

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
KEWADIN CASINOS CONVENTION CENTER
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN
March 24, 2026

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

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

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve the agenda as read.

Motion carries unanimously.

Is there any objection to doing both minutes together?

No Objection.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve 3/3/26 Meeting and 3/10/26 Special Meeting Minutes.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2026-79, Internal Services – Hessel Community Center Building Establishment of FY 2026 Budget.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2026 budget for Hessel Community Center Building with Other Revenue of \$162,153.06 and the use of Fund Balance of \$105,000.03.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2026-80, Natural Resources Division - Utility Authority Contract Establishment of FY 2026 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 2026 budget for Utility Authority Contract with Other Revenue monies of \$56,418.72. No effect on Tribal Support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-81, Education Division Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement and Potential (MiLEAP) Establishment of FY 2026 Budgets.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the establishment of nine FY 2026 budgets for MiLEAP with State of Michigan Revenue monies for a total of \$705,355.00. No effect on Tribal Support. Below are the total budgets per site:

Out of School Time – Sault Ste. Marie	\$87,420.00
Out of School Time – Rudyard	\$49,825.00
Out of School Time – Hessel	\$87,420.00
Out of School Time - St. Ignace	\$62,950.00
Out of School Time – Manistique	\$74,920.00
Out of School Time – Escanaba	\$62,220.00
Out of School Time – Munising	\$74,920.00
Out of School Time – Marquette	\$14,400.00
Out of School Time - Lake Superior Academy	\$191,280.00

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-82, Governmental Human Resources, Cultural Administration, 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 Governmental Human Resources for a decrease in Tribal Support of \$66,550.26 and Other Revenue \$52,289.48.

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 Cultural Administration for an increase in the transfer in of funds from Third-Party Revenue of \$81,392.63.

BE IT FINALLY 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 Cultural Administration by \$81,392.63.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-83, Health Division - Wellness 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 Wellness Program for an increase in the transfer in of funds from Third-Party Revenue of \$8,235.36.

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 Wellness Program by \$8,235.36.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-84, Approving Amended Cultural Committee Bylaws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby approves the attached amended Cultural Committee Bylaws.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-85, Amending Bylaws of the Education Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Higher Education Committee shall hereafter be referred to as the Education Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all policies, procedures, and codes shall be updated to reflect the new name of the Education Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby adopts the amended Education Committee Bylaws as shown in the attached pages.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above changes shall be effective immediately.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-86, Approving MOU Sault Area Public Schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the MOU between the Tribe and Sault Area Public 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 Sault Area Public Schools.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-87, Applying for EPA Wetland Program Development Grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Natural Resources Division to apply for up to \$360,000 in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 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 2026-88, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tribal Transportation Program 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors supports and adopts the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Plan for the projects listed in the attached TIP documents that were developed between us and the BIA for Tribal Shares Funding.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2026-89, Donation to Native American Honor Flight.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby donates \$25,000 to the Native American Honor Flight, to be divided into \$5,000 increments between each unit's Cultural Enhancement Dollars.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, each Unit will have at least two members selected to attend the Native American Honor Flight, with a selection process to be determined at a later date by the Board of Directors.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Chairman or his designee to negotiate and execute any agreements necessary with the Native American Honor Flight to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Payment, to approve a resolution, A Resolution to Allocate a Portion of Hotel Tax Revenue to the Tribal Lands Claim Fund and to Cultural Education & Enhancement Purposes.

Moved by Director Payment, supported by Director McKechnie, to Amend to publish names of all who received since inception.

Roll Call Vote: Motion to Amend fails with Directors' McKechnie, Payment supporting; Directors' Barbeau, LaPlaunt, Gravelle, Causley-Smith, Sorenson, Hampton, Borowicz, McKerchie opposing; Director Lee abstaining (vote not recorded from Director McRorie).

Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director McKerchie to Table.

Roll Call Vote: Motion to Table fails with Directors' Gravelle, McKerchie, Borowicz supporting; Directors' Lee, Payment, McKechnie, Hampton, Causley-Smith, LaPlaunt, Barbeau, Sorenson opposing (vote not recorded from Director McRorie).

Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported McKechnie, to Amend to publish quarterly report with dollar amount and project being funded.

Roll Call Vote: Motion to Amend fails with Directors' Lee, McKechnie, Causley-Smith, Gravelle, Payment supporting; Directors' Hampton, LaPlaunt, McKerchie, Barbeau, Sorenson, Borowicz opposing (vote not recorded from Director McRorie).

Is there any objection to Amend the verbiage to hotel revenue, not hotel tax revenue?

No Objection.

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

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2026-90, Establishing Reservations for Community Centers.

Is there any objection to amending to reflect that this resolution only applies to the Escanaba and Manistique Community Centers?

No objection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians will allow reservations of its Manistique and Escanaba Community Centers to be made only by Tribal Members or Tribal Member Families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors directs each community center to appoint someone to oversee and enforce this policy for any events and/or reservations made at the Manistique and Escanaba community centers and to submit that list to the Board of Directors within thirty (30) days.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be effective from today's date forward, still allowing all events previously reserved to commence.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Borowicz, to approve Resolution 2026-91, Authorizing the Participation in the Survey of Native Nations and MOU.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves participation in the Survey of Native Nations conducted by the Center for Indian Country Development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes the Chairman or his designee to serve as the primary contact for the survey, to select the appropriate secondary contact for the survey, and to complete the survey on behalf of the Tribe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes negotiating and entering into an MOU with the Center for Indian Country Development and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes the Chairman or his designee to execute the MOU with the Center for Indian Country Development and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis once reviewed and approved by the Legal Department.

Motion carries unanimously.

Is there any objection to doing all committee appointments/resignations together?

No Objection.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve the following appointments/resignations:

1. John Perault, Appointment, Regular Member, term expiring March 2028.
2. Bernard Biron, Resignation, Elder Advisory Committee, Regular Member, term expiring May 2026.
3. Michael Larson, Resignation, Election Commission, term expiring November 2030.


Motion carries unanimously.

Any objection to adjourning the meeting?

No objection.

Adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Date: 4/7/20

Secretary: 
Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Lona Stewart, Samuel Derusha, Joseph Street, Damien Hopper, Jessica Dumback, Holly Haapala, Bill Connolly, Josh Elliot, Michelle Moore, Adam Payment, Scott Church, Jen Clerc, Gerard Sagassige, Bob Marchand, Andrew Lane, Dani Fegan, Stephanie Sprecker, Lisa Burnside, Ashley Samuelson, Cody Jodoin, Carrie Rogers, Tyler/Laura Bouschor, Wendy Hoffman