

**MINUTES OF THE
PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS
AND TRAINING BOARD
LETA
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
August 20, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

LEGAL COUNSEL

Jeremy Ensrud

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Pat Helfrich	Executive Secretary
Jessica Linder	Administrative Officer

GUESTS

Kevin Howe	Surrey PD
Robert Hulett	Dunseith PD
Jesse Jahner	Cass County Sheriff
Dylan Nygard	
Leslie Rowan	Psychologist Grand Forks Teams
Casey Brosten	Dunn County SO
Jesse Castle	Cass County SO
Erik Dietrich	ND Parks and Recreation
Adrian Martinez	NDHP

5 others joined via Teams

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Leslie Rowan appeared via Teams. Dr. Rowan is requesting to be a POST approved psychological provider.

The board received Dr. Rowan's license information prior to the meeting. No questions were asked of Dr. Rowan.

Member James made a motion to accept Dr. Rowan as a POST approved psychological provider, seconded by member Stromberg. All in favor, motion passed.

A letter from Jessica Reffner to have the less than honorable discharge or administrative discharge from the military, changed in the administrative rules. After discussion it was deemed that it's not necessary to change the administrative rule, and that it's up to the agency to hire and then request a waiver to the board as there are many variations of less than honorable or administrative discharge from the military.

Reciprocity waiver for Dante Fiorerosso. Chief Howe attended the meeting. Fiorerosso is in the national guards and had his annual 2-week guard training during the reciprocity class at LETA. Executive Helfrich explained that the reason Fiorerosso did not attend an earlier reciprocity class was because of the transition from the old RMS system to the new RMS system, he was not transferred over and was missed to enroll into an earlier class.

Member Stromberg made a motion to reinstate Fiorerosso's limited license and grant his waiver to attend the reciprocity class December 1-12, 2025, seconded by member Armstrong. All in favor, motion passed.

Waiver for Dylan Nygard for a limited license. Chief Robert Hulett and Dylan Nygard appeared before the board. Dylan Nygard was arrested for a DUI in 2022 in Tennessee, a Class A misdemeanor.

Member Armstrong made a motion to table the waiver until more documentation could be provided to the board, motion seconded by member Savageau. All in favor, motion passed.

Chief Hulett advised that he believed he could obtain the necessary documentation before the board adjourned.

Reciprocity waiver for Mohamed Ali from Cass Co SO. Sheriff Jahner appeared before the board. Cass county has a policy that Correctional officer 3's must be licensed peace officer's as their duties include transporting inmates to doctor appointments and sometimes staying at the hospital if an inmate is admitted. Sheriff Jahner advised that they are currently down several CO 3's and needed Ali to continue to work at the Cass Co Correctional Center due to manpower shortage.

Member Armstrong made a motion to reinstate Ali's limited license and grant the reciprocity waiver for December 1-12, 2025, basic reciprocity class, motion seconded by member Eberle. All in favor, motion passed.

Deputy Casey Brosten requested 300 training hours for Force Science Advanced Specialist course. Deputy Brosten attended the Force Science course online. The course was 300 hours, and 50 POST approved. Deputy Brosten was requesting all 300 hours to be credited on his POST transcript versus the 50 hours. Executive Helfrich informed the board that any course that is IADLEST NCP certified does not need to be POST approved prior to attending and that ND grants what is approved by IADLEST NCP, and the hours attended did not diminish what he attended, only what was put on his transcript.

Motion made by member Stromberg to deny the full 300 and to keep the 50 hours due to past attendees not getting credit for the 300 hours, motion seconded by member Stefonowicz. All in favor, motion passed.

Chief Hulett and Dylan Nygard re-appeared before the board with the required documents.

After discussion member Eberle made a motion to waive the time constraints of 5 years on a Class A misdemeanor charge, no second, motion dies. Chairman Cianni advised Dylan to continue his current path and to come back later to the board to request a waiver again.

Executive Helfrich advised the board that three peace officers licenses were suspended. Madison Hicks, who failed to qualify for 2025 and must wait 365 days to attempt a qualification. Hicks no longer meets the minimum requirements of a licensed peace officer.

Christopher Bailey's license is suspended due to having been revoked by CJIS for having 2 criminal charges. Due to Bailey's CJIS revocation, Bailey no longer meets the minimum requirements of a licensed peace officer.

Brandon Rittenour's license is suspended due to having been revoked by CJIS for having 2 criminal charges. Due to Rittenour's CJIS revocation, Rittenour no longer meets the minimum requirements of a licensed peace officer.

Complaint system creation. The board decided there should be a clear way for complaints to be filed with the POST board. Asst. A.G. Ensrud and Executive Secretary Helfrich will come up with a template and present it at the next meeting in November.

Executive Helfrich advised the board that NDACO nominated Amy Suda, a commissioner from Walsh County, to replace the vacancy of Matt Odermann. Awaiting confirmation from the Attorney General.

FUNDING REQUESTS

Dunn County SO funding request for \$8600 for the Hades Firearms Marksmanship course. Deputy Casey Brosten appeared in front of the board to answer questions.

Motion by member Armstrong to approve \$8600 or what's left, motion seconded by member Eberle. All in favor, motion passed. Due to 2 other entities paying \$8600 only \$8400 will be left to pay, leaving the course fully paid.

Deputy Jesse Castle with a funding request for \$15,300 for SWAT Hostage Rescue Deliberate vs. Dynamic CQB course.

After discussion member Armstrong made a motion to pay ½ or \$7650 of the requested funds, motion seconded by member Stromberg. All in favor, motion passed.

Capt. Martinez and Lt. Savageau with a funding request for \$100000 for Staff and Command training course. Capt. Martinez advised there has been a lot of interest in this training.

Motion by member Stromberg to approve the \$100000 for the staff and command course to be held at LETA, motion seconded by member Stefonowicz. Member James voted no, member Savageau abstained, all others in favor, motion passed.

Capt. Martinez and Lt. Savageau with a funding request for \$25000 for the LPO leadership course.

Motion made by member Armstrong to approve \$25000 for the LPO leadership course and seconded by member Eberle. Member Savageau abstained from voting. All others in favor, motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Letters sent out from the July 9th special meeting. Asst. A.G. Ensrud stated that letters should be sent out to them as an informal agreement with the option for them to request a hearing in front of the POST board. Board members agreed and authorized Asst. A.G. Ensrud to offer the informal agreement.

The matrix for adverse actions. The board decided to create a matrix and to have a committee. Committee members are Members Stromberg, Stefonowicz, and Eberle.

Executive Helfrich explained what he found on course expiration and that the state has a retention policy of 4 years. Executive Secretary Helfrich advised the board that he is putting expiration dates on courses.

Executive Secretary Helfrich advised that the administrative rule for inactive status maintaining would have to be postponed, since 12-63-11(2) states what constitutes inactive status maintaining and the requirements necessary.

Awards for past POST members, Jesse Jahner, Cass County Sheriff's Office, Erik Dietrich, ND Parks and Recreation, and Adrian Martinez ND Highway Patrol, thanking them for their service on the POST board.

ADVERSE ACTIONS/COMPLAINTS

Matthew Beland. Complaint alleges that Beland violated the code of conduct 109-02-05-01 (4)(e) that Beland willfully lied, omitted, provided false testimony, provided misleading statements information, or falsify written or verbal communications in reports when the information may be relied upon by the courts., state's attorneys, or other law enforcement officials. The complaint alleges that Beland filed a motion in Polk County District Court containing false and misleading information, specifically that Beland didn't receive page 2 of a petition served to him by Chief Deputy Stromberg of the Grand Forks Sheriff's Office.

Member Armstrong made a motion that Beland violated the code of conduct 109-02-05-01 (4)(e) and his actions have a direct bearing on his ability to perform their peace officer duties,

motion seconded by member Stefonowicz, member Stromberg abstained, all other members in favor, motion passed.

Member James made a motion to start adverse action in accordance with NDCC 12-63-12 and direct the executive secretary to draft a complaint and serve the complaint on Beland and serve a notice of hearing for November 12 & 13, 2025, seconded by member Eberle. Member Stromberg abstained, all other members in favor, motion passed.

James Christoff. Christoff was charged with a DUI and was terminated by Oliver Co SO. His case is still pending. The POST board authorized the executive secretary to contact Christoff or his attorney to advise that a complaint has been filed and request the best way to contact him to move forward with adverse action after his case is adjudicated.

Joanna Mathurin. Mathurin had an internal investigation by the Cass Co SO into obtaining food from an inmate who she was guarding at the hospital. During the investigation. Joanna denied the allegations several times until enough proof was provided to where she was unable to deny it. Mathurin resigned from the Cass Co SO. This is in violation of the code of conduct 109-02-05-01 (4)(e) that Beland willfully lied, omitted, provided false testimony, provided misleading statements information, or falsify written or verbal communications in reports when the information may be relied upon by the courts., state's attorneys, or other law enforcement officials.

Member Armstrong made a motion that Mathurin violated the code of conduct 109-02-05-01 (4)(e) and her actions have a direct bearing on her ability to perform their peace officer duties, motion seconded by member Stromberg. All in favor, motion passed.

Member Armstrong made a motion to start adverse action in accordance with NDCC 12-63-12 and direct the executive secretary to draft a complaint and serve the complaint on Mathurin and serve a notice of hearing for November 12 & 13, 2025, seconded by member Stromberg. All in favor, motion passed.

Travis Tesch. Complaint to the board that Tesch violated the officer code of conduct 109-02-05 (4)(c), complaint alleges that Tesch engaged in conduct that is in violation of the criminal laws of the state or federal government or ordinances of a political subdivision. Tesh violated NDCC 12.1-11-06 public servant refusing to perform duty. Investigation covers several years of calls the Tesch received as chief of police of Garrison.

Member Armstrong made a motion that Tesch violated the code of conduct 109-02-05-01 (4)(c) and his actions have a direct bearing on his ability to perform their peace officer duties, motion seconded by member Eberle, all in favor, motion passed.

Member Armstrong made a motion to start adverse action in accordance with NDCC 12-63-15 and direct the executive secretary to draft a complaint and serve the complaint on Tesch and

serve a notice of hearing for October 13, 2025, at 2:00 PD, in accordance 12-63-15 (3), seconded my member Savageau. all in favor, motion passed.

Cole Schmidt. Complaint received stating Schmidt violated the officer code of conduct 109-02-05 (4)(c). Schmidt was charged with Reckless driving and is awaiting a hearing. The POST board authorized the executive secretary to contact Christoff or his attorney to advise that a complaint has been filed and request the best way to contact him to move forward with an adverse action by the POST board after his case is adjudicated.

Adam O'Brien. Complaint received stating O'Brien violated officer code of conduct 109-02-05 (4)(g). Complaint alleges that O'Brien engaged in illegal harassment of intimidation of another individual, or to condone acts of illegal harassment or intimidation by other officers. An internal investigation violated the Fargo PD policy on conduct, harassment, and relationships. O'Brien resigned.

Member Stromberg made a motion that O'Brien violated the code of conduct 109-02-05-01 (4)(g) and his actions have a direct bearing on his ability to perform their peace officer duties, motion seconded by member Savageau. Member Stefonowicz abstained, all other members in favor, motion passed.

Member Armstrong made a motion to start adverse action in accordance with NDCC 12-63-12 and direct the executive secretary to draft a complaint and serve the complaint on O'Brien and serve a notice of hearing for November 12 & 13, 2025, seconded by member Stromberg. Member Stefonowicz abstained, all other members in favor, motion passed.

Travis Carlson. Jeremy Ensrud advised the board that a stipulation was agreed to for a continuation of a hearing until the resolution of the criminal charges with Carlson's attorney, Tanya Johnson Martinez.

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the meetings from May 14, 2025, regular meeting and July 9, special meeting. Minutes approved as presented.

RATIFICATION OF LICENSES

Limited licenses and reserve licenses were presented to the board for ratification. 55 initial and 11 reserve licenses.

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial report overview. No questions from the board.

Copies of reports emailed to members Hutchinson and James

ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Cianni adjourned the meeting at 4:04 PM