

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 May 21, 2025 Council Headquarters 10:00 am

1. Call to order – Chairman Denney called meeting to order at 10:06 am
2. Opening prayer – Sidney Tuttle
3. Roll Call
 - a. Present – Chairman Alonzo Denney, Vice-Chairman Kameron Runnels, 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
 - b. Absent – Santee District Rep Vietta Swalley (excused)
 - c. Quorum established
4. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Chairman Denney asked if there are any changes to the agenda. Kameron wanted to correct the Sanitation Deficiencies System List FY25 to FY26.
 - b. With the correction of the misprint from FY25 to FY26, Chairman asked for a motion to approve the agenda.
 - i. Motion made by Dave Henry
 - ii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - 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 April 16, 2025
 - i. Motion made by Dave Henry
 - ii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iii. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
6. Head Start – Joyce Thomas
 - a. Joyce provided a packet for the council that included the continuation summer services budget revision, information on the NIHSDA Management Training Conference, April's financial statements, and FY25-26 grant application. Head Start has left over money and most of it is from wages. Without a bus driver for three months, shortage in custodian and aides, and now without an education person left them with extra funds left over.

They could use these funds to continue with summer service, just need to rearrange their 424 budget. The 424 needs to be submitted differently, don't have it at this time until they can figure out how to submit. The summer program will consist of four teachers and a cook. The summer program will be a continuation of services for current head start students that are already enrolled. Need approval for revised budget (continuation of services for 10 weeks). Conference - Joyce asked if Kameron and Carrie could attend at least the Tribal leader session on Wednesday, June 25. They will let Joyce know soon so she can register them. Joyce will cover costs of the conference as well.. Did not get cola or any one time funding. Didn't get an increase either, budget the same as last year. April financial statement is included as well. Head Start needs approval on the FY25-26 grant application

- i. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to approve the Head Start grant application for FY25-26.
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
 - v. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to approve the continuation of summer services with the revised budget
 - vi. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
 - vii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - viii. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
 - b. No further questions or discussion for Head Start or Joyce Thomas.
7. Tax Commission – Dana Yunker
- a. Update for council since Dana started in November 2024. The tax commission meets at least once a month. All tax commissioners were elected in 2024 except Floetta Johnson. They revised accordingly, the attachment given to council shows the terms. The packet includes meeting dates, accomplishments, program budgets, and their two bank accounts; one at Brunswick State Bank and the other at Farmers & Merchants State Bank, however they will be closing the account at F&M so that they are just working with one account. Alonzo brought up scholarships and collaborating with the tax commission. They are hoping to start this fall. This won't be just for college students, it will include tech schools and armed forces etc. Mike Oltrogge (NICC) suggested that they call it an educational stipend or gift, so they can send the scholarship directly to the student and not the school. The tax commission would like the council and attorney to review the policy and procedures. Dana would like to be added to the tribe's website to add their forms, etc. Dave stated that he will be closing the account at farmers and merchants. No further questions or comments for Dana or the tax commission.
8. Indian Health Service – Sanitation Deficiencies System List FY26
- a. Connor Martin, Tristan Woster, Jon Ireland, and Hayden Flemming (intern) were all present from IHS. They provided a power point presentation on the nation's Sanitation Deficiencies System List for FY26. IHS provides financial assistance for native communities. The majority of their funding comes is IHS Regular Funding and this supports sanitation deficiencies. These are awarded in the sanitation deficiency system.

Installation of water lines are an example of eligibility. Kameron asked about a water line to a park and Connor said it wouldn't be eligible, they could only support homes or a community center. Kameron stated that our shelter could technically be a community center. Tristan said the shelter would have to be determined by case by case and they would have to take a look at it. Tristan said they could do a site visit and look at it. Connor continued to discuss other funds that IHS could possibly help with. Accomplishing projects includes deficiency identification (what are the needs) and project development, both of these steps happen before funding is received. Alonzo asked if we could be more competitive since we're a smaller tribe. Tristan says it goes back to deficiency levels and needs and they have to be in certain ranges. There are local controls that can be put on projects to alleviate and balance that. IHS headquarters looks into the projects and determines this according to the need. Current projects – transfer station, gate valve and fire hydrant replacement project and a water main looping system to connect east and west portions. Current needs – buried fiber glass tank replacement – original to water system. The current proposal is to replace this tank as well as the two tanks with one larger tank. Lagoon improvements – replace lagoon, funded for replacing and ready to submit for tier 1 this year. Water meters – install meters within the community to every building, this will allow SSN utilities to bill. Connor asked about the red banner road extension, what's the status of this. Alonzo said there is no definite dates but wants it to stay in the conversation. The tribe currently has two grants in for red banner road. Connor said IHS housing funds can contribute to this project, surveying or technical assistance costs, and water and sewage. Connor also stated that when we are thinking about housing needs, the IHS is currently constructing a water main out at lost creek and there is water infrastructure there to sustain about 12 homes. This will be operational by the end of the summer. Marlenes septic has been replaced and the water main will be replaced as well. No further questions or comments for Connor or IHS.

9. Open Floor

- a. Mike Oltrogge, NICC president, gave a quick update. They had 43 certificates in associate degrees granted this year. Andrea suggested that maybe NICC could do more outreach in the Santee community. According to the strategic plan feedback, a lot of our members would like more education. Maybe they are not aware of what NICC has to offer. Mike said he will make the suggestion for more outreach. No further questions or comments for Mike or NICC.
- b. Dana needs to have ratification to the code or approval of her hiring. According to the code, the council was supposed to hire for the tax commission director (Dana's position), but the tax commissioners did the hiring. The attorney suggested that the council could put this in the minutes and it would suffice.
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to go back on the approval of the tax commission hiring the tax commission director, Dana Yunker, in November 2024
 - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
 - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes

- c. Waylon LaPlante wanted to let the council know and to publicly acknowledge that they have disgruntled people leaving the school and wants it to be clear that these people have no reflection on what the current administration and the current school board are trying to do moving forward. Waylon stated that Tom Rice wrote in his final report that he got pushed away from council and chairman. Waylon wanted to make it clear that the superintendent is the spokesperson for the school and no one else. The board doesn't want this to be misconstrued by what might be coming out publicly. Alonzo said over a year ago, Greg Shephard, Tom Rice, and Mr. Beck visited the council as a whole and that that was the only time they came to the table. He stated Tom Rice has never come to headquarter to meet with him or any other council, but that he has tried to host meetings at the school without the board or administration present. Chairman stated and wanted to make it clear that the council has never turned away a partnership with the school. No further questions or comments for Waylon or the Santee Community School.
- d. Chairman Denney wanted to give a quick update on the family fun center. He said Wabasha HVAC is done with the big portion of his job for the facility and the painting is almost done.

Chairman Denney got a call from Flandreau on partnering with the tribe on medical marijuana. He got a hold of the tribal attorney, Conly, to start drafting law and order codes. We will be have a meeting to see what direction we want to go. Alonzo asked for a meeting with their council as well. Clint Powell spoke up and stated he is associated with Flandreau Dry. Flandreau Dry does their cannabis testing. Clint stated that something lucrative on the medical side, if Nebraska legalizes, is the testing side of it. Jared N. that runs the testing facility might be a person we could bring in for discussion on this. Chairman brought up the financing and funding of this project. Chairman suggests we lean towards our line of credit at the bank, \$1.5 million is available. He's not saying we take it all but use what we have to to get started. He knows our goal is to get this tribe out of debt, but this may be something that could sustain other projects in the community down the road. No further questions or comments for Chairman Denney.

- e. Dave Henry said the club will open tomorrow and the skate park will be open soon too. Fencing will be going around the facility as well. Hoping that in phase three there will be a dome around the pool so the pool could be utilized year round. Dave stated the clinic is in the process of building a \$1.5 million ball park, including turf, new dugouts, lighting, concession stand, and announcers stand. Dave will be gathering info on a skilled nursing home as well. Thinks that through 105 L lease they could get funding to help with this. No further questions or comments for Treasurer Henry.
- f. Clinton Powell from Pinpoint said the tribe's lobbyist Fred Starzyk has been working on congressional earmarks on our water project, specifically for Senator Fischer's office. There are also appropriations language in Senator Fischer's office that is moving through right now. Hopefully by August, appropriation bills will come out. Fred and Pinpoint has also been working on congressional spending request for housing projects as well. They have also submitted a Fast 41 to the permitting council on the water project. The goal of this is to accelerate the environmental review for the water project. No further questions or comments for Clinton Powell or Pinpoint.

- g. Vice Chairman Runnels brought up the assisted living topic. Kameron says Don LaPointe wants to come home. Kameron brought up using the SOC home to set one up ASAP. Carrie said even if it's temporary until we can get a bigger facility. Carrie thinks this should be a top priority. Kameron said on the surveys, elder services were highly ranked in them. Derek said at one time, the council started collaborating with the clinic for something similar utilizing third party revenue. They kick started a pilot program. He said they talked about renovating the ten plex for this. Clinton said it would be easier to do independent living with medical support, because you can use a bigger pot of funds for projects such as this. Derek said there wasn't much buy in at the time but he thinks it would be a quick project and says the ten plex is ideal for this. He said Housing has a little bit of money to start this, but maybe third party revenue could contribute as well. Kameron said if this could happen, we need to set up a separate meeting on it soon.
- h. Carrie wanted to state that Conly sent back the LB1288 code that we adopted last month and that she will be giving it to Judicial Committee

10. Resolutions

- a. 2025-31 Authorizing tribal funds to pay for a tribal membership to be in good standing with the National Congress of American Indians
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-31
 - ii. Motion made by Dave Henry
 - iii. Motion seconded by Kameron Runnels
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- b. 2025-32 Authorizing the banks to remove ALL previous council members from any banking establishment and replacing them with current council members
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-32
 - ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
 - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iv. 6 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 12:35 pm
 - ii. Motion made by Dave Henry
 - iii. Motion seconded by Kameron Runnels
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea McBride

Andrea McBride
Santee Sioux Nation Council Secretary

