

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

July 23, 2025

Council Headquarters

10:00 am

1. Call to order – Chairman Denney called meeting to order at 10:06 am
2. Opening prayer – Redwing Thomas
3. Roll Call
 - a. Present – Chairman Alonzo Denney, Vice Chairman Kameron Runnels, Secretary Andrea McBride, Bazile Creek District Rep Sandy Henry, and Howe Creek District Rep Carrie Rouillard
 - b. Absent – Treasurer David Henry, Hobu Creek District Rep. Byron Tuttle, and Santee District Rep Vietta Swalley (all excused)
 - c. Quorum established
4. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Chairman Denney asked if there are any changes to the agenda.
 - b. With no changes to the agenda, Chairman asked for a motion to approve the agenda
 - i. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
 - ii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iii. 5 voting in favor, 0 opposed, 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 June 11, 2025
 - i. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - ii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iii. 5 voting in favor, 0 opposed, motion passes
6. Joyce Thomas – Head Start update
 - a. Joyce stated that Friday was the last day for summer session and they ended with 14 children. Head Start still has a position open. For now, Marsha, Brandi, and Joyce will fill the position and they will be compensated for taking on extra duties. Joyce said they are still waiting for soil testing to come back on the projected build. They are waiting on five, but one was sent back good so far. Kameron thinks this will be okay and they will all be sent back good since it hasn't been farmed in so long. Joyce needs approval for policy training reimbursement agreement. Alonzo asked the council if there were any questions on agreement.

- b. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to approve the policy training reimbursement agreement
 - i. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
 - ii. Motion seconded by Andrea McBride
 - iii. 5 voting in favor, 0 opposed, motion passes
 - c. Alonzo asked if it was possible for Head Start employees to get higher wages. Joyce says they didn't get an increase from funding and that the funding is the same as last years. Joyce would like to meet with the tribal council at a later date more privately and she will set this up with Andrea. No further comments or questions for Joyce or Head Start.
- 7. Nilah Solomon, BIA Supt. Winnebago Agency – BIA update
 - a. Nilah stated that with the Shop EZ trust land, the paperwork that was required was signed and returned from Alonzo to the region and once they receive it, Olivia will sign off on the deed and it will be recorded and Shop EZ will then be in trust. We will receive a certified TSR for this. This has been a long time coming, about 35 years in the making. Alonzo stated he sent this back to the region via priority mail last week and they should have it. Nilah also brought up the fast 41 with water and the BIA will be involved. They will provide the TSRs and the title ownership of who owns the tracts that will be involved and it will work through their office and the actual right away. BIA has been invited to first conference call. The people working on it are already experienced. The BIA still has a hiring freeze. They will send Billings a list for BIA fire positions. The region will assign FMO to Winnebago agency. Hopefully BIA will be back on track in that department soon. Alonzo asked about special funding requests. Nilah says they're ready to go, but they don't have their funding yet. They don't know what FY25 funding is yet, just starting to roll out. Hopefully by July 31st they will know. They will go first come first serve and Santee has already submitted first for most requests. BIA regional is trying to clear out funding for FY24, Winnebago don't have any though. No further questions or comments for Nilah or the BIA
- 8. Maunka Morgan – Isanti AOP Progress Summary
 - a. The purpose of these presentations are tied to the companies governing documents and they are required to report quarterly. This was already presented to the board of directors. Maunka wanted to address how far we have come in improving the businesses. (handout is available) Alonzo brought up tribal tax, in tobacco compact we are not allowed to put any further taxes on tobacco. The way he reads it, we aren't supposed to be including a tribal tax. He thinks if we remove this, it could boost sales. If we did the same with gas, it could be the same. Alonzo thinks ultimately we remove the tribal tax to boost revenue and sales. He did contact Conly, but is waiting for a return call. He thinks we should look into this. Maunka doesn't disagree, it's the tribes decision. He thinks we do need a legal opinion. Maybe we have a tobacco strategy meeting and adopt a new proposed tax code. We separate the tobacco tax rate for the tribe, we can set the rate on our own.
 - b. AOP progress – The following are strategic priorities: Complete the Isanti, LLC reorganization (This should be done by the end of calendar year), adopt Isanti, LLC Capital Allocation Plan (needs second document signed), charter new wholly owned subsidiaries (hopefully complete by end of the year), expand company revenue streams. Isanti, LLC has increased RV park price, they added Wi-Fi for the RV park, along with a washer and dryer. The old Feather Hill is going to be Isanti adventures general store and office, also adding signage for truckers to come up and swipe their cards and use the scale. Maunka

says they are going to focus on what the community says in the surveys and prioritize based on resources. No further questions and comments for Maunka or Isanti, LLC.

9. Clinton Powell – Pinpoint Corporation

- a. Clinton had a visitor with him, Jared Nieuwenhuis. Jared presented on cannabis testing and a possible partnership. The council will have further discussion on this.
- b. Rural water project - the fast 41 process kicks off next week. This is a fed process managed by employees in the white house. Brings fed agencies together, its regimentated and goes quick. Tomorrow there is the first bill markup in senate appropriations, not available until markup which is hopefully tomorrow. 8.5 million dollars from senator fischer's office hopefully. Senate appropriations language to transfer dollars from IHS to EPA, which is the 11 million. The tribe gets pressure from ihs to move these dollars, they don't know about this request. As soon as environmental is done, we can request the epa dollars. If environmental will be done by fall, hopefully can go right into design. Hopefully start construction next spring. Worst case, the 19 million will continue to get pushed back. BUT once environmental is done, can move on design and push on people a different way. IHS and EPA announced that they got funding to do water meter project. IHS on SDS list has water tank. It's important that this is on there and rescope. Working with bureau of reclamation. The remaining funds to get to \$54 million they pulled the water tank out, the total is \$43 million by pulling the tanks. We will be \$10 million short and this will be requested from USDA rural development, Steve Pollacek. They did a series of water testing and they saw results that were we're under the influence of surface water. EPA testing water with radio nucleids every three years. Solar – Pinpoint has a solar consultant and their board is aware and in agreement with this.
- c. With the Lindy road, this got put in through tribal set aside grant program, they normally see rewards in June but still haven't heard anything on this. Senator Fischer's office said currently there is nobody working in this office at this time (tribal grant programs). They also put in a grant for upgrades to the transit program with Mike, this was submitted two weeks ago. They are also working with Derek on housing opportunities and ICDBG. No further questions or comments for Clint or Pinpoint.

Recess at 11:56 and reconvene at 12:08

10. Open Floor

- a. Derek LaPointe, Housing – The Housing Authority has completed their audit on time. There were 9 findings last year and they have been fixed. The fixed findings won't show until next audit. The financial manager and a contracted CPA are helping clean up the findings. Derek provided financial statements and the auditor's report to the council. Derek previously made Alonzo and Andrea aware that housing is about \$1 million in debt. He was not aware of this debt until he started digging into the financials. The board was made aware that the housing will be more transparent with the community and that the audit will be posted publicly. He moved the treasury debt into a liability so for the FY2025 it will show an expense income of \$571,000. We still are \$1million in debt on the woods brothers. There is still \$500,000 in debt on the duplexes as well. Derek asked council to

wipe this debt and then they would be more stable. Derek would like to work together with the tribe and Isanti LLC to get on the same page. The audit shows we function off \$1.5 million per year. The SSTHA has applied for ICDBG IT grant and submitted a letter to HUD and got the green light to apply. He applied for water purifiers for each household, this is an imminent threat grant from ICDBG. This would just be for low income houses, maybe could work in Woods brothers. Derek contracted workers to clean up for possible builds. Derek also asked Clinton Powell with Pinpoint to go in with an engineering idea on this. Housing is still considered high risk. This is saying that since we're at high risk, they dig deep into our records. It takes two years to be removed from high risk. There are a few internal issues, but nothing they can't handle. It used to cost \$30-40,000 a year to do book keeping, it is now being done internal saving about \$25,000 per year. Alonzo thanked Derek for getting the audit in on time. No further questions or comments for Derek or the Housing Authority.

- b. Waylon LaPlante, Santee Community School - The truancy code – haven't heard anything back from the Judicial Board. The board has approved some new policies at the school and the handbooks. The way the truancy process is going to work is after missing 3 days a letter will be sent home to parent, after 5 misses the student and parent will be mandated to meet with administration, and at 10 days the student will not be able to move to the next grade. At the 7th day of absence, something will be sent to the courts, however the courts will not give the school a copy of what is done at this point. The drug testing policy is not as harsh anymore, this is approved and in the handbooks now. Alonzo stated that he will stand beside the school on the truancy issues, it is making the students and parents be more accountable. No further questions or comments for Waylon LaPlante or the Isanti Community School.
- c. Carol Bearshield, Brenda Wabasha, Terri Grant - the family is here today to address the blood quantum that is documented for their family. They have been trying to change it and the paperwork was presented to enrollment by the family but Roberta didn't accept it and said they probably made it up themselves. Alonzo asked if this is the appeal to the council? Carol said they want to change or prove that their father is a full blood Santee. Chairman stated this is a big issue within the tribe, the quantum all the way around is a big issue. Alonzo stated we need to find a bigger solution past today. Chairman says we can make today the acceptance of their appeal, but in the spirit of trying to resolve it, we do not need 60 days to do so, it will be addressed sooner. Terri asked for all denial letters and Roberta said she doesn't do that anymore. Terri says she did get a letter with the right to appeal though. Carol says she provided all the paperwork to enrollment, but was called a liar. Alonzo stated we could accept this appeal, and according to the ordinance they have 60 days, however he don't think we need this long. We are going on record accepting the appeal and giving the Bearshield/Wabasha family a maximum of 60 days for a response. No further questions or comments for the family.

11. Resolutions

- a. 2025-55 Approving the asset contribution agreement between the SSN and Isanti, LLC
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-55
 - ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels

- iii. Motion seconded by Andrea McBride
 - iv. 5 voting in favor, 0 opposed, motion passes
- b. 2025-56 BIA Special Funding Request for Tribal Utilities Department for equipment and upgrades
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-56
 - ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
 - iii. Motion seconded by Andrea McBride
 - iv. 5 voting in favor, 0 opposed, motion passes
- c. 2025-57 Legal Aid of Nebraska to provide legal services and strengthen coordinated community response to stop violence against members and eligible members of the SSN
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-57
 - ii. Motion made by Andrea McBride
 - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iv. 5 voting in favor, 0 opposed, motion passes
- d. 2025-58 Authorizing the contract between the BIA, Great Plains Region, BIA Winnebago Agency and the SSN for the Land Management/Natural Resources Program
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-58
 - ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
 - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iv. 5 voting in favor, 0 opposed, motion passes
- e. 2025-59 Approving the SSN Tribal Agricultural Land Lease policy and procedures
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-59
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Kameron Runnels
 - iv. 5 voting in favor, 0 opposed, motion passes

12. All agenda items have been addressed

- i. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to adjourn at 1:30 pm
- ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
- iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
- iv. 5 voting in favor, 0 opposed, motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea McBride
Santee Sioux Nation Council Secretary

