

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 February 12, 2025 Council Headquarters 10:00 am

1. Call to order – Chairman Denney called meeting to order at 10:05 am
2. Opening prayer – Redwing Thomas
3. Roll Call
 - a. Present – Chairman Alonzo Denney, Vice-Chairman Kameron Runnels, Treasurer David Henry, Secretary Andrea McBride, Hobu Creek District Rep Byron Tuttle, Bazile Creek District Rep Sandy Henry, Santee District Rep Vietta Swalley, and Howe Creek District Rep Carrie Rouillard
 - b. All council present. Quorum established
4. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Chairman Denney asked if there are any changes to the agenda. Andrea asked that the selection of the gaming commissioner be added.
 - b. With the addition of the selection of the gaming commissioner, Chairman asked for a motion to approve the agenda.
 - i. Motion made by Vietta Swalley
 - ii. Motion seconded by David 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
 - i. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - ii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iii. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
6. Joyce Thomas – Head Start
 - a. Joyce provided a packet to tribal council. They received a letter from the office of Head Start, they have a new grant specialist. It is Joyce's responsibility to set up a training with the tribal council and policy council in attendance. Andrea will get with Joyce to set this up sometime for March. Joyce doesn't have a financial report at this time, she didn't have much since December was a short month. She asked if there were any questions or comments. Kameron asked if the funding freeze affected them at all. Joyce said no it

hasn't affected them. Vietta asked if the financials were fixed and Joyce said she got with Lavonne and they are fixing it. No further questions or comments.

7. Greg Shepard – Isanti Community School

- a. Greg thanked the council for the support of industrial arts program and the coffee shop. He said they are working as fast as they can and Mr. Beck is doing the best he can. The coffee shop will hopefully be completed sometime in the spring. The main thing he came for is a question or a request. The 3% tax, does this apply to the school district? He asked if it does, would it be possible to have it waived. A piece of this project is the laundromat that he is referring to. This laundromat could also be a store front, allowing kids to sell items. This project gives the kids a hands on experience. He asked if they will need to include this in their budget and to what length would the tax need to cover, this is a 2 million dollar project. This includes elementary and middle school being renovated. There would be three more phases they are looking at in the future. He said the different projects that are coming can be utilized by the whole community. Kameron asked when the planning was started, Mr. Shepard said last September. Alonzo said that all the tax codes are within the boundaries and that includes the school. And ultimately if we taxed the 2 million dollar project, it would be about \$60,000 in tax. He said that would be a wash for us because currently we pay \$60,000 to the Board of Education Land and Trust Fund to rent land so that the school gets the funding. He said this would be a way of us getting some of our funding back. Chairman stated that he is standing firm on the construction tax. He says phase one would be okay not to be taxed, since it is remodeling, but phase two will be taxed since it will all be new construction. He said that's what he would say but it's ultimately up to the whole council. Alonzo asked for some time to let the council go over the code more and discuss this and then we will get back to them.

8. David Henry, Jr. – Boys and Girls Club Director

- a. David provided the council with a packet that included a Safety Assessment and give an update on the progress. The Boys & Girls Club are required to meet with the tribal council, since the council is the acting board of directors, three times a year, this is the first visit. A council member will have to walk through the facility three times a year to go over a checklist to make sure all safety procedures are in place. Vietta asked who did background checks, Dave stated SSN HR did them. Kameron asked if they were open on weekends, yes 7 days. Dave says this is curriculum based reporting. Their goal is to provide 5-12th graders with a card to scan when they visit the club and this data will do reports for them. The Club is a restricted 5th-12th grades. After reviewing, Chairman asked if anyone had any questions. Carrie asked if all other jobs will be posted, they said yes they are preparing the job descriptions now. New hires will have to go through webinar training and Chelsey Chohon will be providing CPR training for all employees. No further questions or comments for David.

9. Pinpoint Consulting – Dennis Carroll

- a. The SSN are now members of Dakota Main Stem, which is a study group looking at rural water for eastern SD, IA, MN, and Northern Nebraska. Clinton needs us to appoint a board member and possibly an alternate. Clinton suggests Kameron as the board

member. Alonzo said he agrees, Kameron has been a champion on our water projects, but he also knows he is a busy man. He said if Kameron is comfortable taking the position, he would be the best person. Kameron said he could handle it as long as there's no travel and there is an alternate.

- i. Motion made by Byron Tuttle to select Kameron Runnels as the board seat for the Dakota Main Stem Committee.
 - ii. Motion seconded by Dave Henry
 - iii. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
 - iv. Motion made by Dave Henry to select Dennis Carroll as the board seat alternative for the Dakota Main Stem Committee
 - v. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - vi. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- b. Clint went to DC and met with Rounds, Smith, Ricketts, Fischer, and USDA RD. Everybody on the hill is struggling in what is going on in the world. They are playing catch up as well, causing uncertainty in Congress. Omnibus funding package that was supposed to come up on March 14 is still up in the air. Our goal is to get an omnibus bill vs a year long continuing resolution. Continuing resolutions doesn't go through with earmarks right away. The Lindy Road was discussed with delegation as well while being in DC. PinPoint did put in a grant application for this project and will put in two additional grants at same amount to make sure project gets through and processed. The hope is that this project is 90 percent designed, Mike Crosley and BIA are currently working on this. In a perfect world this can possibly be a fall 2025 construction or spring 2026.
- c. They met a lot in DC on rural water, this has to move forward. The water sustainability fund we should be getting this funding this week. Our 40 percent match could come from federal funds, these are currently sitting and can't be used until EPA is complete. We are at 30 million dollars worth of funds secured for rural water project. There is a clear path for last 20 million dollars.
- d. Solar Project – grants were submitted, they're hung up in environmental justice things. They will continue to move forward with planning regardless of grant funding ordeal. Two of these projects will be next to the water treatment plants, the power for that will offset the cost of water. No further questions or comments for PinPoint.

Recess at 11:22 and reconvene at 11:30

10. Isanti LLC – Maunka Morgan

- a. Maunka provided the council with a handout of an update of what has been going on within Isanti LLC. (summary available upon request)
- b. Chairman asked if anyone had questions for Maunka. Wakiyan asked if there was any thought on moving the buffalo program to Isanti, LLC. Maunka says once we get more experience with the tribal corporate structure, we can incorporate different programs. Waylon asked if there was a group that was put together for requests. Maunka said not

yet but they are looking at creating a community impact group for requests and donations. Stuart Redwing asked why are we, as tribal members, paying taxes at our stores when we have tax exempt cards. Maunka stated the tribe enacts its own tax law. But with the new code, that has yet to be adopted it, the sales tax will be lowered from 6% down to 5%. So we will see a small decrease once the tribe adopts this code, but ultimately it is up to the tribe. No further questions or comments for Maunka.

11. Selection of Gaming Commissioner

- a. Chairman asked how we would like to vote, the council decided to submit their votes with a secret ballot. The applicants were Tashina Denney and Stuart Redwing.
- b. Tashina received 5 votes, Stuart received 1 vote, and two not voting. Tashina Denney is new gaming commissioner.

12. Open Floor

- a. Mike Oltrogge from the NICC went to DC last week for various requests. But they specifically wanted to remind delegations that we are not considered DEI, we are a trust responsibility. He also said a senator from Alaska asked that all tribes be held free from DEI or any other shut downs. Mike is asking for support from the tribal council when we go to DC and meet with delegation that we continue to bring this up. Alonzo said Roger had talked to him about a petition that will be circulating about the support from tribal elders and asked where they were at with that. Mike stated Roger and Thelma were going to have that available. Kameron wanted to state that the tribal council did send multiple letters to congressional leaders and senators basically saying this exact message, immediately after the first funding freeze. No further questions or comments from or for Mike and/or NICC.
- b. Alonzo brought up the use of the teen center as a new Dakota Language Center. Redwing was present to ask for the building himself. The building will allow them to have the space to have more programs. Aside from what it takes to run the teen center currently, he is working on a new budget. He did request \$600,000 for two years from the Shakopee Tribe. The chairman of Shakopee said the proposal has great traction and will be in touch. Should council not allow use of the building, he is still in support of the council's decision in what is best for the tribe. Kameron said we all identified Dakota language being a top priority and if they have the funding to sustain it, then he's not against it. Alonzo is in favor of it as well.
 - i. Kameron made a motion to allow the the Dakota Language to have use of the 'Teen Center' building once the teen center is moved to the Boys & Girls Club.
 - ii. Motion seconded by Carrie
 - iii. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- c. Stuart said that the Judicial Commission met last night. A part of their discussion was on SORNA (Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act). The village will provide signs for the community where they need to be. Sex offenders should not be 1000 feet from a place where children congregate. Stuart says we need to take a good look at the automobile shop down here as one example. He says this will be happening soon. The second thing he wanted to bring up is that the nation needs to establish a land

committee. This committee will oversee parks and wild life. There's conflict with the ATV and hunting that needs to be worked out. Chairman says some simple conversations between both entities could take care of a lot of the conflicts.

- d. Sid gave an update on tribal preference from the Human Resources office. Sid sent a letter on the process to the executive council members and will send to the rest of the council as well. It is a letter just reassuring that they are enforcing the policy. The policy dictates how the scoring is supposed to work. Alonzo asked for HR and CEO to not recuse from interviews and disciplinary actions no matter of relations, etc. This is their job and allows for the due process to work before it comes to council.
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion that the CEO and HR refrain from recusing themselves from hiring, firing, or any disciplinary actions.
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes

13. Resolutions

- a. 2025-13 Designation of Authority for FTA Systems User Manager. Authorizing Kaylie Hoffman access
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-13
 - ii. Motion made by Dave Henry
 - iii. Motion seconded by Carrie Rouillard
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- b. 2025-14 Authorizing the contract between the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Great Plains Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs Winnebago Agency and the Santee Sioux Nation for the Land Management/Natural Resources Program.
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-14
 - ii. Motion made by Vietta Swalley
 - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- c. 2025-15 Carry over requests for BIA for the Higher Education Program
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-15
 - ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
 - iii. Motion seconded by Vietta Swalley
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- d. 2025-16 Carry over requests for BIA for the Johnson O'Malley Program
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-16
 - ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
 - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- e. 2025-17 Carry over requests for BIA for the Adult Vocational Education Program
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-17
 - ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
 - iii. Motion seconded by Dave Henry
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes

- f. 2025-18 Carry over requests for BIA for the Hazardous Fuels Program
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-18
 - ii. Motion made by Vietta Swalley
 - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- g. 2025-19 Approved SSN membership for Willow Mei Lopez
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-19
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- h. 2025-20 Approved SSN membership for Heavenly Mae Coffman
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-20
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- i. 2025-21 Approved SSN membership for Dawson Creed Pike
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-21
 - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
 - iii. Motion seconded by Carrie Rouillard
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- j. 2025-22 Approved SSN membership for Abeline Louise Moose
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-22
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- 14. Adjourn
 - a. All agenda items have been addressed
 - i. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to adjourn at 2:03 pm
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Vietta Swalley
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea McBride

Andrea McBride
Santee Sioux Nation Council Secretary

