

# 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 June 11, 2025 Council Headquarters 10:00 am

1. Call to order – Chairman Denney called meeting to order at 10:08 am
2. Opening prayer – Sidney Tuttle
3. Roll Call
  - a. Present – Chairman Alonzo Denney, Treasurer David Henry, Secretary Andrea McBride, Bazile Creek District Rep Sandy Henry, Hobu Creek District Rep. Byron Tuttle, and Howe Creek District Rep Carrie Rouillard, Santee District Rep Vietta Swalley
  - b. Absent – Vice Chairman Kameron Runnels (attending Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board meeting)
  - 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 Byron Tuttle
    - 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 from the regular council meeting held on May 21, 2025
    - i. Motion made by Dave Henry
    - ii. Motion seconded by Vietta Swalley
    - iii. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
6. Joyce Thomas – Head Start
  - a. Joyce wanted to give an update on Head Start. Six students graduated last month from Head Start. Joyce hasn't received the financial statement yet, but will provide later. She stated that there is a bad smell in the classroom and there are bubbles in the wall. There seems to be water leaking somewhere. Joyce purchased two dehumidifiers to try to help

with this. Summer sessions began the 27<sup>th</sup> of May and there are 14 kids enrolled in the summer session. The revised budget was submitted but they sent it back because the amount is under the threshold, Joyce provided a memo from the grant specialist on this. Joyce is almost done with Child Care food program application, it is due June 15th. No further questions or comments for Joyce and Head Start.

7. Sidney Tuttle – BIA special requests

- a. Sid presented the report to council on what was sent to BIA in regards to the special requests. The last several years we have only had couple programs apply for special program funding. Mike Crosley was the only one who would submit in the years prior. Each program is responsible to apply for this funding on their own. Housing applied for two requests; renovation funding for sewer, electric and furnace work and renovation funding for the nutrition center and future plans for assisted living. Higher Ed applied for three funding sources; for job placement training, vocation education and online courses, and JOM. The Santee FD applied for renovations and garage space and overall operations. Tribal Court applied for equipment needs. HR applied for more grant efforts (they want to try to put a whole department together for grant writing). DTSU applied for cultural care packages, GA monthly food vouchers that they don't currently receive, and for office equipment. Hazardous Fuels applied for equipment and they will be requesting for the building to complete some renovations. They have five more plans coming through, one is for utilities for equipment, the Santee swimming pool, the youth development, and a couple other areas on economic development. Danny Lee did go to Winnebago to meet with BIA to make sure things were correct. There were some corrections that were needed and they were made before submission. They will now need to work on re-contracting and unmet needs, hopefully they will meet with the directors soon to work on this. Sid says we lack for several years, a lot of our programs aren't submitting quarterly and annual reports. They will look at this and go back to see which programs these are to get these up to date. One of the issues we've been looking at is a good audit. HR and CEO will address this in the next month or two. The council sent a memo out about three years ago to submit monthly reports, these will assist in all state, local, and federal reporting. There is a process to this without the tribal council having to get involved. All of these are positives and things we can work on moving forward. Although this funding isn't a guarantee that we will receive, at least we took the steps in getting all the resolutions in. And although BIA funding is set, tribes can also lobby in DC to get more funding. More than likely our contracts will come back pretty much the same. Also with carry over funding, we are able to do retentions and bonuses, etc. If it's written properly. The HR and CEO have been talking closely with Kameron and Dave on how we can address cost of living, etc. Chairman asked as far as reporting goes, when do these become write ups on the directors? Sid said it could be at any time. Sid said there is a lack in HR department because he is only one person in HR. Sid said a lot of the reporting from directors go back to several changes in the past years. Sometimes HR and the CEO don't know when reports aren't submitted. Some of BIA things go directly to Ellie, Lavonne, and Kathryn. They asked to be cc'd in all emails so they can assist. Sid said they are not always in the loop. Sid said some programs are very territorial but we need to get past that. With DOJE coming down, 80 percent is reporting to them as well, so we



pretty much do what they request already anyway. BIA has some issues with some of our contracts, one hasn't had a report in almost two years. Sid will go back and request all documents and every step of expensing of that fund to correct the two years' worth of that reporting. Communication with BIA is a major thing. Sid asks that everyone CCs everybody, especially emails with Nilah or Toni from BIA. Maybe we didn't know the process but the opportunity has always been there. Sid thinks that since we're a smaller tribe, we need a bigger voice in DC to get more BIA funding. No further questions or comments for Sid.

8. Nilah Solomon – BIA updates

- a. Fire program – Coming from the regional office on accidental fires, is that it's a requirement from our fire people to contact the BIA agency as soon as possible to relieve liability from the tribe and back on the agency. Nilah will hopefully be meeting with the agency in July to discuss further.
- b. Special grants – normally previous to this year, the agency would pull all BIA agencies carry over funds and each of the tribes would have the opportunity to get these carryover funds. However, this year the regional director doesn't want to put all agencies funds together, each agency will have their own separate pots. Santee, Omaha, and Winnebago will all have the same opportunity from our agency. Nilah wanted to clarify that these funds would only be good for a year. BIA did return six of the requests back to the tribe and hopefully they can get these back today before they leave.
- c. Nilah says the regional director, Olivia, wants to schedule a time to come and meet with the council. Andrea stated she reached out twice to set up a meeting with the regional director but had no response to either one request. Andrea will circle back on the email to see if she could get a response. No further questions or comments for Nilah or BIA.

9. Maunka Morgan – Isanti LLC Capital Allocation

- a. Met with council and got verbal agreements on capital allocation plan for the final steps in setting up the company. Only put agreement together to be approved with final resolution. Last week we had a conversation with Justin and Rick Noonan and until the grant is received, telecommunications would like to stay separate from Isanti LLC. Chairman Denney would like some amendments on the contributed assets. Chairman asked for discussion and comments. Sandy asked that Santee grocery stay separate from Isanti LLC as well. Sandy stated that although, technically, the grocery store is a business it is more of a service for the community and don't see it bringing any more value to Isanti LLC. Chairman asked for more comments. Derek LaPointe asked how much land is in question. Chairman said it is Arens land, 680 acres. Maunka says its our land no matter what, but they can leverage it to versify the portfolio. Maunka says we can't grow our business if Isanti LLC doesn't have assets. Alonzo said he knew the land would be an issue.
  - i. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to go into executive session at 11:56
  - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
  - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
  - iv. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to come out of executive session at 12:39
  - v. Motion made by Vietta Swalley

- vi. Motion seconded by Dave Henry
  - b. Chairman Denney stated there are some amendments made to the assets presented. Santee grocery will no longer be considered a contributed asset for Isanti LLC, Santee Communications will no longer be considered a contributed asset for Isanti LLC, remove Isanti LLC and/or Maunka Morgan from the Brunswick Bank Account xx1437 (Santee Communications), remove Isanti LLC and/or Maunka Morgan from the Farmers & Merchants Bank Account xx6970 (Santee Grocery), and remove any and all land listed as a contributed asset. Only made the amendments to the asset contribution agreement right away and all council was provided with a printed copy. Maunka asked if they should remove the bank loan as well. Carrie thinks that Isanti LLC should move forward with the ST Bar Ranch making these payments. The ranch is operating the land without any leases.
    - i. Carrie made a motion to have Isanti LLC to continue to assume responsibility of the ranch loan
    - ii. Motion seconded by Vietta Swalley
    - iii. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
    - iv. Chairman Denney asked for a motion of approving the amendments of removing Santee Telecommunications and Santee Grocery from the Asset Contribution agreement along with removing Isanti LLC and/or Maunka Morgan from the bank accounts associated with Santee Communications and Santee Grocery
    - v. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
    - vi. Motion seconded by Carrie Rouillard
    - vii. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
10. Selection of Housing Board members
- a. The housing board positions has been advertised for two seats, but now we have three seats available. Sid Tuttle, Tatianna Runnels, David Freemont, Robyn Hamilton, Lizzie Swalley, and Dewayne Wabasha all submitted letters of interest. Chairman Denney called for a paper vote from the council. The anonymous votes were as follows: Sidney Tuttle 5 votes, Tatiana Runnels 1 vote, David Freemont 1 vote, Robyn Hamilton 5 votes, Lizzie Swalley 5 votes, and Dewayne Wabasha 1 vote. The council appoints Sidney Tuttle, Robyn Hamilton, and Lizzie Swalley as the newly elected housing board commissioners. The new board will be responsible for assigning seats. Joe Moose said their next scheduled meeting is July 8<sup>th</sup> at noon.
11. Open Floor
- a. David presented burial benefits for Tribal members only at a \$4,120 allowable costs. In addition to the \$4120, families are allowed \$250 for a flower spray, \$500 toward the purchase of a larger casket, \$250 Walmart Card, \$250 Credit at the Santee Sioux Grocery Store, and \$500 for family (to be divided amonth the whole family for lodging, gas, etc. This will only be made to enrolled, immediate family members). A full posting could be attained by the enrollment office or from council headquarters.
    - i. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to approve the burial benefits
    - ii. Motion made by Andrea McBride
    - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
    - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes



- b. Alonzo received a letter from Kim Redwing. She wants to see past powwow committees honored. Alonzo believes that if she wants to recognize people, she should personally do that. She should take this to the powwow committee and to handle it on her own. Chairman stated the powwow grounds is named after past powwow committee member, Roger Trudell. Dave said Kim gave the letter to him, but was not clear on what she wants. Vietta and Sandy thinks she can take this to powwow committee. Waylon said she could definitely bring this to the powwow committee and can be added to the agenda. Waylon said Sunday is open for community events and honoring's. Waylon will give her a call to see if she wants on the agenda.
- c. Mike Crosley said Christine Bickerstaff wants to move her home lease to a business lease. Chairman asked Mike to explain leasing and business leases. Mike said currently we are offering a \$1000 lease for the first year to see how business goes, then will increase the lease payment. Mike said she asked for a home site lease for her lease and her grandpa's home. But there is no probate for that home yet. Mike says you can have a home site lease and a business lease but you can't have two of each. Derek questioned about the trailer next to housing. Dave said the tribe just put those trailers on the land there. Christine says she don't have a deed for that trailer, but Waylon says there were deeds for those trailers when he was on the housing board. Those two FEMA trailers in question are sitting on a lot from housing. Christine is asking for two and a half acres of land.
- i. Chairman asked for a motion to switch Christine's home site lease to a business lease
  - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
  - iii. Motion second by Andrea McBride
  - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- d. Michelle Denney and Dewayne Wabasha - Michelle says she is coming to the council as a concerned mother. She has contacted the police many times of this issue but she says Silas Kitto is on probation and not supposed to be around kids. She got a hold of Derek LaPointe (housing director) on his first visit and she called the cops as well. She says he's not supposed to be on that street. She said this is the law that the tribe carries. She says that he's at the clinic and wellness center and is going to be working with Terri Kitto and it's not fair towards the kids or other kids. She said Rob did nothing, so she had to call the FBI. She said we have so many police and they are never there. She's asking the tribe to step up and do something. She said she knows there are signs available to put up where pedophiles aren't allowed. Chairman Denney said he knows this is a big concern. He says when they adopted this law, they put exemptions in this law. There is nothing prohibiting him from visiting family, but if he's here for a certain amount of time, he needs to report his presence. Alonzo said Silas registered at his moms house, but this is no longer a thing since housing has since taken that house back. Michelle says he's at Rico's house overnight and that the cops were called about this. Derek says there is a code where they can't be on parole into housing and that Silas called housing and housing has denied him verbally. Derek said he was already registered with the police. Derek said they didn't get notified that he was registered at a housing home. When Dani responded she said the word she's stuck on is 'resides'. So the council needs to determine what the word resides



means. Waylon says SORNA law allows them four hours to visit, but anything longer than that they need to register. Derek said his PO has forced him to change his address to Yankton. Michelle said Terri didn't hire him but is going to be working with him as a client. Vietta says those are federal funds that Terri uses and you would think there would be regulations. Sid says that she probably can't work with him in the area, but he might be receiving a service as a client in a different service area. Vietta says sex offenders cannot be in a waiting area where children are. Chairman said he can't think of what Michelle is going through as a mother or parent, but there's nothing in the law that says he can't come visit. When it was drafted it doesn't say or specify what they can or can't do. Alonzo said he's not in favor of the signs. He said a sign isn't going to keep anybody away. Carrie said the signs are awareness. She thinks by not giving awareness to our people it's giving the wrong idea to our people. Carrie says our police department needs to start doing their jobs. Alonzo said it sucks for us because the government before did not adhere to the law and now it falls on us. Derek said at the time they didn't put the signs up because Roger wanted to put more parks up first so that the entire community would be protected. Derek said he believes Conly wrote this into our law, so maybe we could contact him. Vietta says we need more clarity. Waylon suggests that when they are released, they should be given all the rules and laws. And if we're going to revamp this we might need to set up a system to let the Police Department know as well. As of right now, SORNA law trumps the state. Sid wants to make a suggestion that may help Michelle today. He says there is an ongoing concern, the separation of power between the Police Department and Tribal Courts. We do have a committee that oversee these areas. Tribal courts and PD still fall under the tribe's HR and CEO as far as chain of command. Sid would like council to take action advising PD and Tribal Courts to take their responsibilities. This is a basic principal to do their job. Sid would like Michelle to make reports to take further action with any of the officers involved. Sid wants to make sure that something does happen when needed to. Sid says we could put notice to individuals within the entire tribe to do their duties. Sid will follow through with other programs too. Sid says we do have to offer some services to these individuals, but we could also adopt new policy to cover the gray areas. No further questions or comments to/from Michelle or Dewayne.

- e. Sid Tuttle – Sid just wanted to update the council on the community survey that went out for the future strategic plan. They did use it to apply for the funds with BIA. Sid says it's really a good tool. The plan is to meet with everybody that people talked about in the responses and to go over these issues. They will come up with a plan to answer those. They have also been working with Kameron as far as retention goes for the tribe, health care benefits in general. They are also trying to think of things to do to expand services such as GA, food vouchers, etc. They are working on things that could help benefit the tribe.

## 12. Resolutions

- a. 2025-33 BIA Special Funding Request for Housing
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-33
  - ii. Motion made by Sandy Henry

- iii. Motion seconded by Dave Henry
  - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- b. 2025-34 BIA Special Funding Request for Land Management/Natural Resources Program
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-34
  - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
  - iii. Motion seconded by Vietta Swalley
  - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- c. 2025-35 BIA Special Funding Request from the Higher Education Program
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-35
  - ii. Motion made by Vietta Swalley
  - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
  - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- d. 2025-36 BIA Special Funding Request from Job Placement/Training Program
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-36
  - ii. Motion made by Vietta Swalley
  - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
  - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- e. 2025-37 BIA Special Funding Request from the Volunteer Fire Department
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-37
  - ii. Motion made by Sandy Henry
  - iii. Motion seconded by Carrie Rouillard
  - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- f. 2025-38 BIA Special Funding Request from Tribal Courts
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-38
  - ii. Motion made by Vietta Swalley
  - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
  - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- g. 2025-39 BIA Special Funding Request from the Parks and Wildlife Program for a boat
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-39
  - ii. Motion made by Sandy Henry
  - iii. Motion seconded by Vietta Swalley
  - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- h. 2025-40 BIA Special Funding Request from Parks and Wildlife Program for UTV, ATV, Mowers, and RV Park
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-40
  - ii. Motion made by Vietta Swalley
  - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
  - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- i. 2025-41 BIA Special Funding Request from the Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-41
  - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
  - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
  - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- j. 2025-42 BIA Special Funding Request from the Human Resources office
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-42
  - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
  - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry



- iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- k. 2025-43 BIA Special Funding Request from the Housing Authority for Elderly Complex Renovation
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-43
  - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
  - iii. Motion seconded by Vietta Swalley
  - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- l. 2025-44 BIA Special Funding Request from the Johnson O'Malley Program
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-44
  - ii. Motion made by David Henry
  - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
  - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- m. 2025-45 BIA Special Funding Request from the Dakota Tiwahe Service Unit
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-45
  - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
  - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
  - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- n. 2025-46 Approval of Enrollment of Cassius Timothy Chapman
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-46
  - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
  - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
  - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- o. 2025-47 Approval of Enrollment of Ashlynn Mahpiya Hoffman
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-47
  - ii. Motion made by Sandy Henry
  - iii. Motion seconded by Vietta Swalley
  - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- p. 2025-48 Approval of Enrollment of Dillynn Lolita Rockwood
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-48
  - ii. Motion made by Vietta Swalley
  - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
  - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- q. 2025-49 Approval of Enrollment of Asher CR Thomas
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-49
  - ii. Motion made by Vietta Swalley
  - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
  - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- r. 2025-50 Approval of Enrollment of Jalyn Osiris Thomas
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-50
  - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
  - iii. Motion seconded by Vietta Swalley
  - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- s. 2025-51 Approval of Enrollment of Lettimae Nadine Thomas
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-51
  - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
  - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
  - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes



- t. 2025-52 Approval of Enrollment of Raul Alonzo Ray Thomas
    - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-52
    - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
    - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
    - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
  - u. 2025-53 Approval of Enrollment of Tatianna Maurice Thomas
    - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-53
    - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
    - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
    - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
  - v. 2025-54 Relinquishment of Anthony Johnson. Discussion was had that paperwork was not filled out properly.
    - i. Chairman asked for a motion to table Resolution 2025-54
    - ii. Motion made by Vietta Swalley
    - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
    - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
13. Adjourn
- a. All agenda items have been addressed
    - i. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to adjourn at 3:14 pm
    - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
    - iii. Motion seconded by Carrie Rouillard
    - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

*Andrea McBride*

Andrea McBride  
Santee Sioux Nation Council Secretary

