

# 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 13, 2024 SSN Headquarters 10:00 am

1. Call to order – Chairman Denney called meeting to order at 10:14 am
2. Opening prayer – Sidney Tuttle
3. Roll Call
  - a. Present – Chairman Alonzo Denney, Vice-Chairman Kameron Runnels, Treasurer David Henry, Secretary Andrea McBride, ~~Hoby~~ Creek District Rep Byron Tuttle, Howe Creek District Rep Carrie Rouillard, Santee District Rep Linda Whipple, and Bazile Creek District Rep Sandy Henry. All council present, quorum established.
4. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Chairman asked for motion to approve agenda
    - i. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
    - ii. Motion seconded by Linda Whipple
    - iii. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, and Chairman not voting, motion passes
5. Approval of meeting minutes – February 14, 2024 and February 16, 2024
  - 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 February's minutes there were no questions, comments, or concerns.
    - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from February 14, 2024 and February 16, 2024.
    - ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
    - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
    - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, and Chairman not voting, motion passes
6. Election board
  - a. Joe Moose spoke of an election board meeting and a conversation that was brought up about putting certain boards on the ballots. Judicial Committee and the Public Safety Committee were recently put on the ballots. For the Judicial Seat there will be one opening for Bazile creek and an alternate for judicial. For Public safety there is one seat up as well. They were talking about possibly putting the tax commission and enrollment committee on the next ballot. The tax commission seats were recently appointed by each district, so we may not have to worry about this one right now. Joe doesn't have any info

on when the seats for enrollment committee is up. Without info on when they were elected, he don't know details on the committee at all. Joe believes the enrollment committee is an 8 year term, wants to suggest that we make it a four year staggered term. Joe is asking for support from the council to approach the change. Kameron mentioned that enrollment ordinance created in 2004 and needs to be looked at and possibly amended. Misty said it would have to be amended if moved to the ballot, as well as the election ordinance. Kameron suggests we have a meeting with the enrollment committee. Alonzo agrees with Kameron, have a meeting. Maybe get things in order and put it on the ballot right away. The initial meeting with the enrollment and election committees is set for April 3 at 10am. Joe said in 2021 the election board had a voter registration drive, would like to do another one this year. Advised to go through with it, no need for council approval.

7. Stuart Redwing – attended a two day seminar a few weeks ago on grief. Speaking on behalf of families that go through this, he wanted to bring up the grieving time that the tribal policy gives. It was suggested that families get eight days to grieve. He is asking that somehow our policy be tweaked so that immediate family get an additional four days. Stuart would like to see the policy changed. Alonzo stated that this is part of our culture and he wouldn't be opposed to it. Linda is in favor of extending it as well. Sid discussed the day of the funeral, a lot of tribes close the entire tribe down out of respect for the families. On the technical side when we don't close it creates difficulties with HR, supervisors, and finance when it comes to documenting whether or not the employees are at the funeral and what the relationship to the family the individual employees are to the individual who has passed. Maybe we can amend the policy to consider closing the day of funerals. Alonzo suggested to draft or amend the funeral leave policy and then bring it to the council for approval. Kameron agrees but that we need to think about the businesses, they will be left out. Carrie asked if the tribe could afford this. We have to think business wise too, some grants would not allow this. And we might also get taken advantage of and how will this affect the non-natives whose tradition is not the same as ours. Carrie feels this needs to be tabled and discussed further. Alonzo advised HR and CEO to put a couple different policy drafts together that are fully detailed and we can discuss at a later time.
8. Human Resources monthly program updates
  - a. Santee Transit - Mike Crosley and Susie provided a hand out report. In the report was an update of where we are sitting with the transit funds today. Alonzo asked if we could implement a dollar a ride or something to go towards salary or something. Mike said we actually should be charging, but he would rather provide free rides for our people. But we could start charging and using tickets or transit passes. There is not a lot of annual allotments coming to the tribe for this transit operation. Mike said this program is performance orientated, the more people hauled the more money is received. The program operates off of the year prior's numbers. So when the transit is not being in use, it is losing money. Right now we don't have enough staff or drivers. The transit is currently using interest off the roads money to maintain the program. The transit program needs a grant written for new buses. Clint Powell offered services to help submit grants, there hasn't been anything discussed with him yet, but if Council approves



he will move forward with working with Clint. Dave said we could aid in helping with the funding for a grant writer. Alonzo advised Mike to put a budget together that would help sustain the program and pay the workers a little more than what they're currently getting paid. Right now, the transit program has very little funds to work with. Mike asked if there were funds to help for a year and we grew the transit program within that year, the transit program would then improve. Mike has been working with Sid on employee retention bonuses out of interest from the road's money. Susie also wanted to mention that the buses can only run for five years and we've had these current ones for six, so we do need new buses/vans. Sandy suggested getting word out to Niobrara school families to see if they would be okay transporting their children on the transit to help increase his numbers and mileage from year to year, overall generating more funds for the following year. Mike said he is looking into all the regulations on this, the insurance, the liabilities, etc. Alonzo suggested putting a survey out to see how parents would feel about this.

- b. TANF Program – HR manager, Sid Tuttle, said the director had doctor appointment and couldn't make it. Sid provided a hand out on behalf of the TANF Program. Chairman would like to hear from the TANF Director how the clients are reaching their goals and what is the program implementing to help the clients to reach their goals. Chairman asked HR if he could report back from the Director on a more detailed report.

#### 9. Vice Chairman Updates

- a. Kameron gave an update on the water legislative bill that he testified for in Lincoln. The bill would have given \$10 million for the three tribes in Nebraska, and we would get \$6 million out of that, however it didn't get voted out of the appropriations committee. We thought it died in that committee, but yesterday he got word that one of the senators brought it up for debate. So there is still hope that this bill would still go through. On Saturday our lobbyist from DC that the earmark for water infrastructure got signed in for law, which is \$2 million dollars. Clint provided a report and a funding package on what the whole project looks like and where we're at. The Cedar/Knox water funding from the state got pulled. The governor said that if Santee would work with Cedar/Knox with a water project that the governor would support. BUT that would take away from our project and go towards just the Cedar/Knox project. There is a lot of politics involved in our water project.

10. Misty Flowers – Judicial Commission has two vacant seats. Waylon LaPlante resigned due to being on too many committees. It is an at large position. Tashina Denney resigned her position as well, this is a Bazile Creek position. There will be an advertisement out soon. There was an oversight when the bylaws were added to the tribal code, it should have been done by resolution, however it was not. Misty brought forward a resolution to solidify it. Any time anything is added to the tribal code it needs to be done by resolution. On the qualifications section, terms were changed and they added an at large member. The commission also talked about compensation to make sure the judicial commission continues. They talked about what would be reasonable and Roger made the motion for the chair to receive \$100 and other committee members receive \$75. They did question where that funding would come from and suggested that it could possibly come from the tax commission. They also talked with Jamie James from the court and thought that it

should come out of the court, but Jamie says there is no funding. Alonzo stated that the tax commission has to get established first in order to commit to that. Updates are coming for the tax code and allocations. Alonzo asked if they're having any push back from the courts, but she said that it's better. She said there was good discussion and that there is a lot of work that needs to be done within the judicial commission. We will get the resolution completed, once we figure out where the stipend funding will come from. Misty will also be sending minutes to be posted on the website.

11. Resolutions

- a. Resolution 2024-26 – Dave talked about the youth complex and presented the resolution on allocating \$500,000 towards the new youth complex project.
  - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-26
  - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
  - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
  - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, and Chairman not voting, motion passes

12. Adjourn

- a. All agenda items have been addressed
  - i. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to adjourn at 12:40 pm
  - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
  - iii. Motion seconded by Dave Henry
  - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, and Chairman not voting, motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea McBride  
Santee Sioux Nation Council Secretary

