

**MINUTES OF THE
PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS
AND TRAINING BOARD
LETA
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
May 14, 2026**

MEMBERS' PRESENT

Evan Savageau
Joe Cianni
Travis Stefonowicz via Teams
Dave Stromberg
Steve Armstrong via Teams
Amy Suda

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lyn James
Roger Hutchinson

LEGAL COUNSEL

Jeremy Ensrud

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Pat Helfrich	Executive Secretary
Jessica Linder	Administrative Officer

GUESTS SPEAKING TO BOARD

Other listeners joined via Teams

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Joe Cianni called the meeting to order at 09:01 A.M.
Secretary Helfrich took the roll

ADVERSE ACTION

James Christoff 25-004

James Christoff appeared via Teams before the board. Christoff was advised of the procedural process and appeared without an attorney.

Attorney for the POST board Jeremy Ensrud asked Christoff to explain to the board the accident and his subsequent arrest.

Christoff explained the day before the accident and the events after the accident and answered questions by the board members.

Motion made by Member Armstrong that James Christoff violated the Code of Conduct 109-02-05-01 subsection 4c, seconded by member Savageau. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion made by Member Armstrong to start adverse action in accordance with NDCC 12-63-12, seconded by Member Savageau. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion made by Member Stromberg to suspend Christoff's peace officer license until 12/31/26 and Christoff needs to submit a copy of the Drug/Alcohol evaluation he completed to the POST Board, seconded by Member Suda. All in favor, motion passed.

John Maritato – complaint

Executive Secretary Helfrich advised the board of the complaint against Maritato. The incident occurred when Maritato was an instructor and was not acting as a peace officer. Maritato was remediated for his actions and emailed an apology to the complainant (April Monigold).

Motion made by Member Suda to direct the Executive Secretary to draft a letter of declination to the complainant, seconded by Member Stromberg. All in favor, motion passed.

Marcus Ramsay – Termination

Executive Secretary Helfrich advised the Board about the termination of Ramsay and BCI's investigation into the termination claiming theft. A letter from the AG's office declining to prosecute Ramsay was presented to the Board.

Chairman Cianni asked for motions, none made, no action taken by Board.

Bismarck PD officers Scott Betz, Marshall Olson, Benjamin Swenson – complaint

Executive Secretary Helfrich advised the board of the complaint and further explanation was given by Attorney Ensrud. The complaint stated that the complainant (Travis Monigold) was wrongfully acted upon on his registered sex offender status. Executive Secretary Helfrich advise the Board that the complaint was sent to Bismarck PD for internal review\investigation. Bismarck PD investigated the complaint and supplied an email from NDIRF stating that at the time the complainant was registered as a lifetime sex offender and was later reduced from that status, that the Bismarck PD were acting in good faith based on the facts they had at that time. Attorney Ensrud confirmed this from his knowledge of the facts.

Motion made by Member Savageau to direct the Executive Secretary to draft a letter of declination to the complainant, seconded by Member Suda. All in favor, motion passed.

Nathan Anderson 26-002 – update

Executive Secretary Helfrich advised the Board of the pre-trial diversion with the court.

Board wants to continue with adverse action. Executive Secretary to mail complaint to Anderson and to set a hearing for next special meeting date for Anderson to come before the Board to explain his actions or to request a hearing with an ALJ.

Brandon Edner 26-001 – update

Attorney Ensrud updated the board and has been in contact with Edner's attorney Erica Hovey.

Board wants to continue with adverse action. Executive Secretary to mail complaint to Edner's attorney and to set a hearing for next special meeting date for Anderson to come before the Board to explain his actions or to request a hearing with an ALJ.

Jesse Kubik 25-009 – update

Attorney Ensrud gave an update and notified the Board of what code of conduct Kubik violated. Ensrud supplied an updated complaint before the board to consider.

Motion made by Member Stromberg to change the complaint to Kubik violating the code of conduct 109-02-05-01 subsections 4c and 4g, seconded by Member Savageau. Chairman Cianni abstained, all others in favor, motion passed.

Motion made by Member Stromberg to suspend Kubik's peace officer license for 1 year backdating it to his resignation from Dickinson PD, seconded by Member Suda. Chairman Cianni abstained, all others in favor, motion passed.

Luke Schany 26-003

Executive Secretary Helfrich advised the Board that the settlement agreement was completed.

Timothy Meyer 26-005

Executive Secretary Helfrich advised the Board that the settlement agreement was completed.

Robert Shipp 26-004

Executive Secretary Helfrich advised the Board that the settlement agreement was mailed off and has not received the signed agreement back yet.

Motion by Member Suda to proceed with a complaint and set the date for the next special meeting, seconded by Member Stromberg. All in favor, motion passed.

Carson Quam 24-012

Executive Secretary Helfrich advised the Board that Quam pled guilty to 5 counts of possession of certain materials prohibited.

Motion by Member Armstrong that Quam violated the code of conduct 109-02-05-01 subsection 4c, seconded by Member Savageau. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion made by Member Armstrong to start adverse action in accordance with NDCC 12-63-12, seconded by Member Stromberg. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion made by Member Suda directing the Executive Secretary to draft a settlement agreement for revocation of Quam's peace officer license and if Quam does not sign to continue with a complaint and set a hearing date, seconded by Member Armstrong. All in favor, motion passed.

Daniel Christensen 24-021

Executive Secretary Helfrich advised that Christensen was federally charged for possession of certain materials prohibited. A suspension letter was sent and returned to POST. Attorney Ensrud advised that Chris Redmann is Christensen's attorney and directed Executive Secretary Helfrich to send the letter through Redmann.

Ryan Birney – terminated

Executive Secretary Helfrich advised the Board of Birney's termination from West Fargo PD. Birney failed to follow up on numerous investigations assigned to him. Birney failed to close investigations even when directed by supervisor.

Discussion on if West Fargo PD was going to charge Birney with a crime and also the failure of West Fargo PD with no oversight on Birney and his investigations etc.

Chairman Cianni asked for a motion, none made. No action by Board.

Andrew Givens

Executive Secretary Helfrich advised the Board of criminal charges on Givens. Board waiting on action pending court proceedings.

Travis Carlson – update

Executive Secretary Helfrich advised the Board that Carlson was criminally charged for false information on a gun purchase application. Board waiting on action pending court proceedings.

Rey Hennen – update

Executive Secretary advised no news on the court proceedings on Hennen. Attorney Ensrud advised the Board of motions of fitness to stand trial. Board waiting on action pending court proceedings.

Fargo PD officers Oshane West, Matt Christensen, Abraham Moilan, Adam Mandour – complaint

Executive Secretary Helfrich advised the Board of the complaint against the officers by the complainant (Rose Patel). Executive Helfrich advised the Board that the complaint was sent to the Fargo PD for review/investigation of the complaint. Fargo PD sent a response to the allegations in the complaint. POST Board reviewed the response and concurred with their response.

Motion made by Member Armstrong to authorize the Executive Secretary to draft a letter of declination, seconded by Member Savageau. Chief Stefonowicz abstained, all others in favor, motion passed.

Elliot Carvell – complaint

Executive Secretary Helfrich advised the Board of the complaint from April Ison. Executive Secretary advised the board that the complaint is claiming hiring violations against the law. Executive Secretary Helfrich sent the complaint to Burleigh Co SO for review/investigation of the complaint. Burleigh Co SO provided a response to the complaint to the POST Board stating that no hiring practice was violated. POST Board reviewed the response and concurred with their response.

Motion made by Member Suda to authorize Executive Secretary Helfrich to draft a letter of declination, seconded by Member Savageau. All in favor, motion passed.

ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Chairman Cianni announced that the August meeting(s) would be his last. Executive Secretary Helfrich will get approvals for replacements from AG Wrigley.

Discussion on starting the meetings at 0800 or 0900 and possibly getting through everything in one day. Discussion ongoing.

Member Armstrong mentioned creating a PFN form for any waiver to the POST Board versus a letter or email. Board agreed and Members Armstrong and Stromberg will come up with samples to view.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Cianni adjourned the meeting at 11:19 AM