

**SPIRIT LAKE TRIBE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
September 28, 2023**



Present: Lonna J. Street, Tribal Chairwoman
ReNa Lohnes, Vice Chairwoman/Mission District Representative
Charmayne Bohanon, Secretary Treasurer
Kimberly Three Irons, Fort Totten District Representative
Kooper Longie, Woodlake District Representative

Absent: Darren Walking Eagle, Crow Hill District Representative

Location: Tribal Conference Room

Guests: Jessica Alberts, CFO Spirit Lake Finance Department
Miranda Belgarde, Junior Accountant, Spirit Lake Finance Department

Lonna J. Street, Tribal Chairwoman calls the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.
Prayer by Elder Mr. Josie Lawrence

1. Welcome

Chairwoman Street thanks everyone for their understanding on having to move the time for the General Assembly and any questions will be answered.

2. FY 2024 Budgets

Jessica Alberts-Longie, Chief Financial Officer of the Spirit Lake Tribe presents a power point on the Spirit Lake Tribe's Fiscal Year 2024 budgets that are approved as follows:

- 1) General Fund: Budget used 50% for Tribal Council and Administrative Staff
- 2) ARPA: \$24 million available
- 3) BIA ATG: \$2,100,000 to plan, resolution for these one-time funds such as the Wellness Centers, Senior Services, etc.
- 4) Early Childhood Tracking: \$1,903,732; Early Childhood Tracking Reimbursement \$1,337,132 3rd Party fund,
- 5) JOM Funds: \$82,5556.00 disbursed to the school; Education – EDF: \$715,610
- 6) Emergency Management: \$135,000
- 7) Spirit Lake Veterans Services: \$26,000
- 8) Enrollment: \$252,847
- 9) EPA: \$1.9 million; New Grant currently has 5 grants and 1 EDF request
- 10) Indirect Cost: 9.4 million; Incudes 50% of Tribal council, Administration for Spirit Lake Tribe, Spirit Lake Health Center, and Security
- 11) Fire Department: \$1,094,000 and EDF request; includes 4 BIA funded programs.
- 12) Fish and Wildlife Program: \$855,000; EDF request with Bison. Working with Robert Greywater on the Bison Grant total of 4.2 million
- 13) Human Resource Department: \$122,400; EDF request for employee incentives, and to help employees with schooling
- 14) Employment and Training Program: \$14435,577; LIHEAP \$3.4 million with two programs
- 15) Loans and Collections Department: \$508,000
- 16) Motor Vehicle Department: \$265,000.00 partially funded; EDF: \$314,000

**SPIRIT LAKE TRIBE
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- 17) Pow Wow Budget: \$265,000 Total: \$314,000
 - 18) Spring Pow Wow Budget: \$64,000
 - 19) Refuse/Sioux Utilities: \$1,455,00; EDF: \$374,000 and Sioux Utilities EDF request
 - 20) Tribal Roads Department: \$2,703,609; has six pots of funds self-governance for this program
 - 21) Okiciyai Program: \$495,000 self-funded
 - 22) Spirit Lake Health Center: \$25,594,000; Compact funds, third party
 - 23) Spirit Lake Health Center: \$9.2 million ARPA funds
 - 24) Tribal Social Services: \$4.9 million; Foundation, state, and federal funds
 - 25) ICWA Program: \$686,000; BIA and Tiwahe funded
 - 26) SORNA: \$123,000 DOJ funded
 - 27) Tax and Special tax Fiscal Year 2024; \$154,000
 - 28) TERO Department: \$305,000 Fiscal Year budget
 - 29) THPO Department: \$316,000; two funds
 - 30) Tiwahe Program: \$711,000; HIP, Shelter and Social Services
 - 31) Spirit Lake Tribal Court: \$2,060,000; seven programs, BIA and self-funded with fees
 - 32) Suicide Prevention: \$488,000; Healthy transitions \$486,000
 - 33) WIC Program: \$313,500; State and EDF funded
 - 34) AOD Program: State grant \$140,000, EDF \$40,000
 - 35) SPPI: \$661,000; Three funds
 - 36) Tribal Health: Dakota Health, 3rd party, CHR, CHR 3rd party billing, Health and Recovery
 - 37) Living Language Program: \$97,044
 - 38) CDC Wellness Grants Spirit Comes Back Program: \$150,000
 - 39) Planning Department: \$4.7 million Wind turbine project and Econ Planning grant
 - 40) Land Acquisition: \$267,504; land leases, fees etc.
 - 41) Victims Assistance Program: \$961,473; State, D.O.J. and B.I.A. funded
 - 42) Vocational Rehabilitation Program: \$735,000 federally funded
 - 43) Water Resources Department: \$1.3 million: MR&I Construction, 3.4 million
 - 44) Crow Hill Wellness Center: \$195,459; 3 month and operational
 - 45) Fort Totten Wellness Center: \$113,527; BIA AIG funds for 9 months
 - 46) Mission Wellness Center: \$212,000; BIA AIG funds for 9 months
 - 47) Woodlake Wellness Center: \$92,403; BIA AIG funds for 9 months
- Total Fiscal Year 2024 Budget amounts of \$145,049,698

3. EDF Request

Jessica Alberts-Longie, CFO, shares there are an overall of twenty-two programs requesting EDF with a total of \$5,062,392.00 in monthly payments. It has increased from Fiscal Year 2023 by \$742,392.00 for Fiscal Year 2024 budgets.

4. Open Discussion

Public has inquiries about a back up plan for fuel and to prepare for increase in costs. Inquires on the Wellness Center's as a backup emergency plan with generators. Secretary Treasurer Bohanon will check into this.

Community members inquire why budgets are not printed and given out. The Tribal Council does not want the budgets out and posted on social media. Chairwoman Street shares if anyone wants

**SPIRIT LAKE TRIBE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
September 28, 2023**



to see all the program budgets you can visit with their District Representative and get a copy.

A community member shares the Community Nourishment program needs better organization, and the General Assistance clients can help.

Discussion on the BIA Police Officers not responding, and people have to dial 911 for them to respond. The Tribal Council is working on an MOA with the BIA and cross deputize individuals. People need to start calling 911 and reporting.

Chairwoman Street thanks Jessica Alberts-Longie, CFO and Miranda Belgarde, Junior Accountant, and the finance office. The community members ask if program directors to present and provide updates with their programs.

Kevin Dauphinais, Tribal Health Director informs the community we need to help one another and wants the leaders to advocate at Washington D.C. about law enforcement issues. He states he has presented a written proposal on a treatment/sober living facility. Programs can not force people to get help they need to request it.

Chairwoman Street informs the public about our tribal members who went in a van and who had intentions it was for a treatment program. She shared that on Sunday they flew to Denver and then on to California. The Bureau of Criminal Investigations contacted Chairwoman Street and stated they are adults, and they chose to go.

Community member shares the Tribal Council needs to remove the sale of alcohol to help our addicted tribal members.

Discussion on treatment programs and we need a higher level of care, our people need to detox, and our facility is not adequate to assist those individuals. We offer a 28-day shot for pills/opioids. Lakeisha Chaske, Recovery and Wellness staff member shares the Recovery and Wellness process for individuals seeking treatment:

- Evaluation for drugs/alcohol
- Need to take care of their health because addicts can die from alcohol withdrawals.
- Referral/determination of eligibility
- Testing TB needs to be done before they can check into treatment

Jennifer Rusten, Suicide and Prevention Director states shortage of nursing staff and we do not house people who are withdrawing.

Kevin Dauphinais thanks the community and has concerns about tribal members not having North Dakota Medicaid. He shares the Tribal Health Staff (CHR), Okiciyapi, and the Spirit Lake Health Center can help tribal members sign up.

Discussion on a suggestion to set up a day utilizing the mobile units to go to each district to have the staff assist our community members sign up for North Dakota Medicaid. We need more outreach in the districts and to have the programs use the Wellness Centers.

Robert Greywater, Fish and Wildlife Director provides an update on bird hunting. Rifle season

**SPIRIT LAKE TRIBE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
September 28, 2023**



opens on October 1, 2023 and he shares it is beneficial to get a license regardless. The Bison is a self-sufficient program. Discussion on improvement for Bison meat, hides and skulls. This is a first come first serve basis. Bison is not mandated to give items away it is a courtesy. Roger Yankton Sr., states there was a preexisting program under the late Elmer White Sr. administration. All financial reports require a signature.

Kenneth Graywater Jr., Tribal Historic Preservationist Officer provides an update on his trip to Pennsylvania to bring home Edward Upright who passed away around 1881 who was the son of Chief Waanatan Nupa. Mrs. Helena Littleghost signed a letter to the United States Army and NARF wrote and demanded NGPRA be followed and to give the remains back to Spirit Lake and the Sisseton Oyate. Once the lawyers got involved the United States Army became more cooperative. Several spiritual leaders from Sisseton Oyate were present at the grave site. Once the digging began it rained for 13 hours straight until 11:30 p.m. when the remains were exhumed. Sisseton Oyate brought the attendees together and did a ceremony. It was a 26-hour drive back to Sisseton, South Dakota. Upon arrival in Sisseton the burial site was set up with Tipi's, and scaffolds for the boys to be laid to rest.

The Kitfox Society offered to work with the Spirit Lake Tribe VFW. Kenneth Jr. states the Tribe needs a Men's society and a Buffalo heart Society for women. We need more support for culture and ceremonies.

Community member thanked Kenneth Jr., and the Tribal Council for participating in bringing home our ancestors.

Edward Upright's mother is from Sisseton, South Dakota and his father was Chief Waanatan Nupa. He grew up in Sisseton and the THPO and family members decided to lay him to rest there.

A community member shares a letter to Tribal Council about concerns with a teacher at Four Winds Community High School who employ him. It went to the school board and Jeff Olson, Superintendent who stated Corey Ploim's record was not done in the school district.

Discussion on the Fort Totten Catholic Church Priest on his behavior towards family members. Chairwoman Street shares she visited with him and asked him to be more respectful. There is a process to follow when members are being buried.

Discussion on alcohol sales and the difference in the Eugene Littleghost and Peter Owlboy Jr. petitions.

The Tribal Health programs offer to help come up with a revenue plan for the sale of alcohol funds. Discussion on the Spirit Lake Housing Corporation Director position. June Littlewind suggests a rent to own home program with a mandatory rental agreement in place.

Next month's agenda will include:

- TIP 411
- Drug Enforcement
- Solar Panels DOE grant

**SPIRIT LAKE TRIBE
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Discussion on the Spirit Lake Housing Corporation employees, the Director position, and the Norma Rainbow Center.

Chairwoman Street requests tribal members to put complaints in writing so it can be addressed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned as Secretary-Treasurer of the Tribal Council, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of six (6) members of whom five (5) were present, constituting a quorum for a General Assembly meeting duly called and convened on this 28th day of September 2023 and approved these General Assembly meeting minutes by certification of signature of the Spirit Lake Tribal Chairwoman and Secretary Treasurer.


Charmayne Bohanon
Secretary Treasurer




Lonna J. Street
Tribal Chairwoman