

**Spirit Lake Tribe  
General Assembly Meeting  
August 27, 2024**



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

**Absent:** Rena Lohnes Vice-Chair/Mission District Representative  
Kooper Longie, Woodlake District Representative

**Location:** Tribal Conference Room

**Invocation:** Marva Tollefson

Chairwoman Street calls meeting to order at 5:04pm

## 1. Tribal Court

Joe Vetsch, Chief Judge informs the public of the numbers as of 7-15-24

490 – New Criminal Cases

150 – Juvenile Cases

90 – Tribal Social Services Cases

Joe Vetsch informs the public that the Tribal Court Staff attended a meeting in Red lake, MN to tour a Juvenile Detention Center and lets the public know about the new staff at Tribal Court. June Gourd – Juvenile Presenting Attorney, Jack Yunker in Devils Lake, Amanda Klemetsrud, tribal prosecutor, Molly McDonald, Guardian Ad Litem.

The Spirit Lake Tribal Court currently has the Appellate Court and has been working on amendments to the Law-and-Order Code. The Spirit Lake Tribe Gang Code was approved in 2017 and was currently added to the Tribe's website. The EDF budget increased by 25%; Twelve (12) bracelets issued – funds used to supplement positions. Appellate court is up and running. There needs to be an update to the Court System; Counties & Tribal Court meet every other month to offer services to individuals. MOUs in place with other Law Enforcement, Tiwahe, EDF, Federal and state agencies.

Discussion on Law & Order Committee; it functions as a judicial committee, four (4) members and one (1) at large. Yvonne Longie, Denver Littlewind & Alton Nestell are the members.

There's over 1000 warrants issued, juveniles are sent to Standing Rock for a short term, but they are having issues with beds being available. Some Juveniles are sent to Iowa for a long term.

What happens to the kids who were involved with guns & stabbings? Joe V. says he needs more information on this, and it is the same process as an adult. Judge Vetsch states that anyone willing to be on the team to handle 1 on 1 with Wodakota.

Lack of communication between Law Enforcement and Tribal Court, a poorly grant written to address truancy and wanting to deal with serious issues. Issues with Wodakota court & it was disbanded.

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Chairwoman Street informs the public Spirit Lake Tribe requested to 638 program our Law Enforcement and a Juvenile Detention Center and through 105L plan to lease the new facility back to BIA. Roger Yankton responds All positions require documents and not verbal reports. Upcoming FY budgets to adequately staff the court. Need to listen to the people to help you. A report on children who were born and tested positive for meth. Never got a report on the after affects. Roger wants Joe Vetsch to work with other judges to correct parents not being charged when kids being born tested positive for drugs.

Oralia Diaz – MOA’s when they stop people on the reservation where do the funds go? To the counties or does the tribe get a portion? Cross Deputized agreement doesn’t need to be called to assist to enforce federal or state laws. Those cases go to our tribe, non-natives get transferred to the counties.

Oralia Diaz – Asks about Representative Longie’s incident and the Tribal Court Prosecutor Amanda) reviewed the videos and no charges were brought against him. Discussion on Pan handling; Chairwoman Street tells the public the General Manager is handling the situation.

## **2. Education**

Education Director Felicia St. Pierre informs the public that there are eighty-six (86) associates; forty-two (42) graduated in the spring.

17 students in the bachelor’s program; 1 student enrolled in a RN to BSN program; we have 5 students in a master’s program, two students are enrolled in MD school, and one is doing their Residency.

112 High School Graduates and 82 of these students have graduated from local schools.

Summer Semester

17 bachelor summer semesters; 33 associates, 3 students in the master’s program.

Boarding school

33 kids in boarding school

24- at Circle of Nations School in Wahpeton; 4- Flandreau Indian School; 2- Pierre Indian Learning Center; 2- Riverside California

Employees aren’t allowed to participate; we pay tuition and authorize education leave.

Incentives for education; EDF Funds the Education Program, motivate to move onto the next level.

A report on how much graduated while using the program.

There are two scholarships that are open right now: The Helen Bergstrom Ernst Scholarship and the Spirit Lake Tribe Scholarship. Applications can be picked up at the office or can be printed online.

## **3. Fort Totten Wellness Center**

Upcoming Events – Cultural come in to learn Dakota Language at 6pm on Tuesdays, incentives for kids who attend Monday, Saturday & Sunday – Open gym; Volleyball Tournament. 9-20-24

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cookout with Bounce Houses. Pets Clinic the Rec will be closed. Archery 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Tournament. Movie Night once a month & Baking Class. Kayla Robertson, Fort Totten Wellness Coordinator posts monthly calendars to let everyone know what's going on. Discussion on parents needing to take responsibility for their children.

Natasha Littlewind - Do an ice-skating rink for the kids. Start some clubs ex: Legos. Kayla did this last year and only four kids participated, and it cost a lot. Find other Clubs to try out. KABU can announce the activities, and Senior Services can send out flyers. Any volunteers are more than welcome to help the Rec Staff with the kids and events.

Sacred Life Center – Structure isn't sound Kevin states and an assessment was done. Representative Lohnes is currently working on getting this building repaired.

Kevin updates about Sober Living Facility and he feels that the Tribal Council is hindering the progress of this project.

Josie states the funds from alcohol was to build a treatment facility. Kevin States he has policy for the Sober Living facility. Resolution for houses like MHA as a sober living facility. An agreement with the City Commission Kevin states we don't need their approval, we need to do an application to change the hotel from a business to a sober living facility.

Darren Walking Eagle, Crow Hill District Representative gives an update on TIBC travel, haircuts at the Crow Hill Wellness Center, back packs & supplies give away for the kids, the Crow Hill Wellness Center currently has a mini food pantry & there's a home development site in Crow Hill for the Rent-to-own homes. The Rent-to-own program has an application process.

Crow Hill wants a van to do more with the youth. The next Crow Hill district meeting is 10/15/24 @ 5pm at the Crow Hill Wellness Center.

The Tribal Council met with USDA, the US Attorney General, and held a meeting for FY 25 Budgets and HR policy revisions & we also met with the enrollment committee regarding the ordinance responses from BIA.

Representative Walking Eagle exits the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Woodlake District Representative informs the public about his meeting on 10/17/24 and he will only have quarterly meetings, he will read the constitution changes at the next General Assembly meeting, Representative Longie informs the public about his agricultural plan for Farming to sell: Alfalfa, vegetables and soy to gain profit for the Spirit Lake Tribe and make use of the land.

Eugene Littleghost - CCCC situation regarding termination over medical marijuana card. Eugene wants to know why the Tribal Council tabled his exclusion on Sheri Diehl. Eugene states Chairwoman Street didn't help him and had him follow the process. Kooper fired a lady at the college but didn't help Eugene.

Catherine Howard wants all elders to get \$500.00 and a turkey otherwise she's going to carry a petition around.

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Roger Yankton thanks Representative Longie for his strategic plan. We bought nonmembers hay who got it from the land that he leases from the Tribe.

Kyle Cavanaugh - still never got a response. Chairwoman Street informs Kyle that the Tribe doesn't want to jeopardize any funding. The federal government still classifies marijuana as illegal. Spirit Lake Tribe needs to decriminalize marijuana in our Law & Order Code. Tribal Member Richard Yankton states marijuana is two steps back. Alfred Thompson wants marijuana to be put on the ballot.

Chairwoman Street informs community members they need to do a petition and a plan to get this on the ballot. Oliver Gourd says we need a better way to make money. Alfred Thompson states that Drug and Alcohol use is taught in the home.

Discussion about the purchase of Tokio General Store and the County is currently working on abstracts for Tokio Store. Then we would own it and six lots of land.

Discussion begins on Rent-to-own homes and the possibility of moving the homes to where the selected applicant wants rather than in clusters. Not on private land but tribal land leases.

7:33pm Representative Longie exits meeting.

Next Month – General Manager & breakdown of casino businesses.

Who regulates serving alcohol & issues on people being bothered by drunk people.

Lance Wadsworth talks about costs and LaRoy makes him severe ties. CEO takes over to proposals, gaming commission and doesn't want to jeopardize his grievance.

Shakopee Tribe gave Spirit Lake Tribe funds to help with the disruption of shelves empty for the Food Distribution Program. Valerie Yankton asks about the news on Mary Greene only receiving half of her food. Shakopee gave all Sioux Nations funds to help with Tribe's food shortages. There are food pantries in all four districts. Tribal Member Josie Lawrence asks where Representative Lohnes is? Chairwoman Street replies Representative Lohnes is helping with advocating at USDA meetings pertaining to the food shortage across the Nation for Commodity Programs.

Discussion begins on issues with the Spirit Lake Employment and Training Transportation program – no one answers phones and the bus causes people to be late for work. Bernadine Whiteshield expresses her concerns with transportation. Secretary Treasurer Bohanon asks Bernadine to write it up and turn it in to Mardell Merrick, Human Resource director. Valerie Yankton asks Secretary Treasurer Bohanon to print off Facebook posts. Secretary Treasurer Bohanon states anyone writing a complaint can submit all supporting documentation.

Petition to get our bingo back but nothing was turned into secretary treasurer's office.

Audit for Enrollment and ARPA funds.

The CFO was present last month to present the ARPA budgets.

Discussion begins about Woodlake District needing to support Chairwoman Street's decision to suspend Representative Longie. The Tribe needs a code of ethics, and the Tribal Council shouldn't drink alcohol. Suspension is allowable under the constitution.

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Secretary Treasurer Bohanon updates on Enrollment Ordinance and BIA response to the revisions; a meeting was held with the Enrollment Committee to address the responses and to approve the revised ordinance.

Funding Allocated for New Health Center - \$5 million from clinic funding

\$15 million from third party funding

\$5 million from Spirit Lake Tribe's ARPA funding

We need \$20 million to complete the new clinic building.

Dixie Omen, CEO Spirit Lake Health Center is working to revise \$11 million of COVID funds for the new facility

Chairwoman Street informs the public that Chairman Yankton – worked on 600 acres of land and discovered during Chairman Goodhouse's term the US Fish & Wildlife took our land and there was no Resolution to support what BIA took.

Next General Assembly – CO-Stewarding White Horse Hill. The Spirit Lake Tribe is considering to 638 White Horse Hill & asking for education to have our Tribal Members operate this program. We are also considering the name change to Sunska' Pa'ha'

Next Tribal Council Agenda - Traditional Burial grounds – Where Paul Little is buried. Designate it as our Traditional Burial Ground, 2.5 acres, and have Paulette Driver give us the legal description.

Next General Assembly – Proposal design for new clinic – Invite Dixie

Meeting Adjourned 8:43pm

**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 four (4) were present, constituting a quorum for a General Assembly meeting duly called and convened on this 27th day of August, 2024 and approved these General Assembly meeting minutes by certification of signature of the Spirit Lake Tribal Chairwoman and Secretary Treasurer.

Handwritten signature of Charmayne Bohanon in black ink.

**Charmayne Bohanon  
Secretary Treasurer**



Handwritten signature of Lonna J. Street in black ink.

**Lonna J. Street  
Tribal Chairwoman**