

**MINUTES OF THE
PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS
AND TRAINING BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING via TEAMS
September 21, 2026**

MEMBERS' PRESENT via TEAMS

Evan Savageau
Joe Cianni
Travis Stefonowicz
Dave Stromberg
Steve Armstrong
Frank Senn (Note that member Senn had computer issues and was unable to vote but could hear the meeting)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Amy Suda
Roger Hutchinson
Lyn James

LEGAL COUNSEL

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Pat Helfrich	Executive Secretary
Jessica Linder	Administrative Officer

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Joe Cianni called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.
Secretary Helfrich took the roll call. This meeting was done via Teams

WAIVER REQUESTS

McIntosh County Sheriff, Steve Delzer joined via Teams. Sheriff Delzer advised the Board that he had terminated the employment of an officer and his newest officer Barry Mueller was slated to attend the basic at the end of the month. Sheriff Delzer stated that with him being at basic he would be the only officer for the county. Discussion by the Board of whether the Sheriff would be able to hire an already licensed officer to replace the terminated officer, or if he would have to hire one with a limited license, which would only continue shortage for his agency.

Motion made by member Senn to grant the waiver for Mueller for the January basic. No second. Waiver denied with no second motion.

Burleigh County Sgt. McLeish joined via Teams requesting waivers for two officers to attend the next basic academy due to them finishing their field training. Brian Kinsella and John Vander Poel are to attend the September basic academy. Discussion by board members that Burleigh's field training for the officers was in the ending stages of 2-3 weeks for each officer and they would like to complete prior to the basic.

Motion made by member Savageau to approve the waiver for Brian Kinsella, seconded by member Armstrong. Attending members all voted yes except chairman Cianni who voted no. Motion passed waiver approved. Member Senn unable to vote due to computer problems

Motion made by member Savageau to approve the waiver for John Vander Poel, seconded by member Armstrong. Attending members all voted yes except chairman Cianni who voted no. Motion passed waiver approved. Member Senn unable to vote due to computer problems

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REVIEW

Minutes of the legislative review committee were discussed by the Board on what changes were recommended by the committee. Chairman Cianni discussed the funding for trainings that's legislatively granted and questioned increasing the amount to \$400,000.00 per biennium. Member Savageau advised that historically the fund was at \$400,000.00 and was reduced to \$225,000.00. Executive Secretary Helfrich advised Chairman Cianni that with the legislative cap that was set last session, that agencies would not be able to send officers to trainings out of state as frequently as they had and that trainings would need to be brought into the state for continuing training especially if the administrative rule board approves the training hour increase. Chairman Cianni asked about the online training project with ND insurance reserve fund and asked if the money for that would come out of the legislative funding. Executive Secretary Helfrich advised that that funding would come from POST and not the legislative funding.

Chairman Cianni asked if there were any other questions or concerns about the proposed legislative changes. No questions or concerns by attending members. Chairman Cianni approved with no questions or concerns by board.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Cianni adjourned the meeting at 3:44 PM