

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
KEWADIN CASINOS CONVENTION CENTER
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN
MAY 6-7, 2025

This meeting was opened at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Austin Lowes.

Present: Rob McRorie (Z), Kimberly Lee, Aaron Payment (not present for roll call), Isaac McKechnie, Kimberle Gravelle, Kimberly Hampton, Michael McKerchie, Tyler LaPlaunt, Larry Barbeau, Bridgett Sorenson, Austin Lowes
Absent: Shawn Borowicz, Lana Causley-Smith

Without objection, moved by Director Lee, supported by Director Barbeau, to excuse Director Causley-Smith.

No objection.

Without objection, add 1964 Olympic Gold Medal Champion Billy Mills – Honorary Member Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians under Resolutions.

No objection.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve the agenda as read.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Hampton, to approve the meeting minutes from Regular Meeting April 15, 2025.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve the meeting minutes from Special Meeting April 29, 2025.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2025-83, Buildings – Shedawin Haven Establishment of FY 2025 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 2025 budget for Shedawin Haven with Other Revenue monies of \$44,287.92.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2025-84, Transportation – RAISE Grant Establishment of FY 2025 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 2025 budget for RAISE Grant with Federal Department of Transportation Revenue monies of \$2,260,000.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Resolution 2025-85, Amending Chapter 71 Criminal Offenses: Subchapter VIII: Property Related Offenses Breaking and Entering.

Without objection, waive the reading.

No objections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby amends Tribal Code Chapter 71: Criminal Offenses as follows:

§71.809 Breaking and Entering

Offense: A person commits the offense of Breaking and Entering if:

He breaks and enters or enters without breaking any:

dwelling, house, tent, hotel, office, store, shop, warehouse, barn, granary, factory or other building, boat, ship, railroad car or structure used or kept for public or private use, or any private apartment therein, or any cottage, clubhouse, boat house, hunting or fishing lodge, garage or the out-buildings belonging thereto, any ice shanty with a value of \$100.00 or more, or any other structure

Without first obtaining permission to enter from the person having immediate control and/or ownership thereof.

Comment. For the purpose of this section, it does not matter whether or not the building or other structure listed in subsection (1)(a)(i) is occupied or unoccupied.

Sentence. A person convicted of Breaking and Entering may be sentenced to imprisonment for a period of up to six (6) months, or a fine not to exceed five thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) or both.

If the building or other structure listed in subsection (1)(a)(i) is damaged in the process of breaking and entering, the offender may be sentenced to pay restitution for the damage.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2025-86, Amending Chapter 71 Criminal Offenses: Subchapter XI: Obstruction of Tribal Administration and Related Offenses Prohibited Use of Emergency 9-1-1 Service.

Without objection, waive the reading.

No objection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby amends Tribal Code Chapter 71: Criminal Offenses as follows:

§ 71.1111 Prohibited use of emergency 9-1-1 service

Offense: A person shall not use an emergency 9-1-1 service authorized by this act for any reason other than to call for an emergency response service from a primary public safety answering point.

Sentence: A person convicted of Prohibited use of emergency 9-1-1 service may be sentenced to a jail term not to exceed three (3) months, or a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or both.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2025-87, Amending Chapter 71 Criminal Offenses: Subchapter VII: Offences Against the Person §71.716 Threatening to Commit Violence with Firearm, Explosive, or other Dangerous Weapon Against Students or Employees on School Property.

Without objection, waive the reading.

No objection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby amends Tribal Code Chapter 71: Criminal Offenses as follows:

§71.716 Threatening to commit violence with firearm, explosive, or other dangerous weapon against students or employees on school property.

Offense: A person who verbally, through the use of an electronic device or system, or through other means intentionally threatens to use a firearm, explosive, or other dangerous weapon to commit an act of violence against any students or school employees on school grounds or school property if the threat can be reasonably interpreted to be harmful or adverse to human life, or dangerous to human life.

Sentence: guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

This section does not prohibit a person from being charged with, convicted of, or punished for any other violation of law arising out of the same transaction as the violation of this section.

As used in this section:

"Adverse to human life" means that which causes a substantial likelihood of death or serious injury.

"Dangerous weapon" means a knife, stabbing instrument, brass knuckles, blackjack, club, or other object specifically designed or customarily carried or possessed for use as a weapon.

"School" means a public, private, denominational, or parochial school offering developmental kindergarten, kindergarten, or any grade from 1 through 12.

"School property" means a building, playing field, or property used for school purposes to impart instruction to children or used for functions and events sponsored by a school, except a building used primarily for adult education or college extension courses.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2025-88, NRD Application to NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Natural Resources Division to apply for up to \$10,000,000 in NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Chairman of the Tribe, or their designee, to execute all documents, contracts, and subcontracts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the terms, conditions, and intent of this resolution.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve Resolution 2025-89, NRD Application to NOAA Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Natural Resources Division to apply for up to \$2,000,000 in NOAA Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Chairman of the Tribe, or their designee, to execute all documents, contracts, and subcontracts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the terms, conditions, and intent of this resolution.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2025-90, Authorization for Participation in Cycle IX of the National Resource Center on Native American Aging Needs Assessment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians respectfully requests funding for the Administration for Community Living/Administration on Aging Older Americans Act Title VI grants (Parts A/B and C) for the grant period of April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2029.

Additionally, the Tribal Governing Body authorizes participation in the "Identifying Our Needs: A Survey of Elders" needs assessment and grants permission to the National Resource Center on Native American Aging to use all collected needs assessment information in an aggregate format for disseminating state, regional, and national results from analyses of the data

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that specific information collected within the boundaries of the seven-county service area belongs to the Elder Services Division and may not be released in any form to individuals, agencies, or organizations without additional tribal authorization.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2025-91, Sale and Purchase of Building for Housing Office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the transfer and purchase of 2163 Migisa Court, Sault Ste. Marie. MI 49783 from Sault Tribe Facilities to Sault Tribe Housing Authority for \$116,000.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2025-92, Approving Amended Contract JKL.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby approves the amended Contractual Agreement for Education Services between the JKLFC and JKL School.

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

Motion carries with Directors' Gravelle, McKerchie, Barbeau, Sorenson opposing.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2025-93, Tanglewood and Bear on the Mountain Personnel Restructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors authorizes the CEO of Enterprise Operations to implement the changes described in the attached RIS concerning personnel, in an effort to maintain continuity in the operations of both golf courses and to appropriately scale staffing levels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes the CEO of Enterprise Operations to make all budgetary modifications administratively necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors directs authorizes Enterprise Human Resources to work in accordance with CEO of Enterprise Operations to carry out the personnel restructuring plan as described in the attached RIS and take any action necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2025-94, Approving Contract Dennis McShane.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the contract between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Dennis McShane, for the purpose of serving as the Interim Prosecutor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the General Counsel to execute documents and perform any administrative budget modifications needed to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2025-95, Engaging Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP for Supreme Court Petition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby approves the contract between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the law firm of WilmerHale for the purposes of providing legal assistance in the handling of a certiorari petition to the United States Supreme Court regarding the tribe's treaty rights in the matter of *United States v. Michigan*.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Payment, to approve Resolution 2025-96, 1964 Olympic Gold Medal Champion Billy Mills – Honorary Member Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Tribal Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby recognizes the life time achievements of Billy Mills and hereby establishes an Honorary Membership in the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Motion carries with Director Hampton opposing.

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Cody Mayer's appointment to the Housing Commission with a term set to expire May 2029.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Payment, to approve Sherry O'Crotty's appointment to the Child Welfare Committee with a term set to expire May 2029.

Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Violet Russell's appointment, regular member, with a term set to expire May 2026, Pamela Demmon's appointment, regular member, with a term set to expire May 2026, and Georgine McKenzie's appointment, alternate member, with a term set to expire May 2026 for the Unit 4 Escanaba Elder Subcommittee.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Payment, to accept Paula Finfrock's resignation from the Food Sovereignty Committee.

Motion carries unanimously.

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to accept Jackie Minton's resignation from the Election Commission.
Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director Barbeau, to accept Fisher D. Derusha's relinquishment.
Motion carries unanimously.**

**Without objection, recess until tomorrow, May 7, 2025 at 7 p.m.
No objection.
Recessed at 5:34 p.m.**

Others Present: Lona Stewart, Ashlee Mielke, Christine McPherson, Jessica Dumback, Aaron Schlehuber, Robert Schulte, Dan Doyle, Joseph Street, Damien Hopper, Ryan Mills, Michelle Moore, Cassandra Ivonon, Danielle Fegan, Katie Peabody, Joni Talentino, Josh Elliot, Julie Salo, Stacey Synett

Chairman Lowes Reconvened the Board of Director's Meeting on May 7, 2025 at 7:19 p.m.

**Without objection, add Authorization to Negotiate – Sibley Property Disposition.
No objection.**

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

**Without objection, meeting adjourned.
No objection.**

Adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Date: 5/20/25

Secretary: 
Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Ashlee Mielke, Christine McPherson (Z), Jessica Dumback (Z), Aaron Schlehuber, Robert Schulte (Z), Joseph Street, Damien Hopper, Allen Kerridge, Michael Jackson