

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
MANISTIQUE TRIBAL CENTER
MANISTIQUE, MICHIGAN
MINUTES
April 23, 2024**

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

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

Absent: None

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

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve the meeting minutes from Regular Meeting April 2, 2024.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-107, Health Division – NIHB Stronger Systems Stronger Communities Establishment of FY 2024 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 2024 budget for Health Division – NIHB Stronger Systems Stronger Community with Other Revenue monies of \$17,000.00. The Health Division received a no cost extension on these funds.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2024-108, Health Division – Substance Abuse and Mental Health 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 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration for an increase in Federal HHS Revenue monies \$553,507.00. The Health Division received additional grant funding. No effect on Tribal Support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Freiheit, supported by Director Morrow, to approve Resolution 2024-109, Health Division – St. Ignace Medical Office Building Establishment of FY 2024 Budget and Third-Party Revenue FY 2024 Budget Modification.

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 Health Division – St. Ignace Medical Office Building with Third-Party Revenue monies of \$1,620,341.15.

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 Third Party Revenue increasing the transfer out of \$1,620,341.15 to Health Division – St. Ignace Medical Office Building.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2024-110, Health Division – Sault Ste. Marie Medical/Nursing Establishment of FY 2024 Budget and Third-Party Revenue FY 2024 Budget Modification.

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 Health Division – Sault Ste. Marie Medical/Nursing with IHS Revenue monies of \$4,431,336.75 and Third-Party Revenue monies of \$2,489,804.79.

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 Third Party Revenue increasing the transfer out of \$2,489,804.79 to Health Division – Sault Ste. Marie Medical/Nursing.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Resolution, Continuing Funding Authority for Fiscal Year 2024 Health Division – Sault Ste. Marie Medical/Nursing was not needed due to Resolution 2024-110 passing.

Moved by Director Freiheit, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2024-111, Authorization to use Funds for the Food Sovereignty Committee.

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to amend to replace Tribal Operations with Tribe's General Fund.

Roll Call Vote: Motion Amend carries unanimously.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes up to \$10,000 for the plant distribution in FY 2024 from the Tribe's General Fund (Cost Center 1202) and authorizes an internal budget modification.

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, including ancillary or supplemental documents or forms 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 McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-112, SMART FY 2024 Support for Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grant Program – Application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes Sault Tribe Law Enforcement to apply to the SMART Office for the SMART FY 2024 Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grant Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Austin Lowes, Tribal Chairman, or his 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 Morrow, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2024-113, Acceptance of the Bid for Design of Make up Air Units for Tribal Health Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors hereby approves recommended contractor; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Board of Directors authorizes the Chairman of the Tribe or his designee to negotiate, amend and execute the agreement with selected contractor on behalf of the Tribe.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2024-114, Award Contract to Bonacci Contracting for Odenaang Storm Sewer Catch Basin Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby approves the award of Odenaang Catch Basin Project to Bonacci Contracting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves \$53,889.14 for construction.

BE IT FINALLY 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 Bonacci Contracting, for General Contracting Services for Odenaang Catch Basin Project, and authorizes expenditures from BIA Tribal Transportation Program funds, Cost Center # 2932.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve a Resolution, Approval of Addendum Contract to Blue Stone Strategy Group LLC.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Morrow, to amend to include the contract dollar amount.

Roll Call Vote: Motion to Amend carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Sorenson, to table.

Roll Call Vote: Motion to Table carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-115, Acceptance of the 2023 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 2023 Kewadin Casinos Audit, which includes the Downstate Developments, as accepted by the Audit Committee, on April 11, 2024.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Freiheit, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2024-116, Acceptance of the 2023 Kewadin Casinos Audit.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby accepts and approves the 2023 Northern Kewadin Casinos Audit as accepted by the Audit Committee, on April 11, 2024.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2024-117, Award a Contract to Baker Tilly US, LLP for ARPA Related Compliance Services.

BE IT RESOLVED, the tribe wishes to enter into a Master Services Agreement, with a term of up to three years with Baker Tilly US, LLP for ARPA, Accounting and Compliance Services, fees not to exceed \$100,000.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Chairman to execute all documents needed to engage the accounting services of Baker Tilly US, LLP, and authorizes the CFO and/or the Executive Director to utilize the current ARPA funding budgeted in Governmental Admin. (Cost Center #12291) to pay for this service.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director Morrow, to approve Resolution 2024-118, Establishing Protection of Our First Family.

Without objection, Amy McCoy will cover this for Director McRorie.

No objections.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians now establishes the Rights of More than Human Relatives and operate in a manner not to threaten and endanger the clean, freshwater and land resources and necessary habitats for More than Human Relatives, and take the steps to conduct business in a way necessary to protect More than Human Relatives including winged, swimmers, insects, plants, 4-legged, fresh water, air, mineral and land as part of our treaty foods and foundational relationships for future generations of Anishinaabeg.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve a Resolution, Amending Resolution, No: 2024-106 Removing Sault Tribe Inc Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

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


Moved by Director Morrow, supported by Director Sorenson, to send out a survey to tribal members from BlueStone.

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McKechnie, to table until we know how much it will cost.

Motion to Table fails with Directors' McRorie, LaPlaunt, McKechnie, Freiheit, Borowicz supporting; Directors' Morrow, Lee, Causley-Smith, McKerchie, Sorenson, Hampton opposing.

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

Adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Date: 5/7/24 Secretary: 
Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Robert Schulte, Jessica Dumback, Aaron Schlehuber, Ashlee Mielke, Lona Stewart, Caine Vandermolen, Robert Marchland (Z), Mary Miller-Jenerou, Elaine Clement (Z), Jen Clerc (Z), Joseph Street, Heather Kerfoot (Z), Joel Lumsden (Z), Carrie Horton (Z), Larry Jacques (Z), Wendy Hoffman (Z), Michael Jackson, Allen Kerridge, Amy McCoy (Z)