

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 March 12, 2025 Council Headquarters 10:00 am

1. Call to order – Chairman Denney called meeting to order at 10:02 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 got last minute resolutions that need to be passed, asked to add these to the agenda.
 - b. With the addition of adding 'Resolutions' to the agenda, Chairman asked for a motion to approve the agenda.
 - i. Motion made by Dave Henry
 - ii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - 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. Head Start – Joyce Thomas
 - a. Joyce provided the council with a packet. Joyce wanted to let everyone know that enrollment is at 24 and will probably stay the same, there will be no more toddlers after April 1st. In the packet there is a letter from office of head start. The letter states there is a new program specialis. Head Start is currently without an educational health manager, the previous manager has resigned. Need approval for conflict of interest policy. There are no conflicts right now but need the document on hand. They received their funding guidance letter, but the guidance letter will be re-sent, there was a typo on the amount.

Joyce says Head Start funding is not getting cut. Need action on policy on conflict of interest policy.

- i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve signature of the conflict of interest policy.
 - ii. Motion made by Dave Henry
 - iii. Motion seconded by Vietta Swalley
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
 - b. No further questions or discussion for Head Start or Joyce Thomas
7. Extinct Corp – Project Pecan – Conly Schulte and Blake Follis
- a. Conly stated there was a previous proposal (about a year and a half ago) for an online skills based gaming arrangement with the tribe. They toured the old casino site to see if it would be acceptable for a server location. After the last meeting, the council needed some kind of proof that the games were not considered 'gambling'. The gaming laboratory that certifies machines across the country, did provide clarity that they were skills based and not gambling machines.
 - b. Blake Follis - this is an update. They are skills based and are not going to be under the NIGC. There is a point system that caveats it from being gambling. This is the tribes opportunity is determine whether or not we want to move forward with this. This allows the skills based gaming to take place on the jurisdiction of the tribe and then later could possibly offer to other individuals throughout the US. The last meeting we discussed laying out a sheet at 30 percent based off the revenue. Bob Whipple asked if this would have any effect on our current gaming ordinance or how we're regulated. Conly says we would submit the legal opinions and opinions from GLI to the gaming commission to confirm that what is proposed to be played is not gambling. Conly would anticipate that the gaming commission would issue a declination letter to NIGC saying they reviewed the game and agreed it does not constitute gaming and is skilled based if the gaming commission comes to that conclusion. Therefore the gaming commission will not have jurisdiction, this will be regulated by the council and not the gaming commission. The key thing between gambling and skill, these are skills based and not chance. The state of Nebraska has been prevalent with skills based games, such as in gas stations, so the state shouldn't be much of an issue aside from tax revenue. Each will be given to the commission for opinion. Bob asked about backgrounds and licenses. Conly says that this will not be regulated by gaming commission at all, in order to stay clear of NIGC and keep it cleaner. Blake said these will primarily have mobile access. The key thing is everything takes place within the jurisdiction of the tribe. Alonzo asked how many employment opportunities do we see this creating, Blake says its hard to say right now but an easy 10-20 people. Dave asked about the funding part, Blake says Extinct is looking at outside investors but will ultimately be owned by the tribe. A lot of this will be involved in negotiating a term sheet. Dave asked about the IT personnel. Conly anticipates this would be an operating expense. Conly just recommends having the servers not in the casino. Maunka asked the tribe is the owner and were partnering, is the idea to create a tribal corporation. Conly says yes, it will have to be a tribal entity. Maunka says as a possibility

bottled water and avoid using the water from the faucets. Clint Powell says we continue to be under a no drink order. The 24 million dollars that was proposed by IHS does not take care of all of our issues, we would still have to have mineral issues so we would still need water softeners in each household. The 24 million is only on a 15 year life cycle. The equipment would have to be replaced, etc and would be a tribal cost. Olssons gave a true cost on what it would cost over 40 years. At the end of the day, IHS has a treaty responsibility to provide us with clean water. Clint says we will spend a lot of time talking with delegation in DC. Vietta asked what the timeline is looking like for the project. Clint says it's our environmental study holding up construction. IHS is giving a hard time participating in the study. The Environmental study is a four month study. Clint is going to propose today to maybe break the project into two pieces. The tribe has already received \$10 million, \$1.75 million, the \$10 million is set aside for environmental and construction. There's pipe ready in SD for when we start. If we can get through environmental, hopefully this fall we could start laying in SD. Kameron says its important that we continue to talk with our congressional staff. Vietta stated that she could get numbers together on cancer cases from the health center. Alonzo asked Vietta to pull data on Parkinson's disease, SIDS, cognitive things, and they will put them into handouts that will be given to delegation in DC. Waylon asked if the individuals that have reverse osmosis systems in their homes, does it clean the water properly. Clint says it cleans some things out of the water but not as many as a community wide reverse osmosis would. A community wide reverse osmosis system would get tested monthly, in households it's not tested as much. Waylon asked about the school, and casino and the ones with bigger systems, is this safe? Clint says these are all based off of a quality operator, but the treatment is only as good as the water system that's there. Clint cant speak to these but he does know the clinic is removing the contaminants they need to. Clint says pinpoint is doing spot testing themselves and if there is a concern, their staff will add to the report. Sid asked if this is just in the water because of our system. Clint says this is naturally in our water and has nothing to do with our system. It is the ground water and the influence from Bazile creek, it is naturally high in manganese.

- b. Solid waste transfer station planning – this is a million dollar grant from USDA. Planning is almost complete and construction will hopefully start this summer.
- c. There was an EIS study of raising of hwy 12. NDOT gave this study to the tribe as a draft and we responded to it. Kameron wanted THPO involved and to make sure our taxes are taken into consideration. He asked that they have the tribe involved more.
- d. There was a survey put out to help us with our strategic plan. Kameron just wanted to remind everyone that this ends March 14th. Mike Oltrogge asked to have the survey emailed to him so he could send out to his students at NICC.
- e. This concludes Vice Chairman Runnels update, but Chairman Denney wanted to publicly acknowledge Kameron on the work he continues to work on with the water issues and everything else and to thank him for all his work.

10. SSTHA discussion

- a. Alonzo wanted to open the conversation up. He wanted to let the people know that in February the housing received a demand letter for payment from the Department of Treasury. Chairman wanted to provide clarity on the situation. The tribe did take control of this issue and the bill was taken care of. Interviews on Monday for the housing ED. Carrie said there were two individuals that do not want to interview. There will be one interview over zoom with a total of six interviews. Carrie said she doesn't think the housing board is aware of the importance of this position. Carrie said she thought that the council should have just picked. She stated the importance of the questions that need to be asked in the interviews. It was recommended and agreed upon that a few council members will be present on sitting in on interviews.

11. Open Floor – Chairman Denney opened the floor for all visitors

- a. Waylon LaPlante wanted to share that there is a youth mental health first aide and QPR training and they asked if a council member could be available. Just to do a welcome and don't have to stay the whole time. Sid says he will have staff involved as well. Waylon said that the word is out that this will be mandate. Sid says this training has been updated that this will be a two day training. Waylon says this will help our community to know how to respond when they are approached with a relative that's having difficulty. Vietta says QPR training is available to IHS monthly. Carrie has a request for council, SOC can't buy food so is asking if the council could help with food. Dave says we can help. Alonzo will go out to the training on the 24th.
- b. Alonzo brought up the old casino. He said they currently started the demolition of this building. They are about 70-80,000 dollars into the demolition and heating. He says lighting was taken out and LED lights will be going in. There are three new furnaces going in as well and Wabasha HVAC came and is looking at doing the install. Stuart asked for a target date. Alonzo was hoping for golf season but it's not looking like it..
- c. Sid has a request to schedule a time to meet on the school's project for the tax portion of it. Alonzo said that all construction taxes are being taken out of all projects. Sid wants to talk into depth on it. He thinks some things need to be put on the table. He said we are ultimately taking away from the kids. Carrie said the school charges us for land so why wouldn't we tax them? Kameron asked how much the project is. Waylon said there is \$2 million set aside but now they are over, so they will have to make some adjustments since it sounds like the taxes won't be waived.
- d. Andrea suggested we start making more boards and committees. Clinic board, parks and wildlife, land committee, and possibly others. Defining roles of each board, policy and procedure, etc. We would have to sit down and see what the stipulations would be, the policies, procedures, and financials. The council has authority to establish entities but we have to figure out the structure. Carrie says we need to sit down and set aside some time to meet on the committees.

12. Resolutions

- a. 2025-23 Approves FY24 Tribal Trust Fund Budget (J accounts)
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-23

- ii. Motion made by Vietta Swalley
 - iii. Motion seconded by Carrie Rouillard
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
 - b. 2025-24 Relinquishment of William Richard Dennett
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-24
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iv. 7 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 1:18 pm
 - 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

Andrea McBride
Santee Sioux Nation Council Secretary

