

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MANISTIQUE COMMUNITY CENTER  
MANISTIQUE, MICHIGAN  
April 21, 2026

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

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

Absent: None

**Without objection, add to the agenda under New Business the following item:**

**1. Commercial License**

**No objection.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve the agenda as read. Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve 4/7/26 Minutes.**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-110, Internal Services – IT FY 2026 Budget Modification.**

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 Telecommunications for a decrease in Other Revenue of \$889,034.10 and increase in Tribal Support of \$95.83.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-111, Internal Services – Telecommunications FY 2026 Budget Modification.**

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 Telecommunications for a decrease in Other Revenue of \$3,857.00 and increase use of Fund Balance of \$57,677.76.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-112, Health Division – Purchased Referred Care FY 2026 Budget Modification.**

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 Purchased Referred Care for a change to the personnel sheet.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-113, Health Division- Sault Ste. Marie Medical Nursing FY 2026 Budget Modification.**

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 Sault Ste. Marie Medical Nursing for changes to the personnel page.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2026-114, Health Division – Establishment of FY 2026 Budget for Sault Ste. Marie Expansion & Renovations and FY 2026 Budget Modification to Third-Party Revenue.**

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 to Sault Ste. Marie Expansion & Renovations with a transfer in of funds from Third Party Revenue \$14,465,591.00.

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 transfer out funds to Sault Ste. Marie Expansion & Renovation \$14,465,591.00.

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

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-115, Contract with Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District for Invasive Species Treatment.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves awarding a professional services contract to the Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District, for the period March, 2026 - November 30, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 to support invasive species treatment in coastal marsh habitats in the St. Mary's River.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NRD is authorized to administer the contract, charge allowable costs to approved budgets and/or grants, and ensure compliance with reporting, audit/records, IP, and other applicable requirements.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Chairperson (or designee) is authorized to enter into and execute the contract and any supporting documents necessary to fulfill the intent of this Resolution.

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

**Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2026-116, Approving Construction Contract with North Superior Property Services.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby approves the construction contract with North Superior Property Services for \$130,000 from CC #8628, utilizing ARPA funding obligated in Resolution 2024-383.

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

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

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-117, Acceptance of the 2025 Kewadin Casinos Audit.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby accepts and approves the 2025 Northern Kewadin Casinos Audit as accepted by the Audit Committee on April 9, 2026.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-118, Acceptance of the 2025 Kewadin Casinos Gaming Authority Audit.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby accepts and approves the 2025 Kewadin Casinos Audit, which includes the Downstate Developments, as accepted by the Audit Committee on April 9, 2026.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Without objection, handle all committee appointments together.**

**No Objection.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve the following appointments/resignations:**

Kathleen Egert, Vacancy, Unit 2 Newberry Elder Subcommittee, Regular Member, term expiring March 2028 and Elder Advisory Committee, Regular Member, term Expiring July 2029

Carla Miller, Resignation, Unit 4 Manistique Elder Subcommittee, Regular Member, term expiring November 2026

Kenneth Tufnell, Unit 4 Manistique Elder Subcommittee, move from Alternate to Regular Member, 4-year term expiring April 2030

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Sorenson, to appoint the four individuals that were supported by the board during today's workshop.**

**Director McRorie objected, stating he would like to handle the non-fishermen and fishermen appointments separately.**

**No other objections, Chairman Lowes ruled that majority rules, all handled together.**

**Commercial Fisher Seats**

Paul Barbeaux, Captain, Reappointment, Member, 4-year term expiring April 2030

Richard Boda, Captain, Reappointment, Member, 4-year term expiring April 2030

**Non-Fisher Seats**

Robert Derusha, Reappointment, Member, 4-year term expiring April 2030

Henry Grondin, New Appointment, Member, 4-year term expiring April 2030

**Motion carries with Directors' McRorie, McKechnie opposing.**

**Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Borowicz, to revoke the Commercial Fishing License from the Commercial Fisherman referenced in today's closed session, which is license C-66, due to ongoing reports of aggressive behavior and environmental issues caused by this individual.**

**Without objection, we will approve this via unanimous consent.**

**No objection.**

**Motion carries via unanimous consent.**

**Without objection, meeting adjourned.**

**No objection.**

Adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Date: 5/5/26

Secretary:   
Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Lona Stewart, Samuel Derusha, Damien Hopper, Joseph Street, Holly Haapala, Bill Connolly, Ryan Mills, Mary Jenerou, Scott Brand, Jen Clerc (Z), Nick Eitrem (Z), James Benko (Z), Carrie Rogers (Z), Annie Thibert (Z), Dani Fegan (Z), Andrew Lane (Z), Allen Kerridge (Z), Officer Hadfield, Officer Saffer