

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING  
KEWADIN CASINOS CONVENTION CENTER  
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

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

Present: Robert McRorie, Bridgett Sorenson, Tyler LaPlaunt, Michael McKerchie, Lana Causley-Smith, Isaac McKechnie, Shawn Borowicz, Betty Freiheit, Darcy Morrow, Kimberly Hampton and Austin Lowes.

Absent: Kimberly Lee

**Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McRorie, to excuse Director Lee from the meeting.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKerchie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve the agenda as read.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McKechnie, to suspend the rules and add the following resolutions to the agenda:**

- 1. Settling Juul Litigation**
- 2. Sonosky, Chambers, Sachase, Miller & Monkman, LLP**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Resolution 2023-076, Cultural – After School Native Language FY 2023 Budget Modification.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2023 budget modification to After School Native Language for an increase in Federal HHS revenue monies of \$22,412.37, to make changes to the personnel sheet and reallocate expenses. No effect on Tribal Support.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2023-077, Health Division – ITC Emergency Response to Suicide Prevention FY 2023 Budget Modification.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2023 budget modification to ITC Emergency Response to Suicide Prevention for an increase in Other Revenue ITC monies of \$11,751.32. No effect on Tribal Support.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2023-078, Tribal Court – Judicial Services Establishment of FY 2023 Budget.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the establishment of FY 2023 budget for Judicial Services with BIA Revenue monies of \$638,422.00, Tribal Support of \$208,705.15, and with a transfer out of \$20,943.84.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2023-079, Interns Establishment of FY 2023 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 2023 budget for Interns with Tribal Support monies of \$61,438.00.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2023-080, Michigan Indian Elders Association Tribal Elder Delegate Appointments.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians appoints Lou Anne Bush of Sault Ste. Marie, and Dianne Compo of Brimley as Delegates and Anita Nelson of Munising as the Alternate Delegate representing the Elders of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for a two-year period, expiring in February, 2025. They will exercise the duties of the delegates as outlined in the MIEA by-laws.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Morrow, to approve Resolution 2023-081, Tribal Transportation Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Safety Program.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes Austin Lowes, Tribal Chairman or his designee, to submit or amend any grant documents resulting therefrom on the Tribe's behalf for Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Indian Highway Safety Program Funding FY 2023.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Borowicz, to approve Resolution 2023-082, Tribal Transportation Program Award Contract Payne & Dolan, Inc. Tribal Roads Paving Project.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorize Austin Lowes, 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 Paving Project, and authorizes expenditures from Tribal Transportation Program funds, Cost Center's # 2932 and # 29310.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2023-083, Rescinding Resolution 2022-237.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Resolution 2022-237 is hereby rescinded; and  
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Tribal Chairman, or his designee, to execute any and all documents as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the terms, conditions, and intent of this Resolution.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Morrow, to approve Resolution 2023-084, Settling Juul Litigation.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors accepts the settlement offer and authorizes the Chairman or his designee to execute any and all documents to affect the forgoing.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.**

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2023-085, Sonosky, Chambers, Sachase, Miller & Monkman.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes the Chairman, or his designee, to execute any and all agreements retaining Sonosky, Chambers, Sachase, Miller & Monkman, LLP.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McRorie to initiate a wage review based on years of service (tenure) for all Health Center Staff starting the review with the most senior staff with any pay increases to be retroactive to 2/27/2023 for those who qualify.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors Sorenson, LaPlaunt, McKechnie, Borowicz, McKerchie, Hampton, McRorie, Freiheit approving; Directors Morrow, Causley-Smith opposing.

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McKechnie to appoint Elaine Clement as the interim Board Administrator with a 5% salary increase.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors LaPlaunt, McKechnie, McKerchie, Freiheit, Borowicz, Hampton, McRorie approving; Director Morrow opposing; Directors Causley-Smith, Sorenson abstaining.

Adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Date: 4/18/2023

Secretary: 

Others Present: Christine McPherson, Jessica Dumback, Robert Schulte, Aaron Schlehuber, Elaine Clement, Cathy Devoy, Leo Chugunov, Holly Kibble, Wendy Hoffman.