

Santee Sioux Nation

SSN Council Headquarters

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

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Regular Council Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2025

Council Headquarters

10:00 am

1. Call to order – Chairman Denney called meeting to order at 10:07 am
2. Opening prayer – Redwing Thomas
3. Roll Call
 - a. Present – Chairman Alonzo Denney, Vice-Chairman Kameron Runnels, Treasurer David Henry (excused tardy – arrived at 10:15), 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. Quorum established
4. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Chairman Denney asked if there are any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, Chairman asked for a motion for the approval of the agenda
 - i. Motion made by Vietta Swalley
 - ii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iii. 6 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 Vietta Swalley
 - ii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iii. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
6. Joyce Thomas – Head Start
 - a. Joyce provided a packet along with an overview of the packet. Joyce stated that they don't have the December report, she is still waiting on financials from Sioux Falls. She is here today with a grant application request. The grant application she sent last month was sent back from the program specialist and was advised to apply for funding for the early head start expansion rather than the change of scope of work she requested before. So she is here to request approval for the early head start expansion, it will be \$229,795. This will be to put the head start staff on to work summer months so they can run early head start programs during those months, up to three years old. They will also hire a home base person that will work with infants and pregnant women.

- i. After review of the documents provided, Chairman Denney asked if there were any questions for Joyce. Hearing none, Chairman asked for a motion to approve the early head start expansion grant application.
- ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
- iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
- iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes

7. Redwing Thomas – Dakota Language Program

- a. The language program is having trouble gaining participation. He understands all the different things people got going on, but he would like to ask the council to help push the word out. Redwing said that the online presence is doing well though. Redwing has been talking with Anthony Warrior and will move to NICC's radio station every Tuesday. As of January 2nd the program is a year old. The program is currently funded by in-house funds from tribal businesses. Redwing has also talked to Shakopee's Chairman, Cole Miller, and he has given Redwing permission to say that the Shakopee Tribe will back the Dakota Language Program and he is requesting a two year plan. Red is almost complete with the plan and will be asking for \$600,000 to help with language revitalization. Classes will resume tonight in Santee and tomorrow in Sioux City. In Sioux City the language classes average around 50-60 tribal members. Workbooks, text books, and color books are being digitized now, and his hope is to hand these out to all educational institutions here and in Niobrara. The coloring books are created by reservation artists down here. There is signage being created, but the program is running into funding and costs. When Shakopee comes through, they can possibly have five apprentices. Chairman asked if podcasts are still in the planning. Red said it is, however the program don't have the interface yet. Red said they also need their own space. He would really like to request the old teen center once the new teen facility is open. Alonzo said he doesn't know what it takes to sustain that building and that it will take some money to fix it up a little. The program has started the first phase of the language app. This is a sentence builder language app, this is expensive but this is also written in the two year plan that will be submitted to Shakopee. Red asks in a good way, if we can all help with other programs that use our language, that we all start using our own dialect. Red would like to see our language uniformed and all in our own dialect. Down the road he would like all of our organizations learning from the same curriculum. Reality is that within 10 years our language will be gone if we don't go for it now. In Flandreau when the culture program was built, they allowed their tribal workers one hour a day to attend class, he is not asking or telling us what to do, but would be good for us. Red is willing to work with anyone and everyone in any way the program can. Kameron stated that we have settlement money that can help with the program as well. He also said he could ask one of the state senators for some legislation on some funding. Kameron said we have two weeks to do it. Alonzo asked redwing to write up a brief statement on our language that we can submit to legislations. No further questions or comments.

8. Pinpoint Consulting – Dennis Carroll

- a. Dennis is present, Clint couldn't be here today. Dennis said we have until next week to get an application in on the solar project funding that was discussed previously. He is here today to hopefully get council approval on moving forward with the grant application. The council called Clint on the phone to discuss further on the solar project. In a nutshell we have the four solar projects we previously discussed; these projects are for solar facilities near Huron, Platte, Pickstown, and next to the Ohiya Casino. With the Platte, Pickstown, and Santee projects, there is a grant available from the Federal Department of Energy to allow for pre-work to be done for these solar projects. This grant opportunity is anywhere between \$100-300,000 per site. They have been working to put in a grant application of these sites. Each one worth \$250,000 grant and is a 10% match. The tribe will own majority of the projects but pinpoint will own small portion as well so that they can capture the energy tax credits associated with them. The tribe is not eligible for these energy tax credits, but Pinpoint can be so they will kick in a full match so that the tribe will not have any financial responsibility associated with these. This grant will take care of the planning and pre-design efforts. From here everything will be needed to move forward these projects ahead and apply for final construction financing. With grant applications we are not tied into anything yet, and the tribe can change our mind later on. Kameron asked if we can use our water funding to cover any costs that may come up. Clint said the only thing they bill us for is the water project itself. It is \$250,000 per site, but we are applying for the three; Platte, Pickstown, and Santee so a \$750,000 planning grant, the deadline is next Friday. Alonzo asked if they had any conversations with the businesses about placing the farm on the old Rife property. Clint says they have not yet but will. Kameron said the businesses need to have some input on this.
 - i. After discussion of the grant applications for the solar projects, Chairman Denney asked if there were any questions for Clint or Dennis. Hearing none, Chairman asked for a motion to approve the submission of the grant application for the solar projects
 - ii. Motion made by Vietta Swalley
 - iii. Motion seconded by Kameron Runnels
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
 - b. Dennis said at the meeting at 1pm today with USDA, they are trying to get an answer to see if the environmental process will be at the national level or our level. He wants to ask today if our contracted environmental specialist could start pursuing it while decisions are being made in DC. Pinpoint did receive a comprehensive list from USDA-RD. This spreadsheet has two pages of things they need to know, Pinpoint is currently working on this. In the meeting we will also talk to them about a 24 million dollar RD grant application, don't know how much of it is loan or complete grant but will discuss this in the meeting today. Right now we have \$9.25 million in the water sustainability fund. We will start using these funds now. Water project is moving forward. No further questions or comments.
9. Open Floor - Chairman Denney opened the floor to anyone in attendance

- a. Kameron wanted to remind people about the FEMA grant that's available and potentials for alternative energy. It's up to 2 million dollars with a 10% match requirement. There is a list of stuff on the hazard mitigation plan, and this is on our website to review if we want. We have until April to apply for the FEMA grant. Kameron is going to look into it and about a TA. There's also a piece in there for a tribal emergency manager position that we could possibly get. Kameron said it would be a good thing to follow through using the hazard mitigation plan, it was a \$50,000 document and we could get millions of dollars off of it.
- b. Carrie said SOC is going to do another community prayer possibly on the 29th at the community center. SOC's grant can't buy food, so she is looking for funding for food. The council said we could help and Sandy said to also submit a letter to the grocery store.
- c. Andrea got a call from an individual asking if we would be interested in selling two lots of the Springfield land we have. We haven't discussed this land much. We brought ideas to the table but never had any movement on them. Alonzo stated that according to section 2 in our constitution we can't sell it.
- d. Carrie asked about the old dentistry that was purchased in Springfield. Alonzo said he and Dave made an executive decision to purchase this at the time. He said they purchased it with intentions of using this for the use of selling medical marijuana. He has contacted Crow Creek about their codes, policies and procedures, etc. Their Chairman is going to be sending Chairman Denney all of their information.
- e. Kameron talked about school land. Xavier (Peebles Bergin Schulte & Robinson, LLP) is working on legislation to propose that Senator Raybould is going to be introducing to legislation. Kameron said he will get us more information as he gets it.

10. Resolutions

- a. 2025-11 Authorizing First Dakota to increase the LOC from \$750,000 to \$1,500,00, authorizing First Dakota to renew (2) loans as these loans matured on 12/20/24, and authorizing Chairman Denney and Treasurer to initiate and finalize necessary documents
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-11
 - 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. 2025-12 SSN council approves addition of Ch. 7 of Title I Judiciary of the SSN Law and Order Code and shall be effective immediately.
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-12
 - ii. Motion made by Andrea McBride
 - iii. Motion seconded by Kameron Runnels
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- c. 2025-13 Relinquishment of Emery Rose Brown
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-13
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Vietta Swalley
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes

11. Adjourn

- a. All agenda items have been addressed

- i. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to adjourn at 12:11pm
- ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
- iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
- iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea McBride
Santee Sioux Nation Council Secretary

