

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 November 25, 2024 Isanti Oyate Oyanke Community Center 11:00 am

1. Call to order – Chairman Denney called meeting to order at 11:05 am
2. Opening prayer – Redwing Thomas
3. Roll Call – Chairman Denney first welcomed the government class from Isanti School
 - 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, and Santee District Rep Linda
 - b. Absent – Howe Creek District Rep Carrie Rouillard
 - c. Quorum established
4. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Chairman Denney asked if there are any changes to the agenda
 - i. Andrea stated that Joyce will not be present but she did provide information for the council members in the packet
 - b. Chairman Denney asked for motion to approve agenda
 - i. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
 - 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 for a motion to approve minutes from the council meeting held on September 11, 2024
 - i. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
 - ii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iii. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
6. Swearing In of Council Members and new board members
 - a. Joe Moose (SSN Election Board Judge) read the certification of election results for 2024
 - b. Joe stated that Diane LaPointe would not be present at the inauguration to be sworn in, however they worked it out with the courts for Diane to be sworn in at a later time
 - c. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to approve the certification of the elections
 - i. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
 - ii. Motion seconded by Kameron Runnels
 - iii. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes

- d. The swearing in commenced of the following individuals:
 - i. Vietta Swalley – Santee District Representative for council
 - ii. David Henry Sr – SSN Council Treasurer
 - iii. Eliza Thomas – Enrollment Board Member
 - iv. Sidney Tuttle, Sr – Judicial Commission
 - v. Leeanna Payer – Judicial Commission
 - vi. Sidney Tuttle, Jr – Election Board Representative
 - e. An honoring and song was held for Linda Whipple thanking her for her time of serving on the council.
 - i. Linda shared some words and wished all the new board members well wishes.
 - f. An encouragement song was sang for all the newly elected officials.
 - g. Kameron shared some words. He thanked Linda for her time and service not only on council but in the community and Tribe. Kameron also congratulated the newly elected members. Kameron encouraged positive change not only for the newly elected but for the entire nation. He wants us all to continue to come together and unite as a nation and thanked everybody for joining us today.
 - h. Dave Henry shared some words. Thanked everyone for their support and for everyone coming today. He also thanked Linda for her time of service.
 - i. Vietta shared some words. Thanked everyone for their support and is looking forward to contributing to her seat on the council
7. Joyce Thomas – Head Start – Not present but submitted a monthly report and a letter to the council asking for support for the four million grant application. Head Start needs this in minutes. Chairman Denney had given the council time to look through. Kameron asked if the new facility will be 100% grant, Alonzo said he believes so.
- a. The council looked over the documents provided and didn't have any further questions.
 - i. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to support the Head Start grant application
 - ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
 - iii. Motion seconded Sandy Henry
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
8. Open Discussion
- a. Chairman Denney was approached by Floetta Johnson on behalf of the tax commission that the four districts were requesting holiday funds for their districts. Historically each district is given funds for their districts to purchase candy bags or something for their district members. In the past the tax commission gives \$3000 to each district. Chairman stated he is not in favor of giving the Hobu Creek District their share of the holiday funds. His reasoning is that the district was asked to remove an individual from their voting list that is not a SSN member. He says this is grounds for anyone to contest our elections since they have a non-enrolled member on their voting list. He says he needs to be removed and until then Chairman Denney is not in favor of giving Hobu Creek District any additional funding. He stated they are not following the directives or requests from the council to remove the individual. Wakiyan Thomas stated that as tribal chairman, Alonzo cannot deny funds to the whole district because of one person. Wakiyan said he wanted

to hear the thoughts of the other council members. Byron Tuttle stated that he agrees with Chairman Denney. Byron wants the district to receive the funds too, but that the individual should be removed. Thelma Thomas stated Hobu Creek used to be a large district but not so much anymore. She is a member of the Hobu Creek district but doesn't make too many meetings. She stated that what constitutes members for the district is that everyone says by-laws, but back in the day there used to be people that lived here but weren't enrolled and would attend district meetings. She said maybe each district could have something like that in their by-laws, where their membership for each district could include all, however she's never seen any by-laws. She said that as district people, we should be able to come together but it's not always like that. She also stated that items and matters could be discussed and worked out. Thelma also brought up that when lineal descents were paid off in the 80's, they received more money than our full bloods. The decision made back then has affected us 40 years later. Thelma stated that our members back in the day didn't give up and they had it a thousand times harder than us. Kameron wanted to share some words. He wanted to thank Thelma for sharing. He also wanted to address what Chairman had suggested. He don't think we should punish the district by not giving them their Christmas money, but he does think that at some point there has to be a solution for the non-member being on the voters list. He said we just talked about being more united as a tribe and then we come to this possible division. Alonzo wanted to respond to Wakiyan and Kameron. He said when he ran the election was contested because of the non-tribal member being on the voting list. Chairman stated this could be an ongoing issue for years to come until the non-member is removed. He said for two years the district has been asked to remove them and Hobu Creek district fails to do what they are being asked of by removing the individual. He says that he agrees that everyone is entitled to the Christmas funds by why reward this district when they don't want to listen to what the tribal government is saying to them. Chairman stated that by leaving the individual on the voters list throws the whole integrity of the elections off. He said these are his thoughts and that's why he said what he said. Thelma said that with tribal elections across the board, we might be the only ones who do it this way. She says in order to vote, the district has to approve the voters list. The district can remove and add members. When this is done, the list should be going to the tribal council for approval or dis-approval. She says we should be able to register to vote up in to September, she says currently we can't. She said there are current districts that take it upon themselves to remove individuals because they think they know if someone is no longer here and is sometimes mistaken. One was her own grandson. She said this is something to look at, the Isanti equal rights. She said in the US you can register the day before voting and we restrict ours. Joe Moose said there are a lot of things in the ordinance that needs to be changed and he agrees that the timeframe to register should be changed and extended. Joe also stated that there are certain things that they, as an election board, need to do some further research. Chairman Denney said he is glad he got the attention of Hobu District members and hopefully we can work

together moving forward. Wakiyan Thomas said the Hobu Creek district will sit down and talk about this as well.

- i. Chairman asked for a motion to authorize the Tax Commission to give each of the four districts \$3000 each
 - ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
 - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- b. Alonzo brought up the state of Nebraska passing and legalizing medical marijuana. Alonzo said its time for us to look at and update our judicial codes. He thinks it's something for us to look into whole heartedly. He said Flandreau did this and are doing very well. Right now we are \$13.5 million in debt on land purchases; these lands were purchased without a plan. We are currently talking about how we are going to continue paying for these lands. Wakiyan stated that Pine Ridge is currently in the business and that their tribe is able make a lot of purchases with their revenue. He also says that in the courts, 90 percent of the people in the system is for THC. He said this would slow down the repeat offenders. He says he is all for it. Kameron said last year it didn't go anywhere because it costs money to get it started. He agrees but we might put ourselves in debt by pursuing this. Alonzo says that Flandreau has committed to do a joint venture. This is just an initial conversation. Kameron suggested we have a public meeting. Alonzo said the tribe passed a hemp ordinance before and he don't think it's that divisive of an issue anymore. Alonzo says that he does have contacts in Flandreau that they would like to set up a tour with their facility. John Shroeder emailed Alonzo and will give information to the rest of the council. Kameron just also wanted to say that there are other ways to provide for land debt as well. He doesn't want the public to feel discouraged. The land leases are now being bid and the construction tax will come into play and be very helpful as well.
- c. No Further discussions for the open floor.

9. Resolutions

- a. 2024-73 The SSN enters into a purchase agreement with Ryan RedOwl
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-73
 - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
 - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- b. 2024-74 The SSN enters into a purchase agreement with Natalie Torrez
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-74
 - ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
 - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- c. 2024-75 Authorizing the contract between BIA, Winnebago Agency, Great Plains Region and the SSN for the Land Management/Natural Resources Program
 - i. This resolution is being tabled as we need more information on the amount
- d. 2024-76 Adopting Chapter of Title VII otherwise known as the SSN Solid Waste Act
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-76
 - ii. Motion made by Dave Henry

- iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- e. 2024-77 Adopting revised Title XXXI of the SSN Law and Order Code regarding revenue and taxation
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-77
 - ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
 - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- f. 2024-78 SSN in opposition to Magellan Pipeline Reroute and Requesting Consultation
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-78
 - ii. Motion made by Kameron Runnels
 - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- g. 2024-79 The SSN Tribal council is choosing the entirety of SSN Reservation as their Community Disaster Resilience Zone
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-79
 - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
 - iii. Motion seconded by Kameron Runnels
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- h. 2025-01 SSN supports the Tatanka Transit Program in submitting for the total of \$151,755
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-01
 - ii. Motion made by Dave Henry
 - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- i. 2025-02 Approving the terms of the contract with BIA, Great Plains Region, and the SSN for the Land Management/Natural Resources Program
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-02
 - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
 - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- j. 2025-03 Approved membership to the SSN – Arianna Moravia McPherson
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-03
 - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
 - iii. Motion seconded by Kameron Runnels
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- k. 2025-04 Approved membership to the SSN – Delaney Eunice Mosaquites
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-04
 - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
 - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- l. 2025-05 Approved membership to the SSN – Dellavigne LaPointe
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-05
 - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
 - iii. Motion seconded by Kameron Runnels
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes

- m. 2025-06 Water and waste grant agreement
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-06
 - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
 - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iv. 6 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes

10. Adjourn

- a. All agenda items have been addressed
 - i. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to adjourn at 12:55pm
 - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
 - 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

