

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING  
KEWADIN CASINOS CONVENTION CENTER  
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN  
MINUTES  
May 21, 2024**

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

Present: Michael McKerchie, Betty Freiheit, Darcy Morrow (Z), Rob McRorie (Z), Lana Causley-Smith, Kimberly Hampton, Bridgett Sorenson, Tyler LaPlaunt (Z), Shawn Borowicz (Z), Isaac McKechnie

Absent: Kimberly Lee

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

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Morrow, to remove Unit 2 Trailer Information from Agenda.**

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

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to limit Board members to speak on each issue to 3 turns.**

**Motion carries with Directors' Morrow, Causley-Smith opposing.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to add the STI Resolution on the Agenda.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion fails (9 votes required per CH. 14) with Directors' McRorie, LaPlaunt, McKerchie, Hampton, McKechnie, Freiheit, Borowicz supporting; Directors; Morrow, Sorenson opposing; Director Causley-Smith abstaining.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve the meeting minutes from Regular Meeting May 7, 2024.**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2024-139, Buildings – Marquette Community Center Establishment of FY 2024 and FY 2025 Budgets.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves establishment of a FY 2024 budget to Buildings – Marquette Community Center with Other Revenue \$125,121.33, a transfer in from ARPA CC#12293 \$2,000,000.00, and the use of fund balance of \$38,889.20.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves establishment of a FY 2025 budget to Buildings – Marquette Community Center with Other Revenue \$210,361.13 and the use of fund balance of 66,667.21.

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

**Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2024-140, Buildings – Home Manistique Establishment of FY 2024 and FY 2025 Budgets.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the establishment of a FY 2024 budget for Home Manistique with Other Revenue monies of \$10,430.88.

BE IT FURTHER 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 Home Manistique with Other Revenue monies of \$10,430.88.

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

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2024-141, Cultural – Administration FY 2024 Budget Modification.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2024 budget modification to Cultural Administration for an increase in Tribal Support of \$17,074.98.

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

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-142, Natural Resources Division – GLRI Coastal Wetland Management St. Mary's 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 FY 2025 budget for GLRI Coastal Wetland Management St. Mary's with Federal BIA Revenue monies of \$40,518.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2024-143, Health Division – Sault Ste. Marie Optical and Third-Party Revenue FY 2024 Budget Modifications.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2024 budget modification to Sault Ste. Marie Optical for an increase from 3rd Party Revenue monies of \$25,000.00.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2024 budget modification to 3rd Party Revenue increasing the amount to Sault Ste. Marie Optical \$25,000.00.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-144, Health Division – Sault Ste. Marie Housekeeping/Maintenance and Third-Party Revenue FY 2024 Budget Modifications.**



BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2024 budget modification to Sault Ste. Marie Housekeeping/Maintenance for an increase from 3rd Party Revenue monies of \$17,234.90.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2024 budget modification to 3rd Party Revenue increasing the amount to Sault Ste. Marie Housekeeping/Maintenance \$17,234.90.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Resolution 2024-145, Health Division – Family Spirit Program and Third-Party Revenue FY 2024 Budget Modifications and Healthy Start Grant FY 2025 Budget Modification.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2024 budget modification to Family Spirit Program for an increase from 3rd Party Revenue monies of \$22,432.81.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2024 budget modification to 3rd Party Revenue increasing the amount to Family Spirit Program \$22,432.81.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2025 budget modification to Healthy Start Grant decreasing Other Revenue – ITC monies \$63,000.00 and 3rd Party Revenue monies \$9,144.55.

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

**Moved by Director Freiheit, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2024-146, Health Division – Sault Ste. Marie Administration and Third-Party Revenue FY 2024 Budget Modifications.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2024 budget modification to Sault Ste. Marie Administration for an increase from 3rd Party Revenue monies of \$1,563,000.00.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2024 budget modification to 3rd Party Revenue increasing the amount to Sault Ste. Marie Administration \$1,563,000.00.

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

**Moved by Director Freiheit, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Resolution 2024-147, Legal – Tribal Attorney FY 2024 Budget Modification.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2024 budget modification to Tribal Attorney for an increase in Tribal Support monies of \$14,792.64. This budget modification will make changes to the personnel sheet.

**Motion carries with Director Morrow opposing.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-148, Trust Land Status Ainsworth Addition Lots 4-8, Block 6 Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County.**

**Without objection, the reading of this resolution was waived.**



**No objections.**

**Without objection, vote on all three trust land resolutions together.**

**No objection.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby requests that the Secretary of Interior accept title to the following parcel of land in trust for the benefit of Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians on behalf of the Tribe: Land Situated in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, County of Chippewa, Michigan  
Lots 4-8, Block 6, Ainsworth Addition, according to the plat recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 27, part of Section 8, Town 47 North, Range 1 East, Michigan Meridian

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby requests that the Secretary of the Interior declare said lands to be part of the Reservation of the "Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians" under 25 U.S.C. Section 5110.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes its Chairman and Treasurer to execute any documents and take any further action on behalf of the Tribe as may be necessary to complete such conveyance.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-149, Trust Land Status Sugar Island Parcel A and B Chippewa County, MI.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby requests that the Secretary of the Interior accept title to the following described parcel of land in trust for the benefit of Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians: Land situated in the Township of Sugar Island, County of Chippewa, Michigan

Parcel A:

Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 13, Town 47 North, Range 1 East, Michigan Meridian.

Parcel B: West 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 18 Town 47 North, Range 2 East, Michigan Meridian.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby requests that the Secretary of the Interior declare said lands to be part of the Reservation of the "Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians" under 25 U.S.C. Section 5110.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes its Chairman and Treasurer to execute any documents and take any further action on behalf of the Tribe as may be necessary to complete such conveyance.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-150, Trust Land Status Sugar Island Wilwalk Cemetery Chippewa County, MI.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby requests that the Secretary of the Interior accept title to the following described parcel of land in trust for the benefit of Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians: Land situated in the Township of Sugar Island, County of Chippewa, Michigan

The South 1/2 of the North 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 8, Town 46

North, Range 2 East, Michigan Meridian



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby requests that the Secretary of the Interior declare said lands to be part of the Reservation of the "Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians" under 25 U.S.C. Section 5110. BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes its Chairman and Treasurer to execute any documents and take any further action on behalf of the Tribe as may be necessary to complete such conveyance.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve a Resolution, ARPA Funded Unit 1 OHTE Lease to Purchase Homes.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion fails with Directors' LaPlaunt, Sorenson supporting; Directors' Borowicz, McKechnie, McKerchie, Hampton, McRoric, Freiheit, Morrow, Causley-Smith opposing.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-151, Authorizing Sault Tribe Housing Authority as an Entity to Apply for the U.S. Department of Energy SCEP Program.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Sault Tribe Housing Authority, as the sole entity within the Tribe, to apply for the U.S. Department of Energy SCEP Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program for Indian Tribes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Sault Tribe Housing Authority to administer the U.S. Department of Energy SCEP Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program for Indian Tribes, if awarded and accepted by the Tribe.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Chairman or his designee to execute any documents to carry out the intent of this resolution.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-152, Authorizing Contracting Policy.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby adopts the Contracting Policy.

**Motion carries with Directors' Hampton, Causley-Smith, Morrow opposing.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-153, Authorizing RIS (Resolution Information Sheet) Policy.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Tribe hereby adopts the RIS (Resolution Information Sheet) Policy.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Freiheit, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2024-154, Authorizing Signature Authority Approval Policy.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Tribe hereby adopts the attached Signature Authority Approval Policy.



THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby rescinds resolutions 2022-157 and 2022-191 of which contradicts the new policy. Additionally, this policy will give proper Legal and Regulatory oversight.

**Motion carries with Director Morrow opposing.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-155, Approve Application for USDA RUS Rural EConnectivity (Reconnect 5) Program Grant.**

**Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director McKechnie, to amend the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph to say FOA 5 instead of 3.**

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby supports and authorizes the submission of a grant to the Rural Utilities Service Telecommunications Program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, for the Rural eConnectivity ("ReConnect") Program, FOA 5.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves its 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.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-156, Approve Funding Request for Reconnect 5 Grant.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby approves the USDA-RUS ReConnect "100% Grant for Tribal Governments and Socially Vulnerable Communities" class for up to the maximum amount of \$25 million.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves its 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 Freiheit, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2024-157, Approve Contract Award for Grant Writing/Development for USDA Reconnect 5.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the Sault Tribe Broadband project and authorizes 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 the Consultant, for contracted services required to complete the Sault Tribe Broadband Project, and authorizes the contract to be paid from 1041 Grants Mobilization.

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

**Moved by Director Freiheit, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2024-158, Sault Tribe Comprehensive Classification & Compensation Study Project# 24-028 Contract Award & Budget Authorization.**

**Without objection, the reading of this Resolution will be waived.**

**Director Causley-Smith objected.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby authorizes the selection and contracting with Bluestone Strategy



Partners, to perform a classification and compensation study of the governmental positions, and Soaring Bird, to perform a classification and compensation study of the enterprise and gaming employment positions, as outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Sault Tribe Comprehensive Classification and Compensation Study Project# 24-028 dated 03/28/24, and authorizes the Chairperson to sign and execute all documentation to facilitate this agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors authorizes total funding of \$180,465 plus travel expenses to complete the Comprehensive Classification and Compensation Study Project# 24-028 from ARPA funding as authorized by Resolution 2021-167.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby obligates \$9,800,000, the remaining funds authorized by Resolution 2021-167, for the implementation of the Comprehensive Classification and Compensation Study Project #24-028.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Chairman or his designee to execute any and all documents for the services of Bluestone Strategy Partners and Soaring Bird Solutions and authorizes the Executive Director to create the necessary budget documents that appropriate the funds, utilizing of ARPA funds necessary to complete the project.

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

**Moved by Director Freiheit, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Resolution 2024-159, Clarify the Intent of Resolution 2021-167 and Amend Resolution 2021-195 for Revenue Replacement.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves this resolution to amend 2021-195 by renaming it Covid-19 ARPA Funds - Revenue Replacement and adding the \$11,000,000 to bring the total approved expenditures to \$50,000,000 and clarifying the intent of resolution 2021-167 to set aside/obligate the \$50,000,000 in the "Be It Finally Resolved" paragraph. This has no effect on unallocated ARPA funds.

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 to carry out the terms, conditions and intent of this Resolution. This also authorizes the CFO to make any internal budget modifications necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

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

**Moved by Director Freiheit, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2024-160, Approval of Addendum Contract to Blue Stone Strategy Group LLC.**

**Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director Freiheit, to amend the 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph to add in the dollar amount plus hours for projects that quoted and hourly rate.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the addendum contract with Blue Stone for \$1,356,000 plus hours for projects that quoted and hourly rate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Chairman or his designee to execute any and all documents for the services of Blue Stone, and authorizes the



Executive Director and CFO to create the necessary budget documents that appropriate the funds, utilizing a combination of ARPA and third-party funds necessary to complete the project.

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

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-161, Ninth Amendment to List of Key Employees.**

**Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director Freiheit, to amend to add Capital before Project Director.**

**Motion to amend carries unanimously.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the additional employment position deemed to be a key employee, effective upon enactment, shall be:

Capital Project Director

**Motion carries with Director Morrow opposing; Director Causley-Smith abstaining.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-162, Sale and Purchase of Building for Wellbriety.**

**Moved by Director McRorie, supported by Director McKechnie, to amend and change the word sale to transfer.**

**Motion to amend carries unanimously.**

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 2318 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 from Sault Tribe EDC to Sault Tribe Facilities per the price agreed upon.

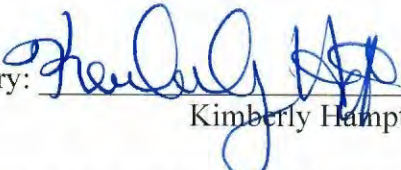
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the lease of 2318 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 from Sault Tribe Facilities to Sault Tribe Health for providing Wellbriety and recovery related services.

BE IF FINALLY RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the CFO to complete any budget documents utilizing opioid settlement funds to carry out the intent of this resolution.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors' McKerchie, Freiheit, McRorie, Causley-Smith, Hampton, Sorenson, Borowicz, McKechnie approving; Director Morrow abstaining; Director LaPlaunt signed off of zoom at this time.**

Adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Date: 6/14/24

Secretary:   
Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Robert Schulte, Jessica Dumback, Christine McPherson, Aaron Schlehuber, Ashlee Mielke, Lona Stewart, Andrew Lane, Elaine Clement, Josh Elliot, Joseph Street, Michelle Moore, Joni Talentino, Robert Marchland, Larry Jaques, Brad Silet, Joel Lumsden, Carrie Horton, Cathy Devoy, Tyler Bouschor