

## **OGLALA LAKOTA COUNTY UNAPPROVED SPECIAL MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2025**

The Oglala Lakota Board of County Commissioners met in Special Session at the Fall River County Courthouse on September 16, 2025. Present: Allyssa Comer, Art Hopkins, Anna Takes the Shield (Dubray), Sue Ganje, Auditor and Ramon Bear Runner Via Phone. Wendell Yellow Bull was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 1:21 p.m. by Commissioner Yellow Bull. The agenda was reviewed for conflicts. ALL MOTIONS RECORDED IN THESE MINUTES WERE PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

Motion made by Takes the Shield (Dubray), seconded by Hopkins, to approve the agenda as written with moving Dar Coy, Emergency Management to the first time slot.

Dar Coy, Emergency Management, to discuss about a Drought Resolution, it allows you to sell your cattle if needed and being about to buy the same amount back and you wouldn't have to pay the state tax on them. The FSA will help the individual get started on the process, all you must do is take a declaration to the person doing your taxes and it should be exempt. You can keep the declaration for up to a year.

Ramon Bear Runner joined the meeting via phone at 1:28 p.m.

Motion made by Takes the Shield, seconded by Hopkins to approve Drought Resolution.

At this time the Commissioners will begin discussing the Oglala Lakota Policy changes, Hopkins then asked if there was a state of emergency, who would be in charge to make the decision on whether the employee can take time off or not? After further discussion, it should always be the supervisor of the department that makes the decision. In section 6.4.4 in the Oglala Lakota County policy manual it states **"Donation of annual leave or sick leave to regular, full time or permanent part time employees from the same funding source and in the same department or program or program who have exhausted their own leave"** changed to Donation of annual leave & Sick leave hours up to 80 hours and you keep 80 hours pay out of annual leave, with 200 hours for sick leave, pay up to 520 hours upon retirement.

**"Employees can request or receive donated annual leave provided their own leave has been completely exhausted and an emergency occurs (documentation must be provided)"** the change would be "Employees can request or receive donated annual leave provided their own leave has been completely exhausted and a medical emergency occurs (documentation must be provided)"

Motion made by Takes the Shield, seconded by Hopkins, to accept the changes to the policy.

Audrey Martinez will be doing CPR training; it's \$10.00 to get your license.

The commissioners decided to add a new holiday, Wounded Knee Massacre Day on December 29<sup>th</sup>

Motion made by Takes the Shield, seconded by Hopkins, to set Wounded Knee Massacre Day to the designated holidays list in the policy book.

Discussion on Monthly to Bi- weekly, it was harder to budget with monthly paychecks for the newer employees because they started out with the bi-weekly paychecks and it was easier to budget for the older employees because they started out with the monthly paychecks. The individuals who were not notified by the payroll change, it was quite a shock. Comer wants to tend everyone, if they want to be monthly, they should get the choice to do so. Comer suggested that the County should do a Bi- Monthly instead of a Bi-

Weekly. The employee who chooses Monthly will be paid on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month and if the employee chooses Bi- Monthly they get paid on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, it's split perfectly in half. The County started Bi-weekly about 3 months ago and therefore the employees have got so used to it that they are not able to budget properly if they started up monthly once again. Comer is concerned that if we go back to monthly, we will lose another Sheriff because that was the reason the employees kept leaving.

Motion made by Takes the Shield, seconded by Bear Runner, to switch to Bi-monthly and Monthly

The Employees will get the choice of choosing either. There will be an email sent out to each individual employee, just so they don't feel the pressure of pleasing others with their decision.

On the front page of the policy, it'll be changed to "Adopted by Oglala Lakota County 08/10/2022 and revised on 9/16/2025.

As Public comment begins, Hopkins stated that he would like to have the tribal flag hung up in the meeting room. Hopkins also mentioned that when the commissioners went to a conference recently, they stayed at the governor's inn, and the telephone, Air Conditioner and the tv was not working. The handicap wasn't accessible either.

Motion made by Takes the Shield, seconded by Hopkins, to adjourn the meeting at 2:34 p.m.

/S/ Allyssa Comer

Allyssa Comer, Chairwoman

Board of Oglala Lakota County Commissioners

ATTEST:

/S/ Sue Ganje

Sue Ganje, Auditor