

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING  
KEWADIN CASINO AND CONVENTION CENTER  
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN  
MINUTES  
January 4, 2022**

The meeting was opened at 5:00 p.m. by Chairperson Payment.

Present: Kim Gravelle, Austin Lowes, DJ Hoffman, Betty Freiheit, Michael McKerchie, Lana Causley, Catherine Hollowell, Bridgett Sorenson, Keith Massaway, Denise Chase, Darcy Morrow, Charles Matson, and Aaron Payment.

Absent:

**Moved by Director Massaway, supported by Director Lowes, to approve the agenda as read.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director Hoffman, to approve the Minutes of 11-16-2021; 12-7-2021; 12-17-2021, as written.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Massaway, to approve Res. 2022-01, Approving an Amendment to the COVID-19 Commercial Fisher Assistance Program.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby approves the amended COVID-19 Commercial Fisher Assistance Program materials attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the attached and amended COVID-19 Commercial Fisher Assistance Program materials shall replace and supersede the existing Program materials.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors reserves the right to amend the Program on an ongoing and as needed basis as additional guidance, funds, and needs arise.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried with Directors Hoffman, McKerchie, Causley, Freiheit, Massaway, Chase, Sorenson, Lowes, Hollowell, Gravelle opposing; Directors Matson, Morrow abstaining.

**Moved by Director Causley, supported by Director Hollowell, to approve Res. 2022-02, DeMawating Development Hessel Ridge Golf Course FY 2022 Budget Modification.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2022 budget modification for Demawating Development to add Hessel Ridge Golf Course with Other Revenue monies of \$250,000.00. No effect Tribal Support.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carried with Directors Gravelle, Sorenson, Matson, McKerchie, Causley, Hoffman, Massaway, Morrow, Hollowell, Chase approving; Directors Freiheit, Lowes abstaining.**

**Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director Hollowell, to approve Res. 2022-03, ACFS – Families First Establishment of FY 2022 Budget.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves establishment of a FY 2022 budget for Families First with Federal HHS revenue monies of \$61,481.11. No effect on Tribal Support.

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

**Moved by Director Freiheit, supported by Director Lowes, to approve Res. 2022-04, ACFS Subpart IV-B FY 2022 Budget Modification.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby the FY 2022 budget modification for Subpart IV-B for an increase in Tribal Support revenue monies of \$32,921.87.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director Hoffman, to approve Res. 2022-05, COVID 10 ARPA Vaccine Distribution Establish FY 2022 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 2022 budget for COVID 19 ARPA Vaccine Distribution with Federal IHS monies of \$2,615,729.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

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

**Moved by Director Hoffman, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve Res. 2022-06, Health Center Maintenance, Improvements, and Capital Outlays and Third Party Revenue FY 2022 Budget Modification.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2022 budget modification to the Health Centers Maintenance, Improvements, and Capital Outlays to increase Third Party revenue \$240,000.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of the Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2022 budget modification to Third Party Revenue increasing the transfer out \$240,000.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

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

**Moved by Director Morrow, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Res. 2022-07, SAMHSA STOPR FY 2022 Budget Modification.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2022 budget modification to the SAMHSA STOPR grant to change the personnel sheet, increase expenses and increase Federal Health and Human Services monies \$154,761.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

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

**Moved by Director Massaway, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve Res. 2022-08, St. Ignace Medical Nursing FY 2022 Budget Modification.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2022 budget modification to St. Ignace Medical Nursing to change the personnel sheet and reallocate expenses. No effect on Tribal Support.

**Motion carried with Director Sorenson opposing.**

**Moved by Director Massaway, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Res. 2022-09, Rescinding Resolution No: 2021-204, COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Clinics Team Member Incentive Rewards.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby rescinds Resolution 2021-204 effective January 1, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors directs the Tribe's personnel to issue no further incentive payments under Resolution 2021-204 after December 31, 2021.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carried with Directors Causley, McKerchie, Freiheit, Lowes, Matson, Sorenson, Massaway, Gravelle approving; Directors Morrow, Hoffman, Chase opposing; Director Hollowell abstaining.**

**Moved by Director Hoffman, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Res. 2022-10, Trust Land Status Parcel A and B Bay Mills Land Exchange Sault Ste. Marie 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 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  
Parcel A: Lots 1 through 30, Block 6, McGregor Addition, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 35, Chippewa County Records, being part of Section 8, Town 47 North, Range 1 East, Michigan Meridian.  
Parcel B: The North ½ of the Northwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of the Northeast ¼, Section 17, Town 47 North, Range 1 East, and the Northeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of the Northeast ¼, Section 17, Town 47 North, Range 1 East.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Interior is hereby requested to 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 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes its Chairperson and Treasurer to execute any documents and take any further action on behalf of the Tribe as maybe necessary to complete such conveyance.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Hoffman, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Res. 2022-11, Trust Land Status Tanglewood Golf Course 2600 W 24<sup>th</sup> Ave. Sault Ste. Marie 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 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 SEE ATTACHED DEED  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Interior is hereby requested to 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 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes its Chairperson and Treasurer to execute any documents and take any further action on behalf of the Tribe as maybe necessary to complete such conveyance.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Hoffman, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Res. 2022-12, Trust Land Status Gardenville Road Sault Ste. Marie 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 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  
Part of Fractional Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SE1/4 of NE1/4), Section 16, Township 47 North, Range 1 East, described as: Beginning at the intersection of the East and West Quarter line of said Section 16 with the West line of the Ridge Road, so called; thence North 3°30' East in said West line of Ridge Road, a distance of 280.5 feet; thence West parallel with the East and West Quarter line, a distance of 739.5 feet; thence South 26°30' West to the East and West Quarter line; thence East along said Quarter line, a distance of 805 feet, more or less, to the Place of Beginning.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Interior is hereby requested to 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 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes its Chairperson and Treasurer to execute any documents and take any further action on behalf of the Tribe as maybe necessary to complete such conveyance.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director Massaway, to approve Res. 2022-13, Approve 2022 Reconnect Broadband Survey.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the 2022 ReConnect Broadband Survey and authorizes the Sault Tribe administration to disseminate the survey as necessary.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Freiheit, supported by Director Massaway, to approve Res. 2022-14, USDA Reconnect Program Authorize Representative Request.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Aaron Payment, Chairperson or his delegate, has the assigned Representative-Signature-Certifier security role on behalf of the Tribe, who shall be responsible for providing electronic signatures, authorizing certifications, entering and updating applications, submitting applications for consideration, and assigning access to new users in USDA's online application system for the ReConnect Program and Community Connect Grant Program. If application(s) are awarded under either program, the Representative-Signature-Certifier security role on behalf of the Tribe shall also be responsible for authorizing certifications, entering, updating, and submitting compliance reports, and assigning access to new users in USDA's online financial reporting and compliance system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Aaron Payment, Chairperson or his delegate, has the assigned Administrator(s) security role on behalf of the Tribe, who shall be responsible for assigning access to new users, and entering and updating applications in USDA's online application system for the ReConnect Program and Community Connect Grant Program.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Massaway, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Res. 2022-15, Approving Contract Foster Garvey.**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby approves the contract between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the law firm of Foster Garvey, ending December 31, 2022, for the purpose of providing legal services to the Tribe.

**Motion carried with Director Morrow opposing.**

**Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director Lowes, to approve Res. 2022-16, Approving Contract Morisset.**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby approves the contract between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Morisset, Schlosser, Jozwiak, & Somerville, PC, ending December 31, 2022, for the purpose of providing legal services to the Tribe.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Lowes, to approve Res. 2022-17, Approving Contract Alexis Lambros.**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby approves the contract between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Attorney Alexis Lambros, ending December 31, 2022, for the purpose of providing legal services to the Tribe.

**Motion carried with Director Hollowell abstaining.**

**Moved by Director Massaway, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve Res. 2022-18, Approving Contract Stewart & Sheridan.**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby approves the contract between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Stewart & Sheridan, ending December 31, 2022, for the purpose of providing legal services to the Tribe.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Hoffman, supported by Director Morrow, to approve Res. 2022-19, Authorization to Negotiate – Sault Ste. Marie, MI Property Acquisition Ainsworth Addition Lots 4-8 BLK 6.**

RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Board of Directors authorizes the Sault Tribe EDC Executive Director or his designee, to negotiate the purchase of the property TIN: 051-135-004-00, not to exceed the agreed upon terms approved by the Board of Directors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, upon successful negotiations, the Board of Director authorizes the Tribal Chairperson, or his designee, to sign any and all documentation, to complete the purchase of the property, using funds as determined by the CFO.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Hoffman, supported by Director Morrow, to approve Res. 2022-20, Application Approval for 2022 BIA FWR Endangered Species Program Funding Opportunity.**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Wildlife Program to apply for the 2022 Bureau of Indian Affairs – Endangered Species Program grant opportunity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Aaron A. Payment, Tribal Chairperson, or his duly authorized designees, are authorized to sign, negotiate, amend, or rescind any agreement thereto.

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

**Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director Massaway, to approve Res. 2022-21, Application Approval for 2022 BIA FWR Invasive Species Program Funding Opportunity.**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Wildlife Program to apply for the 2022 Bureau of Indian Affairs FWR - Invasive Species Program grant opportunity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Aaron A. Payment, Tribal Chairperson, or his duly authorized designees, are authorized to sign, negotiate, amend, or rescind any agreement thereto.

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

**Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Res. 2022-22, Application Approval for 2022 BIA Circle of Flight Program Funding Opportunity.**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Wildlife Program to apply for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Circle of Flight Program grant opportunity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Aaron A. Payment, Tribal Chairperson, or his duly authorized designees, are authorized to sign, negotiate, amend, or rescind any agreement thereto.

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

**Moved by Director Morrow, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve Res. 2022-23, 2022 BIA Funding – Hatchery Maintenance and Rehab.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes Aaron Payment, Tribal Chairperson, or his duly authorized representative to sign, negotiate, and execute any agreements thereof for the 2022 Hatchery Maintenance and Rehab funding administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

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

**Moved by Director Hoffman, supported by Director Gravelle, to refer the Fisher's Relief Resolution to the next workshop.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carried with Directors Massaway, Morrow, Gravelle, Chase, McKerchie, Matson, Sorenson, Hoffman approving; Directors Hollowell, Freiheit, Lowes, Causley opposing.**

**Moved by Director Hoffman, supported by Director Morrow, to refer the Elder Dividend Resolution to the next workshop.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carried with Directors Sorenson, Morrow, Hoffman, Massaway, Hollowell, Chase, Gravelle, Causley approving; Directors Matson, McKerchie, Lowes, Freiheit opposing.**

**Moved by Director Hoffman, supported by Director Gravelle, to refer the Minimum Wage Resolution to the next workshop.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carried with Directors Causley, Hollowell, Morrow, Sorenson, Hoffman, Massaway, Gravelle, Chase approving; Directors McKerchie, Freiheit, Lowes, Matson opposing.**

**Moved by Director Hoffman, supported by Director Hollowell, to refer the Election Code Resolution to the Election Committee.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carried with Directors Matson, Hoffman, Morrow, McKerchie, Causley, Massaway, Chase, Sorenson, Hollowell, Gravelle approving; Directors Freiheit, Lowes opposing.**

**Moved by Director Hoffman, supported by Director Hollowell, to refer the Voter Registration Resolution to the next workshop.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carried with Director Gravelle, Sorenson, Matson, Causley, Hoffman, Massaway, Morrow, Hollowell, Chase approving; Directors McKerchie, Freiheit, Lowes opposing.**

**Moved by Director Hoffman, supported by Director Morrow, to refer the Expand PRC to the next workshop.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carried with Directors Massaway, Morrow, Gravelle, Causley, Chase, McKerchie, Matson, Sorenson, Hoffman approving; Directors Hollowell, Freiheit, Lowes opposing.**

**Moved by Director Hoffman, supported by Director Gravelle, to refer the Reopening the Rolls Resolution to the next workshop.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carried with Directors Sorenson, Morrow, Hoffman, Massaway, McKerchie, Hollowell, Chase, Causley approving; Director Matson, Lowes, Freiheit opposing.**

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Hoffman, to approve the following regarding the Conduct of the Chairperson.**

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors finds that the Chairperson, Aaron Payment, has:

Violated his duty to create an environment that fosters respect and dignity.

Violated his duty to maintain an environment free of harassment and intimidation.

Intimidated, harassed, and publicly attacked employees.

Continually committee malicious public attacks upon tribal members.

Violated the Medical Privacy and Procedures of individual tribal members.

Violated Resolution 2021-222 Privacy of Board Member Phone and Computer Records.

Breached/Released confidential information, violating Tribal Code, Chapter 96.

Campaigned prior to the Notice of Election pursuant to Tribal Code, Chapter 10.

Violated Tribal Resolution 930123, Code of Professional Conduct.

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors hereby:

Censure Aaron Payment, Tribal Chairperson.

Publicly notices the Tribal Board of Directors has No Confidence in the Tribal Chairperson.

Removes the Chairperson from any/all internal committees (with the exception of those established in Tribal Code) and external committees that are a result of the Tribe's Membership with their respective organizations. Notice of which shall be provided by the Tribe's Executive Director.

Expressly and unequivocally makes it known that the conduct of the Chairperson is not protected by the Tribe or any of the Tribe's sovereignty. The Chairperson, Aaron Payment, is personally liable for his respective actions.

Authorizes the Executive Director, with the assistance of the Tribe's Legal Counsel, to contract and retain an external firm to investigate and address the Conduct of the Tribal Chairperson,

Authorizes the Executive Director to implement all necessary budget modifications administratively regarding the firm.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carried with Directors Hollowell, Massaway, Morrow, Gravelle, Causley, Chase, McKerchie, Matson, Sorenson, Hoffman approving; Directors Freiheit, Lowes opposing.**

**Meeting adjourned: 6:32 p.m.**

Date: 4-5-2022

Secretary: Bridgett Sorenson

Others present: Christine McPherson, Robert Schulte, JR Loera, Jenna Killips, Jen Clerc, Katelynn Griffin, Joanne Carr.