

Santee Sioux Nation

SSN Council Headquarters

Chairman: Alonzo Denney
Vice-Chairman: Kameron Runnels
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Regular Council Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2024

Santee Health Center

9:00 am

1. Call to order – Chairman Denney called meeting to order at 10:02 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, Howe Creek District Rep Carrie Rouillard, Bazile Creek District Rep Sandy Henry, and Santee District Rep Linda
 - b. Quorum established
4. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Chairman Denney asked if there are any changes to the agenda
 - i. No changes needed
 - b. Chairman Denney asked for motion to approve agenda
 - i. Motion made by Linda Whipple
 - ii. Motion seconded by Dave Henry
 - iii. 7 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 regular council meeting held on August 14, 2024
 - 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. Joyce Thomas – Headstart
 - a. Joyce stated that Head Start is still funded for 35 spots. They are on a five year approval and was never put on a spot reduction and was advised to hold it at 35. Currently have 16 children enrolled, with nine on the toddler waitlist. There is a wait list with the toddlers. As a toddler turns three they move to the three year old class and then a toddler spot becomes available, so that they can continue to increase their enrollment. Head Start currently doesn't have a bus driver, they are contracting Don Pike, Jr right now. Millie Swalley is currently working the kitchen, but will be applying for her CDL, however this is a long process. Head Start will be re-advertising this position and will be advertised in the

Crofton paper. Joyce wants to talk to NICC to see if they could possibly offer CDL classes to help license more people. Head Start not required to get income from families, this is a plus for the program. This allows for a different point system that is included in the packet provided. Head start has a new performance standards and that is in the packet as well. By August 2028, the performance standards will require programs to facilitate access to high quality affordable health care coverage, offer paid leave, and offer short term minimal cost behavioral health services, they will also be required to facilitate access to affordable child care, and public service loan forgiveness program. With the loan forgiveness program, they will have to have a five year contract signed to pay this back if they quit within that five year period. By August 2027, programs must provide staff with regular breaks within their shift, right now they work a straight eight hours with two fifteen minute breaks. Included in the report is the notice of awards for 2024/2025. Will not have to submit again until 2029. Head start is having difficulties with the tribal access program with FBI fingerprints. Joyce doesn't know what the hold up is on their side. Right now she goes through Albuquerque and it takes approximately two weeks. If this can be resolved, it could take minutes to do here. Joyce stated this has been a couple years since they've been waiting. Jamie said he would take this on, but its taking a while for head start and DTSU to get approved. Alonzo said he will reach out to Jamie James to see if he can make a phone call to get things going. Joyce will also like to set up training for Tribal Council and the Policy Council at a further date. No further questions for Joyce.

7. Took a short recess at 10:24. Reconvened at 10:50am.

8. Redwing Thomas – Dakota Language Program update

- a. Redwing wanted to thank the school for bringing the government class to see how the tribe operates. Red provided an over view of what the program has been doing since the beginning. The program was providing community classes in Santee and Sioux City. There was a one day camp of about 70 participants in Santee. The Sioux City camp had to cancel due to flooding. The summer months are being used to build resources which is provided in the overview. The program is ready to print books, official textbooks of our language, work books for middle school age, and color books for the elementary. They are just going to be digitized. Want to give to all tribal children everywhere access to these resources. There is an every day phrase audible program he is working on. There will be a 101 every day phrases on all platforms, this will be free. The program will be working with Ken Derby Jr to launch a webpage, there will be an online option to take a class. Do we want to charge a small fee for it or keep it free? We are in a delicate position, we have only one fluent speaker left in our tribe. Our language holds philosophies that don't exist in English. Red wants it known that no one should feel bad about not knowing our language. He understands there is a gentle side to teaching and learning our language. What makes it delicate, our language gives us our right to call ourselves sovereign, and the ability to have tribal councils, to make our own laws and to govern ourselves, and to have our own land base, etc. Our language is directly tied to our culture, so the language and culture tied to land is what makes us our own nation. So if we lose our language, it will become extremely scary. Redwing is grateful for the support

this far, but we need more active support, more involvement. He gets that people are busy, so the webpage will come in play when it comes to helping those that cannot participate person to person. It will be more accessible, but our people will need to use it. We're faced with two scenarios that are certain, one: we lose our language or two: we bring it back. The momentum right now is leading us to bringing back the language. Red pointed out in the overview is that they are making signage. Visual stimulation to start shifting thoughts. He said he will work with all programs for signage for their programs if they would like. Red would also like to request to put up billboards, welcome signs, when coming on to the reservation. He would also like to eventually label districts as well. Empowerment is in our language. In person classes begin tonight. They are now adding a youth component at the warriors lodge from 5-6pm, he would like to thank Byron Tuttle for allowing the use of the lodge. Redwings hope is that there will be an official hand game team and an official moccasin team to take to different tournaments. Red also stated that for it to be an official program, there is more staff needed. The apprentice interviews will be conducted this afternoon and tomorrow morning. Preferably a young person, they will be tasked with everything Red does along with more learning. Red has a wish list, he asked what the plans are for the old teen center, he would like to add his name to the possibly of use on it for the Dakota Language Program and staff. For possible future funding, Redwing stated that in mid-August Bill Rudnicki from the Shakopee tribe reached out to him and said their council wants help fund our program and schedule a meeting with the Santee Sioux Nation at some point. Laverne White Bear from Sisseton also reached out that there could be probable funding. Wakiyan Thomas asked if we could put the language program into tribal 501c3 to get more grants. Alonzo stated that a 501c3 could be possible and that we will discuss the old teen center building. Redwing also wanted to mention that laptops were purchased that will be used as incentives in partnership with the school for grades, attendance, etc. There are other drum groups down here and with grant dollars the program purchased drums for all of them. Red wants to have a ceremony in the fall where the history of the drum is shared, along with encouragement, etc. and give all the drum groups a drum. Redwing is also going to start looking at places of where a building can go, he was looking at possible building on Amazon. Wants to see unification with all institutions: college, school, head start, school, etc. so that there is a language unification and using the same dialect, our dialect. The Isanti dialect is rare. The majority of our dialect can be found in Manitobah. The Standing Buffalo moved and declared their language the official language of their land and has opened up a lot of doors for their government. He would eventually like to see us do the same. Redwing has big aspirations but will take time. He is completely committed to the program. No further questions or comments from or for Redwing.

9. Mike Oltrogge – NICC requests letter of support for NSF Development Engine
 - a. Mike presented the letter stating the SSN supporting the NSF engine which will be specifically The Sand Hills Ag Tech Engine. NICC's role would be to help with work force development and education. This will be a partnership and the lead applicant is UNL.
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to support the NICC grant application

- ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, 1 not voting, motion passed
- 10. Lindy Gravel road to pavement community discussion – Clint Powell with Pinpoint Corporation
 - a. Clint stated they have been working on a grant application for the lindy gravel road to be paved. Its an important project based off the fact that as we continue with the DOT project on the spur, the Lindy road will serve as primary entrance and exit to the village during that time period. For the grant, there is requirement to have a public comment meeting. The grant application would like some personal accounts on how this project would be beneficial for the community. A couple employees for Pinpoint are here today to discuss this with some community members that are present today. Along with the Lindy road project, in the packet there is a task order with Pinpoint that allows them to finish the grant application, would like to be signed today. This is a 20 million dollar project, about 2 million dollars a mile. Due to the amount of curves and grading issues, this cost is a little higher than it normally would. The road would have to be widened as well. Kameron asked if this something that Mike Crosley's program funds. Clint said that no the contract for the lindy road project is separate from the money that Mike Crosley's program gets and that the contract would be funded by the grant we are applying for. The goal is that no tribal funds have to be expended for the task order, this is separate from what Mike has. The tribe will not be asked for any funding until the grant is completed. Linda asked when we would find out about the grant. Clint said the grant application date is mid-October, then we can turn around and submit for 2025 immediately after that. Dave asked if this is the same grant that Mike had applied for before. Clint stated that this is different from the Raise grant. Raise don't have a set aside for tribal nations. He stated the way they are putting in the application, there is actual set aside money for federal tribes. He feels we got a really good chance with the ranking criteria. Alonzo said he would like for the rest of the council to review the consultation task order before he signs and then he would send off to Clint.
 - b. Clint would also like to talk about Veterans memorial drive. This project is 100% funded by BIA. BIA did not have the time to design associated with this project. There is a task order in the packet that Clint provided that includes the design for Veteran's Memorial drive. The design shows that this will be done next summer. Depending on how this comes together for Lindy road, the goal is to get these two project designs done as close together as possible. That way when we go out for bids, we can do them simultaneously. This gives us a better chance of having the same contractor on both and reducing construction costs. Alonzo asked what this design would look like. Clint stated they will add curb and gutter as well as some sidewalk. Dave asked if this would be asphalt, clint said yes. Stuart asked where it would end, Clint stated by NICC.
 - c. Alonzo asked how they are feeling about the possibility of receiving the grant for this project. Clint is pretty confident with the Lindy Road. Santee met all eight of the ranking criteria. Dave did mention at one time Congress Smith supported this project and asked if Clint reached out to any offices. Clint said he did request letters of support from Senator Fischer's office, Congressman Smith's office, and Senator Rickett's office. Kameron stated that the flooding we will continue to get, it's real important that we get this completed one day, it is much needed. Kameron stated that he supports the consultation. Natalie Torrez asked if the Lindy Road was a BIA project. Clint stated no, that the funding for this would come from Federal Highway Administration. Because it is a current county road, it would be a joint jurisdictional project with the SSN, the county, and Federal Highway. The county will be responsible for maintenance. It will go in front of county commission next

month. Rick Thomas asked what role will section 106 have in this project? Clint stated that all projects go through complete environmental clearance and archeological clearance. Clint stated that an advantage with the Lindy Road project, is that its considered a pre-disturbed area already so it's a little easier. However, if it's necessary, they will take the proper steps getting clearance from environmental, archeological, and SSN THPO.

- d. The last updates Clint has are that he is working with mike on transit buses, will probably see a task order at the next council meeting for this. The rural water project: Clint said pretty much 100% confident that we are going to have a fully funded project. Hope that by January we will have an exact say that this is going to be funded. And we will have clean water by 2027. The total estimated cost for this project is 53 million dollars. As it sits today it will be 100% grant. We are at a decision point for a solar project. Federal funding is tied to bipartisan infrastructural law. They are trying to spend a lot of money before a possible change in administration, therefore we need to work on this ASAP. Clint said that his belief is that if tribe is involved with these projects they will be at no cost to the tribe.

11. Appointment of two SSTHA Board of Commissioners

- a. Chairman Denney read letters of interests from Stuart Redwing, Renae Helper, Larry Thomas, Vietta Swalley, Natalie Torrez, and Derek LaPointe. There was also a letter presented from Carol Brandt asking to be assigned as board chair.
- b. An anonymous vote was taken and the new members are Stuart Redwing and Derek LaPointe. Joe Moose will let them know and the Housing Board will be responsible for assigning their own position and seats.

12. Vice-Chairman update

- a. Kameron stated that a lot of what he wanted to update, has already been brought up and discussed earlier in the meeting. But Kameron does think that street signs need to be updated and make the community look a little nicer. Kameron thinks we should, as a council, upgrade the community. Add more language signs in our community as well. Kameron has been asking Conly on the construction tax and why it is not there. We will miss out with all the projects that are coming through, this is unrestricted money that we can possibly miss out. Kameron brought up a TERO program with Conly too and asked if we could do both but Conly suggests that we should pick one. There is a TERO review board in the region that could come and show us what we are missing out on.

13. Resolutions

- a. 2024-59 ARPA budget liquidated to be dispersed for items on prepared ARPA budget
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-59
 - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
 - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- b. 2024-60 SSN authorizes STHA to prepare and submit a 2024 competitive IHBG grant application
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-60
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- c. 2024-61 SSN enter into homesite lease agreement with the Santee Housing Authority
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-61
 - ii. Motion made by Sandy Henry

- iii. Motion seconded by Linda Whipple
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- d. 2024-62 SSN enter into homesite lease agreement with the Santee Housing Authority
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-62
 - ii. Motion made by Sandy Henry
 - iii. Motion seconded by Carrie Rouillard
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- e. 2024-63 SSN enter into homesite lease agreement with the Santee Housing Authority
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-63
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- f. 2024-64 SSN enter into homesite lease agreement with the Santee Housing Authority
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-64
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- g. 2024-65 SSN endorses and supports proposal for FY2023 Herd Development Grant
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-65
 - ii. Motion made by Dave Henry
 - iii. Motion seconded by Linda Whipple
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- h. 2024-66 Approving and adopting amendments to SSN enrollment ordinance
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-66
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- i. 2024-67 Liquidate from 3rd party revenue – transfer funds into clinic escrow at First Dakota National Bank – use funds for renovation and MRI machine, Dialysis center, and Youth Complex Center
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-67
 - ii. Motion made by Byron Tuttle
 - iii. Motion seconded by Sandy Henry
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- j. 2024-68 Approved membership for Vayda Redwing, Titan Rouillard, Hero Schultz, Jade Torrez
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-68
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Linda Whipple
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- k. 2024-69 Approved membership for Avante Medina
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-69
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Kameron Runnels
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
- l. 2024-70 Approved membership for Tonya Adams

- i. Chairman asked for a motion to table this resolution, it needs correction on last names.
 - ii. Motion made by Linda Whipple
 - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
 - m. 2024-71 Approved membership for Walker White
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-71
 - ii. Motion made by Carrie Rouillard
 - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
 - n. 2024-72 Approved membership for Amanda Schmidt
 - i. Chairman asked for a motion to table this resolution, it needs correction on mother's names
 - ii. Motion made by Sandy Henry
 - iii. Motion seconded by Byron Tuttle
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes
14. Adjourn
- a. All agenda items have been addressed
 - i. Chairman Denney asked for a motion to adjourn at 1:53pm
 - ii. Motion made by Dave Henry
 - iii. Motion seconded by Carrie Rouillard
 - iv. 7 voting in favor, 0 opposed, Chairman not voting, motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea McBride

Andrea McBride
Santee Sioux Nation Council Secretary

