

**MINUTES OF THE  
PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS  
AND TRAINING BOARD  
LETA  
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA  
November 13, 2025**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Evan Savageau  
Joe Cianni  
Roger Hutchinson  
Travis Stefonowicz  
Dave Stromberg  
Frank Eberle arrived at 9:24 AM  
Lyn James via Teams  
Steve Armstrong  
Amy Suda via Teams

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**LEGAL COUNSEL**

Jeremy Ensrud

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Pat Helfrich	Executive Secretary
Jessica Linder	Administrative Officer

**GUESTS**

Lyle Sinclair	Bismarck PD
Tristan Tokach	Bismarck PD
Todd Schwarz	Mercer Co States Atty.
Terry Ternes	Mercy Co Sheriff
Sara Yantzer	Mercer Co SO

others 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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Introduction of new member Amy Suda from NDACo to the POST board.

Dates for 2026 Regular and Special meetings. Regular meeting time start will be 11:00 AM and the next day will be the special meeting if needed and start time will be 9:00 AM.

February 18, 2026, 11:00 AM

February 19, 2026, 9:00 AM

May 13, 2026, 11:00 AM

May 14, 2026, 9:00 AM

August 5, 2026, 11:00 AM

August 6, 2026, 9:00 AM

November 18, 2026, 11:00 AM

November 19, 2026, 9:00 AM

Genius/Blackboard update.

Chairman Cianni presented concerns about the software, stating that he's received a lot of complaints and heard they filed bankruptcy. Member Savageau and Executive secretary Helfrich advised the board that the bankruptcy was for restructuring and did not affect Genius/Blackboard. Member Savageau advised that LETA has created a 4-hour course to assist agencies having difficulties with Genius. Executive Secretary Helfrich advised that a lot of the problems they are experiencing is due to them not starting at the beginning of the guidebook and working to where they need to go but are instead starting where they want to be missing the parts that are necessary causing confusion and frustration.

Member Hutchinson made a motion on behalf of the ND Sheriff and Deputy Association. The motion was to keep the training hours at 60 every 3 years and to increase online training from 20 to 40 hours, seconded by member James. Members James, Hutchinson, and Suda voted yes, all other members voted no. Motion failed. POST to keep the proposed increase to be presented to the administrative rules board for 75 hours, with 50 hours online, and 6 hours of POST mandated training.

Discussion on starting a legislative committee, tabled until the February 2023 meeting.

## **WAIVER REQUEST**

Limited license waiver for Sara Yantzer. Mercer Co Sheriff Ternes and Mercer Co States Atty. Todd Schwarz along with Sara Yantzer appeared in front of the board requesting a waiver. Yantzer was charged and pled guilty to felony charge of theft 20 years ago. Sara currently works in the correctional center in Mercer and was in the military. Sara answered questions by the board and heard from the sheriff and states atty.

Member Hutchinson made a motion to approve the waiver and grant a limited license to Sara Yantzer, seconded by member Suda. All in favor, motion passed.

## **TRAINING FUND REQUESTS**

Bismarck PD officers Sinclair and Tokach appeared before the POST board requesting funds for training.

requesting \$3100.00 for the Will to Survive. Sinclair and Tokach answered questions from the board.

Member Armstrong made a motion to fund \$1600.00, seconded by member Hutchinson. All in favor, Eberle missed this vote, motion passed.

Requesting \$15,000 for Vehicle based Firearms Applications for Law Enforcement. Tokach answered questions from the board and described what the course entailed.

Member Armstrong made a motion to deny funding for this course, seconded by member Stromberg. All in favor, Eberle missed this vote, motion passed. Executive secretary Helfrich advised Sinclair and Tokach to reach out to Rob Sanderson about possible funding by Gaming funds.

Member Hutchinson appeared for Sheriff Hunt on behalf of the NDSDA conference requesting \$5000.00 for speaker Dr. Miller's leadership course.

Member Stefonowicz made a motion to approve \$5000.00 for the conference, seconded by member Eberle. All in favor, member Hutchinson abstained, motion passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The matrix for adverse actions. Committee member Stromberg presented the board with the latest version of the matrix. Chairman Cianni had a concern over one point and asked the board to review the matrix and submit any questions or suggestions to member Stromberg and to discuss it on the February 2026 meeting. A question was brought up about if the matrix would need to be approved by the administrative rule board or not. Follow up by attorney Ensrud on this for the next meeting in February 2026 meeting.

Executive Secretary Helfrich advised the board that Attorney Ensrud and himself have not put anything together but hoped to have something by the February 2026 meeting.

## **ADVERSE ACTIONS/COMPLAINTS**

### **Travis Tesch**

Follow-up from November 12 special meeting. Tesch and his attorney were not present and discussed a settlement.

Member Armstrong made a motion to counteroffer with a revocation on Tesch's peace officer license for 6 months retroactive from August 17, 2025, to February 17, 2026, and to attend domestic violence, child abuse, evidence processing and basic criminal investigations to be completed at LETA before February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026, motion seconded by member Stromberg. All in favor, motion passed. Attorney Ensrud would advise Tesh's attorney of the voted settlement.

Attorney Ensrud advised the board that he heard back from Tesch's attorney. They offered a suspension versus revocation and agreed to everything else.

Member Stromberg made a motion to decline the counteroffer and continue with the last offer of revocation and the training, seconded by member Savageau. All in favor, motion passed.

Attorney Walstad asked to allow him and Tesch to discuss this and asked for a deadline of November 17 to respond. Board okayed this.

### **Tyler Pich**

Pich was a reserve deputy for Cass Co SO pled guilty to reckless driving and the DUI was dismissed on 10/2/25 in Cass Co. Cass Co SO terminated his employment.

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

Member Stromberg made a motion to start adverse action on Pich's reserve officers license, seconded by member Savageau. All in favor, motion passed.

Member Stromberg made a motion to authorize attorney Ensrud and executive secretary Helfrich to offer a settlement agreement of 30 days suspended effective from November 13, 2025. All in favor, motion passed.

### **Alisha Ettesvold**

Alisha worked for Cass Co SO. Alisha was late for a training and a supervisor smelled alcohol on her person. Alisha took a breath test and her reported BAC was .078. Cass Co SO terminated her employment.

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

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

Member Stromberg made a motion to authorize attorney Ensrud and executive secretary Helfrich to offer a settlement agreement of 30 days suspended beginning November 13, 2025 and have an alcohol evaluation done, seconded by member Savageau. All in favor, motion passed.

## **Casey Ahmann**

Ahmann was investigated for a possible domestic violation by the Devils Lake PD. The PD determined that it was a mutual fight, and no arrest was made, and prosecution was declined by the state's attorney. Sheriff Lang submitted the report to the POST board for review.

No motion made.

## **James Christoff**

Christoff pled guilty to reckless driving on 8/28/25. Executive secretary Helfrich advised that contact to his attorney failed and advised the board that Executive secretary Helfrich would attempt contact with Christoff to advise of the complaint.

## **Jesse Kubik**

Kubik's internal investigation was brought before the POST board. Kubik was investigated for harassment of females working at the Dickinson PD. Kubik resigned from the Dickinson PD.

Member Stromberg made a motion that Kubik violated the code of conduct 109-02-05-01(4)(g), seconded by member Savageau. All in favor, with Chairman Cianni abstaining, motion passed.

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

Member Stromberg made a motion to authorize attorney Ensrud and Executive secretary Helfrich to offer a settlement agreement of 3 years suspension effective November 13, 2025, seconded by member Armstrong. All in favor, with Chairman Cianni abstaining, motion passed.

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of the meetings from August 20, 2025, regular meeting and October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, special meeting were presented to the board. Minutes approved as presented.

## **RATIFICATION OF LICENSES**

Limited licenses and reserve licenses were presented to the board for ratification. 34 initial and no reserve licenses.

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

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Financial report overview. No questions from the board. Approved as submitted.

## **ITEMS FROM MEMBERS**

Member Armstrong brought up the POST board backing a mental health legislative bill. Chairman Cianni stated that this would be better adopted by the chiefs of police association and the sheriff's association.

## **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Cianni adjourned the meeting at 3:43 PM