

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
KEWADIN CASINOS CONVENTION CENTER
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

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

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

Absent: None

Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve the agenda as read.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to add a Resolution, Tribal Court – Judicial Services FY 2024 Budget Modification, to the agenda (9 votes needed).

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

Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director Freiheit, to add a Resolution, Resolution to Change Job Titles for Executive-Level Positions within the Tribal Organization, to the agenda (9 votes needed).

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

Moved by Director Freiheit, supported by Director Hampton, to add a Resolution, Voiding All Conversion Fishing Agreements and Eliminating Boat Length Requirements in Tribal Code Chapter 20, to the agenda (9 votes needed).

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

Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve the meeting minutes from Regular Meeting February 6, 2024 and Special Meeting February 13, 2024.

Motion carries with Director Morrow requesting technical changes to 02/06/24 minutes and abstaining from 02/13/24 minutes.

Moved by Director Freiheit, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2024-55, Natural Resources – FY 2024 Budget Modification to Inland Fish & Wildlife and Establishment of FY 2024 Budgets for CCER Technical Services Contract I & II, and Ishkode Project.

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 Inland Fish & Wildlife for an increase in Federal BIA revenue monies of \$56,394.65. This budget modification will make changes to the personnel sheet and reallocate expenses. No effect on Tribal Support.

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 2024 budget for CCER Technical Services Contract II with Other revenue monies of \$55,297.82. No effect on Tribal Support.

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 2024 budget for the Tribal Forest Protection Act Agreement – The Ishkode Project with Federal USDA revenue monies of \$364,640.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

BE IT FINALLY 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 CCER Technical Services Contract I with Other revenue monies of \$182,680.41. No effect on Tribal Support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-56, FY 2024 Institute of Museum and Library Services Basic Library Grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors authorizes the application for the funding of the FY 2024 Basic Library Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman or duly assigned individual is authorized to execute or amend all documents relating to the grant application and award.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-57, FY 2024 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes application to the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation for FY 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Austin Lowes, Tribal Chairman, or designee, is hereby authorized to submit said proposal to the Department of Justice, to negotiate, execute and amend any documents on the Tribe's behalf.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-58, ARPA Funded Odenaang Homes Tribal Enterprise Lease to Purchase Program Policies & Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors approves the attached Odenaang Homes Tribal Enterprise – Lease to Purchase program documents as presented; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Sault Tribe Housing Authority Director, 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 Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2024-59, Reallocation of ARPA Funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Directors hereby rescinds the section of resolution 2022-289 that authorizes expansion of the Traditional Medicine's Program in the amount of \$1,000,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby directs Health Division to expand Traditional Medicine's Program by using \$1,000,000.00 of Third-Party Revenue.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the CFO to make any internal budget modifications necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Motion carries with Directors' Lee, Freiheit, Borowicz, McRorie, McKechnie, Causley-Smith, Hampton, McKerchie, LaPlaut approving; Directors' Morrow, Sorenson opposing.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaut, to approve Resolution 2024-60, Trust Land Status Adams Brothers Addition Lots 1-30, Block 1 Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa County.

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 1-30, Block 1, Adams Brothers Addition, according to the plat recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 34, Chippewa County Records. 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 2024-61, Trust Land Status Ainsworth Addition Lots 4-8, Block 6 Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa County.

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 Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2024-62, Trust Land Status Hillcrest Properties Cedarville, Mackinac County.

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: See attached description

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 Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2024-63, Trust Land Lease Cancellation – Fortin, Edmond.

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

Township of Kinross, County of Chippewa, State of Michigan

29, 45 N, 1 W (.200 acres)

Lot 558, Cedar Grove Estates III

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal staff is directed to prepare the appropriate Land Lease Cancellation documents for BIA approval.

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. 469-2000420252, along with any Modifications or Assignments pursuant to applicable law and regulations.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2024-64, Trust Land Lease – Michael A. McKerchie and Anthony J. LaPlante Jr.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorized its Tribal Chairman and Treasurer to execute a lease to the land located at Kinross, Michigan, to Michael A. McKerchie, a married man, and Anthony J. LaPlante Jr., a married man, the land being described as:

Township of Kinross, County of Chippewa, State of Michigan,

and described as follows:

29, 45 N, 1 W, (.200 acres)

Lot 558, Cedar Grove Estates III

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal staff is directed to prepare the appropriate Land Lease Modification documents for BIA approval.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the 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 McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-65, Partial Waiver of Convictions for Ms. Cassandra Bitnar.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors, pursuant to Tribal Code Chapter 76 grants a partial waiver to Ms. Cassandra Bitnar.

Motion carries with Directors' McKerchie, Lee, Freiheit, Morrow, McRorie, Causley-Smith, Hampton, LaPlaunt, Borowicz, McKechnie approving; Director Sorenson opposing.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2024-66, Authorizing a Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity as Required to Obtain a Liquor License from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes and approves the Michigan Liquor License Waiver and Consent Agreement – Bear on the Mountain Golf Course, incorporated herein by reference, entering the Tribe into a limited waiver and consent agreement for Bear of the Mountain Golf Course with the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby issues a limited waiver of the Tribe's sovereign immunity, granted solely to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, pursuant to the terms of the Michigan Liquor Waiver and Consent Agreement – Bear on the Mountain Golf Course.

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, and conditions, and intent of this Resolution.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-67, Supporting the Submission of Congressionally Directed Spending Request for FY 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors supports these requests to submit Congressionally Directed Spending Requests to Congress for the following projects: the Permanent Supportive Housing Project, the Gwinn Housing Renovation project, the Odenaang Infrastructure Project and the Riverside Trailer Park Infrastructure project.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2024-68, Tribal Court – Judicial Services 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 Judicial Services to decrease Tribal Support \$2,677.68. This will change the personnel sheet and reallocate expenses.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Director McRorie's RENEWAL as the Child Welfare Committee Board Liaison for a second one-year term expiring February 2025.

Motion carries unanimously with Director McRorie abstaining.

Adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Date: 3/12/24

Secretary: 
Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Robert Schulte, Christine McPherson, Jessica Dumback, Aaron Schlehuber, Ashlee Mielke, Lona Stewart, Michelle Moore, Elaine Clement, Ryan Mills, Josh Elliot, Clarence Hudak, Dan Doyle, Leo Chugunov, Helen Wilkins (Z), Emma Donmyer, Joni Talentino, Dennis McShane, Eric Clark, Robert Marchland, Cathy Devoy, Mike McCoy, Jocelyn Fabry