

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
KEWADIN SHORES CASINO
ST. IGNACE, MICHIGAN
June 2, 2026

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

Present: Tyler LaPlaunt, Shawn Borowicz, Kimberle Gravelle, Lana Causley-Smith, Isaac McKechnie, Larry Barbeau, Kimberly Lee, Rob McRorie (Z), Aaron Payment, Michael McKerchie, Bridgett Sorenson, Kimberly Hampton (Z), Austin Lowes

Absent: None

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve 5/19/26 Minutes.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2026-151, Governmental – Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund 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 Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund with Federal US Department of Treasury Revenue of \$27,638.36. No effect on Tribal Support.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2026-152, Natural Resources Division – GLRI Ruffed Grouse 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 GLRI Ruffed Grouse with Federal BIA Revenue of \$1,982.18. No effect on Tribal Support.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2026-153, Natural Resources Division – GLRI Manoomin Restoration 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 GLRI Manoomin Restoration with Federal BIA Revenue of \$8,913.09. No effect on Tribal Support.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-154, Natural Resources Division – Engaging Ojibwe and Western Sciences 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 Engaging Ojibwe and Western Sciences with Federal BIA Revenue of \$33,135.87. No effect on Tribal Support.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Borowicz, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2026-155, Health Division – SAMHSA Sault Tribe Opioid Response 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 SAMHSA STOPR for an increase in Federal HHS Revenue for carryover funds of \$397,033.00 and a decrease in funds from Third Party Revenue of \$39,442.73.

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 decrease the transfer out of funds to SAMSHA STOPR by \$39,442.73.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Borowicz, to approve Resolution 2026-156, Health Division - Authorization to Seek Financing for the SSM HC Annex & Expansion Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Health Division CEO to explore, pursue, and seek financing options, including loans and loan guarantees, for the Sault Ste. Marie Health Center Annex & Expansion Project, including but not limited to the USDA Rural Development Loan Programs and the HRSA Health Center Loan Guarantee Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Division CEO, or their designee, is authorized to engage with financial institutions, federal agencies, and program administrators to evaluate loan terms, guarantees, interest rates, repayment structures, and related financing considerations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this authorization is limited to the exploration, application, and negotiation of financing options, and that no final loan agreement, guarantee, or binding financial obligation shall be executed without prior approval of the Board of Directors.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Health Division CEO shall report back to the Board of Directors with recommended financing options, including terms, risks, and financial impacts, prior to seeking final approval.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2026-157, Health Division - Approving A&E Contractor Selection Sault Tribe Health Division Extension Property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves awarding the Architect & Engineering contract to UPEA in the amount of \$217,250.00 for A&E services for the SSM Health Center Extension Property (Roy Property).

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors authorizes the Tribal Chairman, or his designee, to execute this agreement and take such other steps as may be deemed necessary. **Motion carries unanimously.**

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-158, Waiver of Sovereign Immunity Indigenous Design Studio + Architecture.

Without objection, waive the reading of this Resolution.

No objection.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, as follows:

Section 1 FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS:

The Board of Directors finds and determines that:

1.1 The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians (“Tribe”) is a federally recognized Indian Tribal Government organized under the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934.

1.2 The Tribe wishes to enter into a Service Agreement (“Agreement”) with the Indigenous Design Studio + Architecture (“IDS+A”) on behalf of the Tribal Health Centers; and

1.3 IDS+A will not consent to such agreement without a waiver of sovereign immunity; and

1.4 In order to enter into the Agreement, the Tribe is required to confirm that the Tribe and all other entities claiming by, through or under the Tribe will not claim sovereign immunity or exclusive Tribal Court jurisdiction with respect to any disputes or causes of action between the Tribe and IDS+A that might arise from, or relate to, in any respect, the Agreement, or object to the venue clauses found in the Agreement. All the foregoing is referred to herein as the “Waiver and Consent Obligations”; and

1.5 It is in the Tribe's interest to resolve as stated herein.

Section 2 WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY; CONSENT TO JURISDICTION; GOVERNING LAW

2.1 The Tribe hereby waives its sovereign immunity from suit in favor of IDS+A only should an action be commenced under the Agreement referenced above.

This waiver:

i) Shall terminate upon performance by the Tribe of all of its obligations under the Agreement; and

ii) Is granted solely to IDS+A; and

iii) Shall extend to inter alia, any judicial or non-judicial action, including mediation and arbitration, to resolve disputes between the Tribe and IDS+A and the assertion of any claim in a Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court or with any arbitrator or arbitration panel to enforce the obligations under the Agreement; and

iv) Shall be enforceable only in the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court, including binding arbitration; and

v) Shall be enforceable against the assets of the health department of the Tribe to the extent necessary to satisfy the Tribe’s obligation in the Agreement; and

vi) The Agreement, and other associated documents shall be construed in accordance with and governed by all applicable laws and regulations of governmental bodies with competent jurisdiction, as set forth in such documents.

Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

3.1 This waiver shall become effective upon the final execution of the Agreement executed by the Chairman or his designee. Failure or refusal of any individual to execute the Agreement shall

render the waivers and consents granted in this resolution to become void immediately. Failure or refusal to execute the Agreement prior to the close of business on October 1, 2026, shall render the waivers and consents granted in this resolution to become void immediately.

Section 4. AUTHORIZATION

4.1 The Chairman or his designee is authorized to execute any and all documents to effectuate the foregoing.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2026-159, NRD 2026 Back Bay Walleye Enhancement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors authorizes the Division's contract with Bay Mills Indian Community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Chairman of the Tribe, or their designee, to execute any and all documents 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 2026-160, Residential Land Lease Cancellation Michelle Lackey and John Lackey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes its Tribal Chairman and Treasurer to execute this lease cancellation, and the land being described as:

Township of Kinross, County of Chippewa, State of Michigan
Part of Sec. 29 & S. ½ Sec. 20, T 45 N, R 1 W (0.23 acres, more or less)
Lots 834 and 835 Cedar Grove Estates III

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby requests the Bureau of Indian Affairs to cancel Lease No. Lease No:469-4200529702, along with any Modifications or Assignments pursuant to applicable law and regulations.

Motion carries.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2026-161, Residential Land Lease Joshua Captain and Amanda Smith.

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 Joshua Captain and Amanda Smith, the land being described as:

Township of Kinross, County of Chippewa, State of Michigan
Sec. 29 & S. ½ Sec. 20, T 45 N, R 1 W (0.23 acres, more or less)
Lots 834 and 835 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 Sorenson, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2026-162, Appointing Broker of Record Property and Casualty Insurance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby approves the contract with Mahoney Group for \$65,000 annually for three years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby directs the Risk Management Director to take the necessary steps, including contract signature authority and any budget modifications, if necessary, to re-appoint The Mahoney Group as the Broker of Record for the Tribe's Property and Casualty needs.

Roll Call Vote: Motions carries (vote not recorded for Director LaPlaunt).

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2026-163, Amending Resolution 2024-137.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby amends Resolution 2024-137 to expand the eligibility of the Unit II Home Rehabilitation Program to include homes in Unit II owned by the Sault Tribe Housing Authority.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-164, Transportation - Award Payne & Dolan of Michigan as General Contractor for Casino Ring Road Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby approves the award of Casino Ring Road Project to Payne & Dolan, Inc for \$69,500 from the BIA Tribal Transportation Construction Program funds, Cost Center # 2932.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorize the Tribal Chairman or his designee, to negotiate, execute and amend any documents resulting therefrom on the Tribe's behalf on a contract between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Payne & Dolan, Inc, for General Contracting Services for Casino Ring Road Project.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Borowicz, to approve Resolution 2026-165, Authorization to Enter into a USDA RUS Form 515 Telecommunications System Construction Contract.

Moved by Director McKerchie, supported by Director McKechnie, to amend to add contract amount.

Motion to Amend carries unanimously.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Tribe Purchasing Department, with the concurrence of the Broadband Group, CCI systems and CCC, recommends proceeding with the selected contractor identified through the procurement process for the USDA RUS Form 515 Telecommunications System Construction Contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes the Chairman, or his designee, to enter and execute the USDA RUS Form 515 Telecommunications System Construction Contract and any supporting documents upon completion of all applicable purchasing

procedures, contractor qualification requirements, bonding requirements, and USDA Rural Utility Service requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon satisfaction of the terms and conditions described above, the contract in the amount of \$5,730,765.75 provided by Heartland Tower Solutions, LLC shall be funded through the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) ReConnect 3 Grant Program.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes the Chairman, or his designee, to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director McRorie, to approve the following together:

Education Committee – Resignation

Rheanna McKechnie, Resignation, Member, term expiring August 2026

Child Welfare Committee – Appointment

Selina Smith, Appointment, Member, term expiring November 2026

Motion carries with Director McKechnie abstaining.

Move by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve the transfer of James Edwards Boulley’s Commercial Captain License C-54 to his son, Levi James Boulley.


Motion carries with Director McKechnie abstaining.

Without objection, meeting adjourned.

No objection.

Adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Date: 6/16/26

Secretary: 
Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Lona Stewart, Samuel Derusha, Ryan Mills, Jessica Dumback, Holly Haapala, Bill Connolly, Joseph Street, Damien Hopper, Clarence Hudak, Jen Clerc (Z), Dani Fegan, Doug Goudreau, Dan Doyle (Z), Elaine Clement (Z), Helen Wilkins (Z), Jack Tuomikoski (Z), Mariea Mongene (Z), Wendy Hoffman (Z), Veronica Beaumont (Z), Officer Jacob Davis, Annie Thibert (Z), Nick Eitrem (Z), Tony Grondin, Russ Rickley, Laura Fisher (Z), Tony Grondin, Russell Rickley