

# *Santee Sioux Nation*

## SSN Council Headquarters

Chairman: Alonzo Denney  
Vice-Chairman: Kameron Runnels  
Treasurer: David Henry  
Secretary: Andrea McBride

108 Spirit Lake Ave. W.  
Niobrara, NE 68760-7219  
Phone: (402) 857-2772  
Fax: (402) 857-2367



## Regular Council Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2025

Council Headquarters

10:00 am

1. Call to order – Chairman Denney called meeting to order at 10:09 am
2. Opening prayer – Redwing Thomas
3. Roll Call
  - a. Present – Chairman Alonzo Denney, Vice-Chairman Kameron Runnels, Treasurer David Henry, Secretary Andrea McBride, Bazile Creek District Rep Sandy Henry, Hobu Creek District Rep. Byron Tuttle, Santee District Rep Vietta Swalley, and Howe Creek District Rep Carrie Rouillard
  - b. Quorum established
4. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Chairman Denney asked if there are any changes to the agenda. Andrea wanted to add the approval of minutes from special meeting from March 31, 2025.
  - b. With the addition to the agenda, Chairman asked for a motion to approve the agenda.
    - i. Motion made by Dave Henry
    - ii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
    - iii. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
5. Approval of minutes
  - a. Chairman Denney asked if anyone sees changes needed for the minutes. Hearing none, Chairman asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes from the regular council meeting held on March 12, 2025
    - i. Motion made by Vietta Swalley
    - ii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
    - iii. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
  - b. Chairman Denney asked if anyone sees changes needed for the minutes. Hearing none, Chairman asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes from the special council meeting held on March 31, 2025
    - i. Motion made by Dave Henry
    - ii. Motion seconded by Vietta Swalley
    - iii. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes

6. Head Start – Joyce Thomas

- a. Joyce provided the council with a packet. Joyce wanted to let everyone know that enrollment is still at 24. Katherine said Head Start financials won't be ready until next week, Joyce will send to the council when complete. A letter from facility regarding the application, Joyce needed to request more details from appraiser Roy Smart to make sure he is certified, in-kind needs the chairman's signature, a resolution that needs to be passed regarding the land lease, and they need an environmental assessment, which will take place on May 19<sup>th</sup>. They will apply once approved. Application still listed as a priority. Alonzo asked about going year round but head start did not get approved, mainly because of no space. They want them to expand early head start. She didn't make the deadline for the last application.
- b. No further questions or discussion for Head Start or Joyce Thomas

7. Santee Sioux Nation Housing Authority – Derek LaPointe

- a. Housing here for three things. First thing is to build inventory. We have seven homes that could be homes according to tribal code adopted in 2008. If considered SSTA inventory, this can free up some budgeting. Derek is asking for the SOC house, old RedOwl house, old Jessen house, Springfield home, and homes at ShopEZ property. Derek says these homes would be better suited leased out as homes instead of program homes. Alonzo stated that as board of directors in Isanti he knows the three homes in Yankton are leased out. The other two homes are bought by the clinic. The SOC home could possibly be used. This could be discussion we could have at a later date. Vietta says we have to have RedOwl home for dialysis nurses. Kameron said that maybe in the future we could get future homes for the clinic. Vietta brought up the modular. She said maybe we could bring in another modular and free up RedOwl house, but we need a home for dialysis employees. Derek said with the seven homes, the reality is is that the former housing director was budgeting labor costs which doesn't have to be that way. He said those same seven houses are on the inventory of needed renovation. Looking at end of May all seven of units could be up and operating. The housing is excessive in labor right now. IHBG only budgets for three maintenance people and we currently have 10. He created an organizational chart with teams of three maintenance workers. He could put these homes at least live able. If the tribe says housing could have these homes, housing could maintain them. Home inspections are now happening. By June 10<sup>th</sup> every home will be inspected. Not interested in laying anybody off. We do have the means to utilize them. Kameron did mention that we did request a \$2 million earmark to Smith for housing, but we don't know if it will go through. Kameron stated we will also be talking to Shakopee. He says there are other opportunities where we could get additional funding. Derek says with the additional inventory we could be generating our own. We did get a draft NOFA that NAHASDA funding sources weren't messed with and ICDBG looks like its going to come out and he has 90 days to complete an audit. Derek said it would be nice if the tribe could match any future housing projects. Wants to work with tribe now to look at where we want to put new homes. The NOFA is giving a heads up that there's funding

coming soon. Alonzo said we applied for grant for the lots going down Red Banner Street and the empty lots that are available. Chairman stated we are open to further discussion at a later date. Vietta says if we're looking at future developments, we need to start now. Carrie asked about the other empty houses like Tuffy and Warren Mackey's. Maybe we should consider eminent domain. We never exercised this, but we can. Alonzo said he did ask Conly in the last month to start looking at how we could pursue this.

- b. The second item he has, Derek asked us if we would ask Shakopee for a van for housing housekeeping. Maybe another vehicle too.
  - c. Third thing, the housing has two vacancies on the board. The board used to be with members of each district. He thinks at one point we should give back to the districts and one member of the council would sit on the board. Even if it was a district rep. Right now the board is comprised of three. He thinks the five board members is necessary. Sid asked if he's suggesting the board be selected at elections. Derek thinks yes and at some point this should be given back to the districts. Kameron said he would prefer that each council member should oversee the different boards.
  - d. No further questions or discussions for Derek or Housing
8. Carrie Rouillard – Society of Care
- a. Carrie spoke of the Lb1288 law that was passed by the State. She understands this should have gone to judicial board first, but this is so important and don't want to sit on it any longer. This allows all tribal police to put in an EPC and to transport suicidal individuals to the hospital. Right now only two officers can do it. The suicide prevention committee asks that we also add EMTs to do this as well. We recently ran into an issue where the PD took the child to someone else to do this, but this will allow ALL officers to do transport. She wants to pass it today. This also allows any health professional to administer an EPC. They believe anybody experiencing suicide ideation should be taken by the PD. The suicide prevention committee also has the clinic to create a budget to cover costs but hasn't been finalized. Alonzo asked if a MOU was established with any of the hospitals and Carrie says there hasn't yet. One issue we always run into is payment of transport and stays. Carrie says the MOU was supposed to be created by HEART with Norfolk, but Norfolk denied it. We have Neleigh now that will do assessments over the phone and then we work with one in Lincoln. We tried to set aside beds and pay upfront for them, but they won't let us do that. Alonzo says we are lacking training in this topic. Other staff and individuals need to be trained. Alonzo is in favor of adopting LB1288. Alonzo asks SOC to set up trainings as well. He says the PD needs to be trained of writing the EPCs as well. Vietta says the relationship with Norfolk is getting better, maybe it was the presentation on how an MOU was presented. Alonzo asks what the next steps are. They will set up a training for all PD and EMS. The EPC is a petition to get them there and once they are there they will do an evaluation at the hospital facility. An EPC will book them for 72 hours. If we decide to move forward with this code we will send off to Conly to look over. The only thing different from the states is adding EMS and mental health staff members.
  - b. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to adopt this code.

- i. Motion made by Andrea McBride
    - ii. Motion seconded by Carrie Rouillard
    - iii. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
  - c. No further questions or discussion for SOC or Carrie Rouillard
- 9. EPA Director's report – Alisha Bartling
  - a. EPA is 100 percent funded by grant dollars. They haven't received a dollar from the tribe. There is an umbrella grant performance partnership grant, they apply for various grants and get pulled together. Under PPG they can move 10% funding around to cover other areas. A year ago they got two competitive grants. They received a regional network exchange grant and purchased water probes for five different locations where they can get real time water data. It takes out human error of testing waters. There will be solar power to run this system. The only time they will be taken out is right before freezing. 7 grants under PPG. There are a lot of grants not being going after by game and parks. Tribal fish and wildlife has also got grants through the EPA office. They will be out shocking fish in the next few months. Tribal response program got bilateral structure funds helping head start and other properties throughout the reservation. The Army Corp yellow jacket program is funding an entire \$900,000 project. We have also been awarded through the air program, we were 1 out of 9 chosen. We have been selected by NASA and USDA to put in a Pandora. We are one of 8 sites that will have this in the US. NASA will come install right outside the EPA office. EPA has a lot of grant issues and concerns. The National wetlands grant, started a lot of planning, and then on Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, due to administration, they were told they weren't going to get the funding. \$100,000 or more grants have to go through DOGE. This will probably cause an additional six months for grants to go through. Alisha said with the drawdowns it is very touchy. The reports provided are Feb and March reports. Alisha's main goal is to push for a natural resources department to include land management, game and parks, and Dan.
  - b. No further questions or discussion for EPA office or Alisha Bartling
- 10. Open Floor – Chairman Denney opened the floor for all visitors
  - a. Alonzo just wanted to update on his DC trip. He met with Senator Rounds staff, the Indian Commission of Indian Affairs staffers, Senator Ricketts staff, Deb Fischer herself, Congressman Smith, and USDA's Stephen Hollaceck's office. All the visits confirmed that they will continue to support our water project.
  - b. Carrie brought up us moving the utilities program over to Isanti LLC. Kameron said maybe we could do a slow transition over. We came to the conclusion that we bring in an advisor to help the utilities director better establish her program's billing system and bookkeeping.
- 11. Resolutions
  - a. 2025-25 Allowing Feather Hill to give Teena Denny authorization to sign an ATM placement agreement
    - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-25
    - ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
    - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
    - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes

- b. 2025-26 Consents and commits the purpose of completing application for grant funds from NTIA Tribal Broadband
    - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-26
    - ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
    - iii. Motion seconded by Vietta Swalley
    - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
  - c. 2025-27 Authorizing Treasurer to initiate and finalize documents to facilitate the transaction of earnest revenue from First Dakota
    - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-27
    - ii. Motion made by Vietta Swalley
    - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
    - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
  - d. 2025-28 Head Start 30 year land lease
    - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-28
    - ii. Motion made by Dave Henry
    - iii. Motion seconded by Carrie Rouillard
    - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
  - e. 2025-29 Hazardous Fuels Reduction program contract
    - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-29
    - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
    - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
    - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
  - f. 2025-30 Close two accounts at First Interstate Bank
    - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-30
    - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
    - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
    - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
12. Adjourn
- a. All agenda items have been addressed
    - i. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to adjourn at 1:42 pm
    - ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
    - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
    - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea McBride  
Santee Sioux Nation Council Secretary

