

**MINUTES OF THE  
PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS  
AND TRAINING BOARD  
LETA  
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA  
November 12, 2025**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Evan Savageau  
Joe Cianni  
Roger Hutchinson  
Travis Stefonowicz  
Dave Stromberg  
Frank Eberle  
Lyn James  
Steve Armstrong  
Amy Suda via Teams

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**LEGAL COUNSEL**

Jeremy Ensrud

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Pat Helfrich	Executive Secretary
Jessica Linder	Administrative Officer

**GUESTS**

Tracy Meidinger  
Chris Redmann  
Matthew Beland  
Sarah Kyte  
Joanna Mathurin via Teams  
Chris Hutton via Teams  
Travis Tesch  
Jesse Walstad

## **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chairman Joe Cianni called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Secretary Helfrich took the roll, all members present, member Suda attended via Teams.

## **BELAND ADVERSE ACTION**

POST board hearing the matter on Matthew Beland. POST board called Chief Deputy Stromberg, Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Chris Hutton Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office, Administrative officer Megan Lacey Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office, and Tracy Meidinger, UND Police Department to testify.

Attorney for Matthew Beland called Matthew Beland and Sarah Kyte to testify.

Witnesses answered questions from the attorneys. No questions were asked by board members to any of the witnesses.

Member Hutchinson made a motion that Matthew Beland violated the code of conduct 109-02-05-01 (4)(e), motion seconded by member Suda.

Motion failed, yes votes by members Hutchinson, James, and Suda and no votes by members Eberle, Armstrong, Savageau, Stefonowicz and Cianni, with member Stromberg abstaining from the vote.

## **JOANNA MATHURIN ADVERSE ACTION**

POST board hearing the matter on Joanna Mathurin. Mathurin joined via Teams without an attorney representing her.

Mathurin was not denying the allegations from the complaint but wanted to make a statement to the board.

The board did not call any witnesses from Cass Co SO.

Mathurin answered questions from the board and POST attorney Ensrud.

Member Armstrong made a motion that Joanna Mathurin violated the code of conduct 109-02-05-01 (4)(e), seconded by member Stefonowicz. All in favor motion passed.

Member Armstrong made a motion to start adverse action on Mathurin's peace officer license, seconded by member Hutchinson. 8 yes votes and 1 no vote by member Suda, motion passed.

Member Armstrong made a motion to revoke Mathurin's license, seconded by member Savageau. 8 yes votes and 1 no vote by member Suda, motion passed.

### **TRAVIS TESCH ADVERSE ACTION**

POST board hearing on the matter of Travis Tesch. Tesch was present with his attorney Jesse Walstad.

The POST board reviewed the proposed settlement by Tesch and his attorney in response to the complaint stating that Tesch violated the code of conduct 109-02-05-01(4)(c).

Discussion by the board on the proposed settlement by Tesch and his attorney Walstad and received clarification and advise by the POST attorney Ensrud.

Member Stromberg made a motion to deny the settlement agreement and to continue negotiations, seconded by member James. All in favor motion passed.

Motion was made by member Stromberg to table the negotiations until the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, so the board could consider other adverse action settlement to present to Tesch and his attorney, seconded by member Suda. All in favor, motion passed.

### **COLE SCHMIDT ADVERSE ACTION**

POST board hearing on the matter of Cole Schmidt. Schmidt's attorney Jeff Sprout had submitted an answer to the complaint. Schmidt declined to be present or to contest the action and only wanted his submitted answer and adverse action request through his attorney to be considered by the board.

Board members reviewed the answer which was provided prior to the meeting.

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

Member Stromberg made a motion to start adverse action against Schmidt's peace officers license, seconded by member Armstrong. All in favor, motion passed.

Member Stromberg made a motion to suspend Schmidt's peace officers license for 30 days beginning on November 12, 2025, seconded by member Savageau. All in favor, motion passed.

### **ADAM O'BRIEN ADVERSE ACTION**

POST board hearing on the matter of Adam O'Brien. O'Brien contacted executive secretary Helfrich to state his decision not to attend or contest the adverse action.

Executive secretary Helfrich advised the board of O'Briens' decision.

Member Stromberg made a motion that O'Brien violated the code of conduct 109-02-05-01(4)(g), seconded by member Savageau. 8 members voted yes, member Stefonowicz abstained.

Member Armstrong made a motion to start adverse action on O'Briens' peace officers license, seconded by member James. 8 members voted yes, member Stefonowicz abstained.

Member Stromberg made a motion to revoke O'Briens' peace officers license, seconded by member James. 8 members voted yes, member Stefonowicz abstained.

### **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Cianni adjourned the meeting at 4:17 PM