

**Spirit Lake Tribe  
General Assembly Meeting  
November 26, 2024**



**Present:** Lonna J. Street, Tribal Chairwoman  
ReNa Lohnes, Mission District Representative/Vice Chairwoman  
Charmayne Bohanon, Secretary Treasurer  
Kimberly Three Irons, Fort Totten District Representative  
Darren Walking Eagle, Crow Hill District Representative

**Absent:** Kooper Longie, Woodlake District Representative

**Location:** Tribal Conference Room

**Invocation:** Richard Yankton

Chairwoman Street calls meeting to order at 5:10pm

### **1. Introduction**

Chairwoman Street gives members information to refrain from the behavior of last month's meeting, be mindful and respectful.

### **2. Housing**

Myra Pearson, Director was made aware of at the last meeting there were questions and concerns. Myra tells community members there were 87 homes boarded up when she started, only 22 homes boarded up as of now and Housing has a clean audit and she has a good board that she works with. Questions from the community: Spirit Lake Lodges – after 10-15 years it would be turned over to the occupant: Norma Rainbow – getting caretakers, they get weekly updates from law enforcement.

Kim Cavanaugh states the tribe should send the district homes to the housing for management. COVID repair program – helped only the high-income individuals and low-income families didn't receive help. Discussion on home repair program and correction on information.

### **3. Community Discussion**

Oliver Gourd states people need to take care of burial sites and is concerned about the homes and roads might be on burial sites. KJ Greywater states his office doesn't have anything on record. The late Frank Myrick shared information on burial sites behind the new Mission home sites. Roger Yankton asks what's the accounts receivable current amount. Myra states she will have to bring that next month.

When are the pow wow grounds home going to be fixed? Myra states she turned them over to the homeowners.

A punch list – Individuals showed the contractor what was wrong.

What was the home appraised at? Myra will check into this. Josie Lawrence asks about Cora's housing.

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**4. Spirit Lake Health Center**

Dixie Omen, CEO & Wanda Randle emphasize the importance of needing insurance and when people don't have health coverage it affects the health center's funds. We need to get patients enrolled with health coverage.

The Billing Department increased since 2016, we get 40% of our budget from I.H.S. and use 3<sup>rd</sup> party to cover expenses.

Waynita Chaske's child's dental incident, Roger wants to know who is following up with the patients at the health center. Dixie states Tribal Health would do an assessment to find out what our members need for follow-up. Roger wants an organizational chart for tribal health and the Spirit Lake Health Center. The Health Board is over these two programs. Invite Kevin Dauphinais to next General Assembly.

**4. North Dakota House of Representatives District 9**

Collette Brown states that Francis Brown and Connie Lohnes are her parents, she is a mother of three and works in the gaming industry. Myra Pearson asked her to educate state legislature on how state gaming would impact tribal nations.

Collette Brown states that her position with the State is only part-time, they only meet 80 days every odd year. Ms. Brown states that she will propose to definitively define where these machines can go.

She will reach out to tribes to work on things together and agrees that all tribes need a Savannah alert system to put in place for any MMIW/M to notify the state of missing people.

**5. Open Discussion**

Discussion begins on JOM funding for the schools and why certain children don't qualify for these funds; Chairwoman Street states children who don't qualify for these funds aren't enrolled with any tribe nor are the parents enrolled in any tribe, and this will make that child not eligible for JOM funding.

Chairwoman Street tells members the General Manager was on the agenda to give update on SLC&R but he is unavailable due to prior obligations. Chairwoman Street informs tribal members the Social Impact disbursement will begin on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> this year in the old bingo hall at the Spirit Lake Casino & Resort. On November 13<sup>th</sup> there was a Veteran's Day Event at Spirit Lake Casino, and programs had informational booths on benefits the Veterans would be able to participate in. There were 30 plus individuals who showed up for the event. Chairwoman Street Thanks Marty Alex and Dean Dauphinais who helped coordinate the Veteran's Day event and the Veteran's Pow wow and all Veterans received a T-shirt, jacket & a gift certificate voucher from the Tribal Council.

Chairwoman Street informs the community the MMIW/M reward amount increased to \$20,000.00 to any individual who helps with the successful return of Jemini Posey and Isaac Hunt. Chairwoman Street informs the public that she went to DC to attend the Tribal Interior Budget

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Council, she also participated on a panel about MMIW/M; the Tribe lost our SLEC Benson County agreement and a meeting with Ethan Rhode, Judge Vetsch, and BIA Law Enforcement to send us detailed officers to help ensure the safety of our tribal and community members.

While in Washington, DC Chairwoman Street also attended a meeting to ask the Government to take back medals for the Wounded Knee Massacre.

At the TIBC meeting Chairwoman Street discussed Spirit Lake Tribe's Law Enforcement issues; and the Tribal Council supported the opposition of Pipestone. The Tribal Council amended the burial funds by increasing the budget due to increased costs with the funeral homes and the Spirit Lake Tribe uses 3<sup>rd</sup> party funds for the burial fund. Representative Walking Eagle met with Bryan Mierser – New BIA Director Frank Star Comes Out there's 9 regions Bryan Newland - Department of Interior.

Chairwoman Street established the 4 Directions Charter Corporation to be able to proceed with the Wastewater Treatment Facility and this was also passed by Resolution to incorporate for the Tribe.

Mission District Update: The wellness staff held the District Turkey Dinner on 11/13/24 and they served 420 people. Representative Lohnes thanks the staff for their hard work in ensuring this event went smoothly.

Currently the Shelter is at a standstill because we need more staff to operate the different shifts. The Shelter building has passed inspection and the minor repairs that were needed have been addressed. We are grateful for the donations that various people and organizations have donated to the Spirit Lake Tribe's shelter.

EPA reached out to architects to assist with the repairs to the Sacred Life Center and there was no change in getting the building addressed. The program staff was housed at Cankdeska Cikana Community College and equipment has been stored at CCCC until the building is safe for use again.

Representative Lohnes informs the public that sixty-six children attend the events at the wellness center and Marva Tollefson goes to the wellness center as well to work with the youth. Representative Lohnes thanks the wellness center staff for all their hard work.

Discussion begins on Representative Longie's unprofessional behavior towards employees and the tribal members; Representative Lohnes informs tribal members that this was addressed and Representative Longie is supposed to apologize to the tribal members that he got upset with.

A tribal elder informs the public that if the District had issues with the Representative then they would have to follow the Constitution for removal and get a petition with the required signatures.

Chairwoman Street apologizes to the tribal members for this Representative's behavior and states that she has addressed his behavior. Chairwoman Street thanks everyone for attending the General Assembly meeting.

Richard Yankton says closing prayer

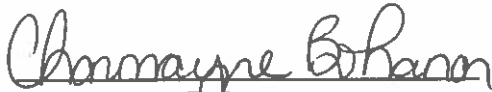
Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.,

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**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 six (6) were present, constituting a quorum for a General Assembly meeting duly called and convened on this 26th day of November, 2024 and approved these General Assembly meeting minutes by certification of signature of the Spirit Lake Tribal Chairwoman and the Secretary Treasurer.

  
**Charmayne Bohanon**  
**Secretary Treasurer**



  
**Lonna J. Street**  
**Tribal Chairwoman**