

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
KEWADIN CASINOS CONVENTION CENTER
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN
MINUTES
September 3, 2024**

This meeting was opened at 5:02 p.m. by Chairman Austin Lowes.

Present: Kimberly Lee (Z), Lana Causley-Smith, Isaac McKechnie, Shawn Borowicz (Z – no response at Roll Call), Michael McKerchie, Rob McRorie, Bridgett Sorenson, Tyler LaPlaunt, Larry Barbeau, Aaron Payment (Z – logged in at 5:20 p.m.), Kimberly Hampton (Z), Kimberle Gravelle, Austin Lowes

Absent: None

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McKechnie, to add Rescind Resolution No: 2024-249 under Resolutions.

Without objection, to add this Resolution.

No objection.

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

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve the meeting minutes from Regular Meeting August 20, 2024.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve the meeting minutes from Special Meeting August 27, 2024.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2024-258, ACFS – USDA Food Distribution Program – Alleviate Emergency Supply Chain Disruption 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 a FY 2025 budget for USDA FDPIR Emergency Supply Chain Disruption with Federal USDA monies of \$140,800.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously; No response from Director Borowicz; Director Payment not signed in yet.

Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2024-259, ACFS – Emergency Assistance 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 Emergency Assistance for an increase in Tribal Support of \$37,018.19.

Motion carries unanimously; Director Payment not signed in yet.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2024-260, Internal Services – Indirect Costs 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 Indirect Costs for an increase in Tribal Support of \$1,269,284.00.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously; Director Payment not signed in yet.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Resolution 2024-261, Continuing Funding Authority – Health Division for FY 2025 Schedule B Budgets October through September.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves continuing funding for the attached cost center list for fiscal year 2025, at their 2024 spending levels, for a period not to exceed December 3, 2024.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2024-262, Comments on Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan IV.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors approves the submission of the Sault Tribe comments on the proposed Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan IV.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Chairman of the Tribe, or their 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 McRorie, to approve Resolution 2024-263, Authorization to Enter into a Contract for the Construction of a Storage Building at JKL School.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Tribe or his designee is hereby authorized to enter into and execute a contract with McGahey Construction Co. for the completion of the Storage Building Project at the JKL School, in accordance with the funding authorized for this purpose.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors' Lee, Payment, McRorie, Hampton, LaPlaunt, McKechnie approving; Directors' McKerchie, Gravelle, Causley-Smith, Sorenson, Borowicz, Barbeau opposing; Tie Vote: Chairman Lowes approving.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2024-264, Community Housing Network Ishpeming Lofts Project Authorization to Invest Eagle Lending Funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Executive Director of Enterprise Operations, to invest up to \$50,000 in the Community Housing Network's purposed Ishpeming Lofts Project, using funds from Eagle Lending.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman or his designee to execute all documents and agreements necessary to effectuate this investment.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2024-265, Acceptance of Altria Settlement Offer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby accepts the Settlement Offer from Altria.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman or his designee to execute all documents necessary to accept the Altria Settlement Offer.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby incorporates this Acceptance of the Altria Settlement Offer into Resolution 2023-84 that settled the Juul litigation.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2024-266, Investing in the RX Kids' Initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors hereby approves allocating up to \$100,000 per year for up to 2 years to contribute to the RX Kids initiative in Chippewa County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the CFO to complete any internal budget modifications utilizing 3rd party revenue or other funding raised to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2024-267, Approval of JKL Fiduciary Committee Bylaws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approve the JKL Fiduciary Committee Bylaws.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve Resolution 2024-268, Obligation of American Rescue Plan Act Funding for Tribally Controlled Schools to School Updates and Expansion.

Moved by Director Payment, supported by Director McKechnie, to amend to establish the priorities and to prioritize items after meeting with the JKL School for those items the school sets as a priority that can be accomplished and obligated by December 31, 2024.

Roll Call Vote: Motion to amend passes with Directors' McKechnie, Lee, Hampton, LaPlaunt, McRorie, Barbeau, Payment supporting; Directors' Causley-Smith, Borowicz, Gravelle, McKerchie, Sorenson opposing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that All remaining American Rescue Plan Act Funding for Tribally Controlled schools allocated the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians SHALL BE OBLIGATED to the expansion and updating of the existing educational facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the board of directors hereby establishes the priorities and to prioritize items after meeting with the JKL School for those items the school sets as a priority that can be accomplished and obligated by December 31, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Director, or their designee, is directed and authorized to immediately administratively amend all budgets, as well as all Federal Documents/Plans required to obligate the funds for these purposes.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Executive Director, or their designee is directed and authorized to develop an RFP based upon the criteria and funding identified within this resolution, with the input of the stakeholders identified within this resolution to be posted no later than November 1, 2024.

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

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2024-269, Rescinding Resolution No: 2024-249.

Without objection, reading waived.

No objection.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby rescinds Resolution No: 2024-249 Appointment of Andrew DeGuglielmo as a Appellate Judge (Attorney Position) effective immediately.

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

Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director McKechnie, to start the consultation process with the State to change the baiting code in Cheboygan, Emmet and Otsego counties.

Moved by Director McRorie, supported by Director McKechnie, to Table.

Roll Call Vote: Motion to Table carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director McKechnie, to change the October 15th Board of Directors Regular Meeting to October 22nd and cancel the workshop on October 15th.

Motion carries unanimously.


Without objection, meeting adjourned.

No objection.

Adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Date: 9/17/2024

Secretary: _____


Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Robert Schulte, Jessica Dumback, Christine McPherson, Ashlee Mielke, Lona Stewart, Aaron Schlehuber, Joseph Street, Jen Clerc, Bill Connelly, Michelle Moore, Gerard Sagassige, Josh Elliot, Robert Marchland, Dan Doyle, Robin Clark, Ryan Mills, Clarence Hudak (Z), Sheryl McKerchie, Junita Bye, Stephanie Sprecker (Z)