

# 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 10, 2024

SSN Headquarters

10:00 am

1. Call to order – Chairman Denney called meeting to order at 10:06am
2. Opening prayer – Vice Chairman Runnels
3. Roll Call
  - a. Present – Chairman Alonzo Denney, Vice-Chairman Kameron Runnels, Secretary Andrea McBride, Hobu Creek District Rep Byron Tuttle, Howe Creek District Rep Carrie Rouillard, Council Administrative Assistant Ellie Roberts
  - b. Excused absence (medical) – Treasurer David Henry
  - c. Guests – Kevin Harta, Waylon LaPlante, Danny Red Owl, Sidney Tuttle, Ron Thomas, Dewayne Wabasha
4. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Chairman Denney remove Lola, she called and isn't going to make it, Joyce was not present so possibly won't make it, Vice Chairman Runnels wanted to be added to the agenda, Ron Thomas will be added to the agenda
    - i. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to approve agenda with the changes stated
    - ii. Motion was made by Kameron Runnels
    - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
    - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent, and Chairman not voting, motion passes
5. Joyce Thomas – Not present
6. Approval of meeting minutes – December 20, 2023
  - a. Minutes were given to the Council a few days in advance so that they would have time to read through them and prepare any questions, comments, and/or changes they may have.
  - b. Chairman Denney asked the council if there were any concerns with December's minutes. Kameron asked what the plans were with posting of minutes. Andrea stated they will be posted in the community and on Facebook and the webpage.
    - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from December 20, 2023
    - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
    - iii. Motion seconded by Linda Whipple
    - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent, and Chairman not voting, motion passes
7. Sidney not present yet, Kameron presented in his spot on a Vice-Chairman update

- a. Has a letter from Clint Powell, from Pinpoint Consulting, to submit to IHS. The letter states that when IHS did testing, they didn't address certain issues with our water that should have been reported. The letter is drafted and needs approval to send the letter to IHS and EPA.
    - i. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to send IHS the letter requesting them to state all issues with our water that weren't previously reported.
    - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
    - iii. Motion seconded by Linda Whipple
    - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent, and Chairman not voting, motion passes
  - b. Kameron listened in on the Ponca Tribe council meeting. We are currently working on a plan to partner with Ponca Tribe in the fiber broadband telecommunications grant that we are already pursuing. This will help higher our priority if we were to partner. The Ponca Tribe presented the resolution at the meeting of the partnership and the resolution was passed. There are things to figure out if the grant is rewarded, however we look forward to the partnership.
  - c. Transfer Station Grant is at the end of application submission, just a few things are needed from the finance office.
  - d. Hazard Mitigation Plan submitted in late November is more than likely to be approved by FEMA. This will be a good thing for the tribe.
8. Joyce is now present at the meeting, she wasn't aware that Head Start was a standing item on the agenda. Chairman thought it was required for her grant. She doesn't have anything to present today, but Sidney does have her monthly report to present. She does not need to be on the agenda every month if Sidney is reporting her information.
9. Sidney Tuttle is now present.
- a. Grievances – The policy manual talks about a timeline, but the problem with this is that proper investigations and the timeline works against us and the employee. Sidney is going to work on and address this in the policy manual, along with a lot of other things. No further comments on grievances.
  - b. EMS – This is a highly sensitive issue. Dan had a sit down with EMS director, Mark Nichols, Justin Kitto, Phil Jaquith, and Mike Henry to try to work out any issues that continue to come up. However, we do need somebody in management that is here during business hours. This is not only with EMS but also with the HEART program. After approaching the director with complaints, there has always been a response, and a report is usually given. The main complaint and concern is that there is no service and the EMS schedule is not publicly provided. Our back up situation when there is a scheduled absence in Niobrara and Bloomfield. So another complaint is that when we have offsite response that one of our EMS providers show up from those other communities instead of being on site here. Discussion was brought up about anybody in the community having their EMT certification and what it would take to get more tribal members involved. This was done in the past where the class was offered and costs were covered, unfortunately we didn't have much participation. Maybe because it was in Norfolk. Sid now wants to have class available here and offer classes here, so that it would hopefully make it easier for our own people to participate and create our own EMTs and Paramedics. Waylon LaPlante wanted to show concern from the housing perspective. There was an incident where there was partying and fights at a residence and a housing board member called for police and EMS and there was no response. Another issue involving a suicide attempt, there was again no response from law enforcement or EMS. No bashing these programs, but he did recommend that the policy be strengthened where this is their job

and it is their primary job. Waylon also brought up how there needs to be more help available especially when it comes to suicide attempts. Chairman Denney mentioned that there was previously a meeting with PD, SOC, and the HEART program on suicide attempt responses and how it should be handled. It ultimately comes down to who is going to pay for it. He requested for Peg St.Clair to work on a MOU with HSC in Yankton and Faith Regional in Norfolk and also suggested that more police officers get cross deputized so that they are all able to transport when and if needed.

Carrie Rouillard brought up that she don't see what the reason is for scheduling paramedics between 8am and 4:30pm when we already have nurses and providers available during that time. We are allowing these individuals to tell us what hours they want to work and when, our clinic should never be closed during the day, it should remain open during the lunch hour. We have enough staff there to stagger their lunches. Sid brought up that the SOPs put in place will allow himself and Dan to take care of these issues, without the council having to get involved and handle these situations. No further comments on EMS.

- c. WIC – It has come a long way in the past 30 days from where it was, there is more work to be done, but nothing threatening at this time. The past reports have been caught up and a plan has been worked out between the WIC director, Stacy Johnson, and HR and the CEO. They took her off the director's training and asked her to include her staff member in some of the trainings so that they could assist her in some of her reporting and her grants. No further comments on the WIC program.
- d. Monthly reports – Reports have been being submitted by certain programs like they should, however there are others that need to be brought up to speed. Sid has sent out emails to program directors to get updated on all their reports. Sid reassured that they will get them caught up. When it comes to the program reports being reported to the council, he will leave out financial statements, unless requested by council, and personnel issues. All reports helps all of us and it shows where all the funding is going which is why these reports are imperative. Alonzo stated, unfortunately, in the past some directors are taking it as disciplinary action, which it is not. Ultimately reports are needed and need to be submitted and should eventually be mandatory. Sid said the monthly reports need to show that there is a need and we are not complacent so that we can go after more funding. The education department is an example as to why the reports are needed. This program is always turning people away because there is not enough funding. If reports were given they will show that there is a need to expand that department so that in return we can get more funding. This goes for all programs, reporting makes us better and accountable. No more comments on monthly reports.
- e. Utilities – There are still financial concerns for this program. There are still a lot of things that need to be done with utilities. Alonzo stated third party revenue could possibly be used for wages for the utilities drivers and the water operator, since these are necessities for the community, and could help offset some of the financial difficulties. The director had previously stated that she may be incapable of the job, so HR was directed to start posting for the job or communicate with Mr. Morgan on handing that program over to SSN Enterprise. On the financial side, there is a concern with payroll. This program is set up to be making money and it is not. HR and CEO will mandate a training for the director to create a budget and account for Utilities monthly expenses. No further comments on Utilities.
- f. Daycare – Alonzo asked where daycare is at with staffing. Sid stated that we are waiting on background checks. We are now working with the courts to complete these checks

and will now be quicker than before. If some funding is available, HR will also work on back up workers and possibly night daycare. They are also looking at upping the pay to be competitive with what the school daycare is paying. No further comments on daycare.

10. Community Change Grant – Chairman stated it's a grant for \$20 million. We will possibly put two projects towards this grant. One project is extending Frazier Avenue to the gravel road and making about 25 homesites available. We will be working on establishing homes, but because of the grant language, they will have to be 'go green' homes. The second project will be solar panels. Possibly using the Riife property (by casino) to install a small solar farm. If everything goes well with the solar farm, we could possibly put an additional one by NICC. Kameron – the grant project manager will be requesting a lot of information from the tribe in regards to future plans with growth or development within the tribe. He will need this information for the grant application. Kameron said it will take a combined effort from the council as a whole to help gather this information. He will start sharing the information as soon as he gets it. Chairman asked Waylon (housing board member) if there are any plans for future development. Waylon said that there has been discussion for future homeownership and grants have been put in for other projects as well. No further comments on the Community Change Grant.
11. Ron Thomas – Update on Treaty Conference he attended. Wanted to make mention that the Santee Sioux Nation is a 8am to 4:30pm community and that it needs to stop. People get sick on weekends and holidays and there is no service available. This was brought up at the Treaty Conference he attended, other nations are like this as well, and things need to change. He also mentioned that he attended this meeting because no one else showed interest in attending the Treaty Conference. This is something we should be interested in because we are part of the Great Sioux Nation. Ron brought up discussion on docket 74A. Ron remembers back in the 1970's that the Santee Sioux Nation council voted to sell the Black Hills. The Treaty Council asked Ron to bring this information back to this council so that we could change this so that we are not down as a seller of our lands in the Black Hills. They also talked about treaty rights. We have to talk about these and hold them up to date. Ron stated that he is proud that this council did decide to make language a priority and that language learning is going to be in the community and council. We still have to follow the rules of our people. He suggests that the council should be more present and take more part in these treaty council meetings and familiarize ourselves and understand how important it is to be a part of the Great Sioux Nation. Kameron stated he agrees with everything that was said and he had recently had a discussion with Rick Thomas on how we need to reassign the positions on the treaty council to get more SSN involvement. Kameron also mentioned that we need to put in resolution form or something that the SSN does not show any interest in selling the Black Hills. No further discussion on the Treaty Conference.
12. Resolutions
  - a. 2024-18 Consent of formation of a Tribal consortium with Ponca Tribe for a shared project (NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity)
    - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-18
    - ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
    - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
    - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent, and Chairman not voting, motion passes
13. Adjourn
  - a. All agenda items have been addressed
    - i. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to adjourn at 1:17pm
    - ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
    - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry

iv. 5 voting in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent, and Chairman not voting, motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea McBride  
Santee Sioux Nation Council Secretary

