and Chairman Cianni voted yes. Motion passed with majority vote.

7. Complaint system. Executive Helfrich and Attorney Ensrud have been unable to find time to get one set up and will continue to work on getting one available to review for the Board.

ADVERSE ACTIONS/COMPLAINTS

Jesse Kubik

Settlement agreement was denied and a hearing was requested by Kubik's attorney, Chris Redmann.

Motion was made to draft a complaint and send it to an Administrative Law Judge for a hearing made by Member Stromberg, seconded by Member Stefonowicz. Motion passes with Chairman Cianni abstained from voting.

James Christoff

Executive Secretary Helfrich notified the board that contact was made to James Christoff, who advised that after the DUI charge, he no longer has an attorney. Executive Helfrich advised due to no contact from his attorney is why the delay in presenting to the board. Discussion by board members felt that there was not a lot of information from the accident and subsequent arrest.

Member Stromberg made a motion that Christoff violated the code of conduct 109-02-05-01(4c), seconded by Member Savageau. All in favor motion passed.

Motion by Member Stromberg to begin adverse action on Christoff's peace officers license, seconded by Member Stefonowicz. All in favor motion passed.

Motion by Member Armstrong to direct the Executive Secretary to draft a complaint and summons Christoff to appear at the May 14th Special Meeting to answer questions from the Board, seconded by Member Stromberg. All in favor motion passed. (it should be noted that Member James left the meeting before this vote).

Luke Schany

Schany pled guilty to a reckless driving charge (B Misdemeanor) An internal investigation was completed by West Fargo PD. Schany was suspended for 2 weeks without pay and ordered to meet with a counselor through the RST program every other week for 3 months. He was fined \$800 and is on unsupervised probation until 1/18/27 from District court.

Motion by Member Stromberg that Schany violated the code of conduct 109-02-05-01 (4c), seconded by Member Savageau. All in favor motion passed.

Motion by Member Stromberg to begin adverse action against Schany's peace officers license, seconded by Member Hutchinson. All in favor motion passed.

Motion made by Member Stromberg to suspend Schany's license for 14 days to run concurrently with West Fargo's suspension and the judgement from District Court and to direct the Executive Secretary to draft a settlement agreement for Schany to sign, seconded by Member Hutchinson. All in favor motion passed.

Nate Anderson

Anderson was charged with killing the wrong species of deer (B misdemeanor) and illegally possessing big game (A misdemeanor). The recordings from the incident show Anderson being deceptive.

Motion made by Member Stromberg that Anderson violated the code of conduct 109-02-05-01 (4c), seconded by member Savageau. All in favor motion passed.

Motion made by Member Stromberg to start adverse action against Anderson's peace officers license, seconded by Member Hutchinson. All in favor motion passed.

Motion made by Member Armstrong to direct the Executive Secretary to draft a complaint and notice of hearing for Anderson to appear before the Board at the May 14 Special Meeting, seconded by Member Hutchinson. All in favor motion passed.

Brenden Edner

Internal investigation by Cass Co Sheriff's Office, regarding alternative tactics De-Escalation, Use of Force violation, pain compliance, unacceptable conduct, and performance. Edner was terminated by Cass County, and the investigation was forwarded to POST.

Motion made by Member Stromberg that Edner violated the code of conduct 109-02-05-01 (4e), seconded by Member Armstrong. All in favor motion passed.

Motion to start adverse action against Edner's peace officers license made by Member Stromberg, seconded by Member Hutchinson. All in favor motion passed.

Motion made by Member Armstrong to direct the Executive Secretary to draft a complaint and notice of hearing for the May 14 special meeting, seconded by Member Suda. All in favor motion passed.

Adam Boll

Boll was charged with a game violation in Minnesota a non-criminal misdemeanor, illegally baiting deer. Discussion by the board on the non-criminal violation, which equals to a infraction in ND.

Motion to take no action on Boll's peace officers license made by Member Stromberg, seconded by Member Armstrong. All in favor motion passed.

Robert Shipp

Robert Shipp was convicted in SD for vehicular battery a class 4 felony. Shipp hit a pedestrian on his motorcycle and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Shipp's peace officers license expired 12/31/25 and was inactive maintaining status.

Motion made by Member Stromberg that Shipp violated the code of conduct 109-02-05-01 (4c), seconded by Member Savageau. All in favor motion passed.

Motion to start adverse action on Shipp's peace officers license made by Member Stromberg, seconded by Member Hutchinson. All in favor motion passed.

Motion made by Member Armstrong to direct the Executive Secretary to draft a letter of settlement revoking Shipp's peace officers license, seconded by Member Suda. All in favor motion passed.

Tim Meyer

Tim Meyer had an accidental discharge of his weapon and was charged with Discharge of a Firearm within the City (B misdemeanor). A pretrial diversion was signed where Meyer no commit any felony, misdemeanor or infractions for 6 months after which it will be dismissed with the following conditions, complete a firearm safety course with 120 days.

Motion made by Member Stromberg that Meyer violated the code of conduct 109-02-05-01 (4c), seconded by Member Stefonowicz. Motion passed with Chairman Cianni abstaining from voting.

Motion to start adverse action against Meyer's license made by Member Stromberg and seconded by Member Savageau. Motion passes with Chairman Cianni abstaining from voting.

Motion made by Member Stromberg to direct the Executive Secretary to draft a settlement agreement in concurrent to the pretrial diversion unless declined by Meyer then to direct the Executive Secretary to draft a complaint and notice of hearing for the May 14 special meeting, seconded by Member Hutchinson. Motion passes with Chairman Cianni abstaining from voting.

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the last meeting were not presented and will be presented at the May meeting for November 2025 and February 2026 meetings.

RATIFICATION OF LICENSES

Limited licenses and reserve licenses were presented to the board for ratification. 46 initial and no reserve licenses.

Motion from member Hutchinson made a motion to ratify the licenses, seconded by member Armstrong. All in favor, motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial report overview. Executive Secretary Helfrich advised that he would be moving \$100,000.00 from Checking to the Third-Party Sweep account. All accounts showing a total of \$574,458.45

Motion to approve as presented by Member Suda, seconded by Member Stromberg. All in favor motion passed.

ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Cianni adjourned the meeting at 4:47 PM