

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARQUETTE TRIBAL COMMUNITY CENTER
MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN
May 19, 2026

This meeting was opened at 5:01 p.m. by Chairman Austin Lowes.

Present: Kimberly Hampton, Tyler LaPlaunt, Rob McRorie, Michael McKerchie, Kimberly Lee, Isaac McKechnie, Lana Causley-Smith, Larry Barbeau, Bridgett Sorenson (Z), Kimberle Gravelle, Aaron Payment, Shawn Borowicz, Austin Lowes
Absent: None

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to add the following resolutions to the agenda:

- **Residential Land Lease – Sunny L. Vittitow**
- **Authorizing Negotiation and Hire of Court Administrator/Magistrate**
- **Supporting Lake Superior Academy Litigation Against Bitcoin Mining**

Motion carries unanimously.

Without objection, remove the resolution: USDA – Authorization to Enter into a USDA RUS Form 515 Telecommunications System Construction Contract.

No objection.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve the agenda as read. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve 5/5/26 Minutes. Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-132, FY 2027 Budget Document 001 (Schedule A Budgets).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2027 Budget Document 001 totaling \$19,138,317.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-133, Natural Resources Division – Air Program Development Establishment of FY 2027 Budget.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the establishment of a FY 2027 budget for Air Program Development with Federal EPA Revenue of \$72,388.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-134, Intern Program and Third-Party Revenue FY 2026 Budget Modifications.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2026 budget modification to the Intern Program for a decrease in Tribal Support of \$7,027.72 and to add a transfer in of funds from Third Party Revenue of \$14,055.42.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2026 budget modification to Third Party Revenue to transfer out \$14,055.42 of funds to the Intern Program.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-135, Higher Education and Third-Party Revenue FY 2026 Budget Modifications.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2026 budget modification to Higher Education to decrease Tribal Support \$2,000.00 and add a transfer in of funds from Third Party Revenue of \$2,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2026 budget modification to Third Party Revenue to transfer out \$2,000.00 in funds to Higher Education.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-136, Health Division – Sault Ste. Marie Third-Party Revenue FY 2026 Budget Modifications.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2026 budget modification to Sault Ste. Marie Optical for an increase in funds from Third Party Revenue of \$91,131.97.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2026 budget modification to Third Party Revenue to increase the transfer out of funds to Sault Ste. Marie Optical by \$91,131.97.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-137, Tribal Court – Deputy Clerk Positions.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes and approves the Deputy Clerk positions shall be budgeted to the maximum rate of pay for the position.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes the Board Administrator to complete an administrative budget modification to reflect the Deputy Clerk positions budgeted at the max-range and to request wage reviews to ensure internal equity for the position.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the use of available BIA and/or Opioid funding for CC#2780, Judicial Services to bring the Deputy Clerk positions to the max-range.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-138, Approving MOU Bark River-Harris Schools.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the MOU between the Tribe and Bark River - Harris Schools to provide a 2026 Summer Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman or his designee to execute the MOU with Bark River - Harris Schools.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-139, Approving MOU Rudyard Area Schools.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the MOU between the Tribe and Rudyard Area Schools to provide a 2026 Summer Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman or his designee to execute the MOU with Rudyard Area Schools.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-140, Approving MOU Les Cheneaux Community Schools.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the MOU between the Tribe and Les Cheneaux Community Schools to provide a 2026 Summer Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman or his designee to execute the MOU with Les Cheneaux Community Schools.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-141, Rescinding Resolution 2023-102.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Payment, to amend to transfer any interest earned to the Land Claims Fund.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Payment, supported by Director McKechnie, to amend the Amendment to approve the amendment pending legal review.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby rescinds Resolution 2023-102, effective immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby authorizes the interest earned to be placed into the Lands Claim fund pending legal review.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-142, Committing Long-Term Two-Percent to Newton Township.

Moved by Director Payment, supported by Director McKechnie, to amend the authorization time to 1 year.

Without objection, change Amendment language to 2 years.

No objection.

Roll Call Vote on Amendment: Motion carries with Director Sorenson opposing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby commits \$7,000.00 of long-term two percent funding to Newton Township to support the activities of the Gould City Museum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Legal Department, with the assistance of the Unit II Board of Directors, to negotiate and draft a long-term two percent agreement with Newton Township to effectuate this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Chairman or their designee to execute any and all documents to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the funding to Newton Township for the period of 2 years.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Borowicz, to approve Resolution 2026-143, Federal Clearance Requirements for Sault Tribe Inc. Contract Award.

BE IT RESOLVED, that officials of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, as the ultimate tier entity, and any intermediate tier entities between the Tribe and STSS shall not require and shall not have access to classified Federal information in the custody of STSS or any cleared subsidiary or affiliated entity performing classified work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that STSS hereby acknowledges the execution of this exclusion resolution by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, whereby the Tribe, Tribal officials acting in their Tribal capacities, and intermediate excluded entities shall not require and shall not have access to classified information, and that this action will not adversely affect the safeguarding of classified information or the performance of classified contracts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these actions of the Tribal Board of Directors are taken for the purpose of excluding the Tribe and Tribal officials from access to classified information and exempting the Tribe from the requirement to obtain a Facility Security Clearance under the "National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual", while preserving the separation between Tribal governance functions and classified contract operations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Board of Directors authorizes the Chairman to execute any documents necessary to effectuate this resolution.

Roll Call Vote: Motions carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2026-144, Accepting Resignation of Appellate Judge.

Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to amend to be effective June 5th, 2026.

Motion to Amend carries with Director McKechnie opposing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby accepts the resignation of the Appellate Judge, effective June 5th, 2026.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors' LaPlaunt, Borowicz, Gravelle, Causley-Smith, Barbeau, Lee, McKerchie, Sorenson, and Hampton supporting; Directors' McKechnie and McRorie opposing; and Director Payment abstaining.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2026-145, Authorization Amended Constitution Submission for a Secretarial Election.

Motion by Director McKechnie to Call for Vote.

Motion dies due to lack of support.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Gravelle, to amend Constitutional document from 9 votes to 8 votes to overturn Veto.

Roll Call Vote: Motion to Amend carries with Directors' Causley-Smith, McKerchie, Gravelle, Barbeau, Sorenson, LaPlaunt, Lee approving; Directors' Borowicz, McKechnie, Hampton, Payment, McRorie opposing.

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Barbeau, to amend Amendment language to state two-thirds majority instead of 8 votes.

Roll Call Vote: Motion to Amend language carries with Directors' Sorenson, Lee, Barbeau, LaPlaunt, McKerchie, Gravelle, Causley-Smith approving; Directors' Payment, Borowicz, Hampton, McKechnie, McRorie opposing.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby requests the Secretary of the Interior to call a Secretarial Election to present the proposed, and attached, amendments to the Constitution of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in accordance with Article X of the Constitution and 25 C.F.R. Part 81.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution and the attached copy of the proposed amendments shall be sent to the Secretary of the Interior within 30 days of enactment of this resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby amends the draft Constitutional Amendments document to require a two-thirds vote of Tribal Council to overturn a Veto from the Ogema.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously (per Article X – Amendments of the Constitution, Chairman Lowes voted).

Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2026-146, Supporting A State of Michigan Temporary Moratorium on Large-Scale Data Centers and Cryptocurrency Mining.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians supports the state of Michigan establishing a temporary moratorium on large-scale data center and cryptocurrency mining developments until a consultation process is established with Tribes, including comprehensive environmental and cultural impact assessments on any legislation involving large-scale data centers and cryptocurrency mining.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby affirms its commitment to protecting treaty rights, natural resources, and future generations.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2026-147, Establishing Carbon Capture and Subsurface Land Use Framework.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby establishes that no carbon capture, pipeline, or subsurface land use activities shall occur on tribal land without conducting environmental and cultural review, and ensuring protection of treaty rights and tribal jurisdiction to be presented to the Board of Directors in open session with public comment

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors hereby requests the State of Michigan to establish formal consultation requirements for all actions the state takes in regards to carbon capture, pipeline development, and subsurface land use to ensure prior and informed consent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is not intended to diminish the Tribe's ability to approve pipelines related to utilities, that would bring necessary utilities to tribal households residing on tribal land.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2026-148, Residential Land Lease – Sunny L. Vittitow.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman and the Treasurer to execute a Residential Land lease for the land located at Kincheloe, Michigan, to Sunny L. Vittitow, the land being described as:

Township of Kinross, County of Chippewa, State of Michigan
Sec. 29, T 45 N, R 1 W (.34 acres),
Lots 616 and 617 Cedar Grove Estates III

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal staff is directed to prepare the appropriate Residential Land Lease documents for BIA Recording.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Residential Land Lease is in furtherance of a Housing program operated in the promotion of the public purpose, and the negotiated rental amount has been determined

to be in the best interest of the Tribe and its people, and valuation in accordance with 25 CFR 162.320 is hereby waived.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2026-149, Authorizing Negotiation and Hire of Court Administrator/Magistrate.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby approves the negotiation and hiring of the candidate for Court Administrator/Magistrate as presented at the workshop on May 19, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that government HR Director is authorized to negotiate for and complete the hiring process of the Court Administrator/Magistrate selected candidate and the alternative candidate if necessary.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2026-150, Supporting Lake Superior Academy Litigation Against Bitcoin Mining.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Legal Department's Public Relations Manager to release any communications from the Tribe necessary to support Lake Superior Academy in its ongoing litigation with the Bitcoin Mining Company consistent with the June 17, 2025 motion and this resolution.

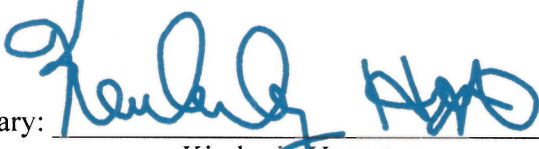
Motion carries unanimously.

Without objection, meeting adjourned.

No objection.

Adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Date: 6/2/26

Secretary: 
Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Lona Stewart, Samuel Derusha, Ryan Mills, Jessica Dumback, Holly Haapala, Bill Connolly, Joseph Street, Damien Hopper, Mary Jenerou, Scott Brand, Jen Clerc (Z), Robin Bouschor (Z), Stephanie Sprecker (Z), Ashlee Mielke (Z), Carrie Rogers (Z), Lisa Burnside (Z), Rachel Heckel (Z), Helen Wilkins (Z), Betsy Callaway (Z), Brenda Jeffreys (Z), Latisha Willette (Z), Robert Marchand