

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
KEWADIN CASINOS CONVENTION CENTER
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN
September 1, 2026

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

Present: Cole Goudreau (Z), Tyler LaPlaunt, Rob McRorie, Michael McKerchie, Kimberly Lee, Ashley Gravelle, Lana Causley-Smith, Larry Barbeau, Bridgett Sorenson, Kimberle Gravelle, Aaron Payment, Sue St. Onge, Austin Lowes

Absent: None

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

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director McRorie, to approve 8/18/26 Minutes. Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director K. Gravelle, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-258, Health Division – Sault Ste. Marie Dental 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 Dental for changes to the personnel page. This budget is funded by 3rd Party Revenue.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director K. Gravelle, to approve Resolution 2026-259, Health Division – YES-RX FY 2026 Funds.

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McRorie, to Amend to change Health CEO to Assistant Health Director.

Motion to Amend carries unanimously.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby accepts \$40,300.00 from Yes-Rx to provide Sault Tribe Yes-Rx recipients with comfort and soothing items to aid in cancer treatment and healing, Pharmacy staff delivering Yes-Rx Cancer Medications with support and implementation items, and support for community-wide communication about the Yes-Rx program.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Assistant Health Director, 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 Barbeau, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2026-260, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Memorandum of Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Tribe Board of Directors hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as presented, and authorizes the execution of said MOU on behalf of the Tribe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes the Chairman to execute any and all documents, after legal department review, to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director K. Gravelle, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-261, Global Center for Climate Change and Transboundary Waters (GCTW) Memorandum of Understanding.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Tribe Board of Directors hereby approves the Memorandum of Understanding between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the Global Center for Climate Change and Transboundary Waters (GCTW) as presented, and authorizes the execution of said MOU on behalf of the Tribe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes the Chairman to execute any and all documents, after legal department review, to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2026-262, Waiving 90.402 Liability Limitations for Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Project.

Moved by Director Payment, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to Amend to limit the waiver to this one specific project and require that the STHA sends the resolution the STHA proposes to adopt with the waiver language in it prior to the STHA's adoption of it.

Motion to Amend carries unanimously.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby waives the \$50,000 liability limitation of 90.402 and replaces it with a \$9.4 million liability for one specific contract the STHA wishes to enter into related to the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Housing Authority must submit to the Board a copy of the resolution they propose to adopt, addressing the limited waiver of sovereign immunity for the specific contract necessary for the Tax Credit project prior to adoption by the STHA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the terms of this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2026-263, Acceptance of the 2025 Governmental Audit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, as accepted by the Audit Committee on August 20, 2026, hereby accepts the 2025 Governmental Audit as presented by their Auditors: Dennis, Gartland, & Niergarth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians approves the Chairman and CFO to execute all documents associated with the FY25 Audit including the Client Representation Letter.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Resolution 2026-264, Reallocation of Funds ARPA Interagency Agreement Projects.

Without objection, waive the reading.

No objection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby reallocates \$34,474.98 to the Natural Resources Building Interagency Agreement approved by Resolution 2024-403 from the Lodge of Hope Playground Interagency Agreement approved by Resolution 2024-404 and \$83,506.00 to the Unit 1 Trailers and New Construction Interagency Agreement approved by Resolution 2024-381 from the Elderly Remodel Interagency Agreement approved by Resolution 2024-382.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby reallocates \$404,260.91 to the Unit 1 Apartment Building Interagency Agreement approved by Resolution 2024-380 from the following agreements:

\$78,271.65 from the Lodge of Hope Playground Interagency Agreement approved by Resolution 2024-404.

\$57,455.77 from the Elderly Remodel Interagency Agreement approved by Resolution 2024-382.

\$140,293.95 from the Sugar Island Pow Wow Interagency Agreement approved by Resolution 2024-383.

\$69,942.40 from the Marquette Community Center Interagency Agreement approved by Resolution 2024-385.

\$40,815 from Contract Agreement approved by Resolution 2024-399.

\$17,482.14 from the Elderly Parking Lot Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that both the Natural Resources Building Interagency Agreement, Unit I Trailers and New Construction Interagency Agreement, and the Unit 1 Apartment Building Interagency Agreement remain in substantially the same scope and for substantially the same purpose as that for which the Interagency Agreements were approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Governmental CFO to perform any administrative budget modification necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Chairman or his designee and each department overseeing the various Interagency Agreements that have funds being reallocated under this Resolution to execute any documents necessary to amend the various Interagency Agreements to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-265, Statement of Ownership 105(l) Program.

Without objection, if necessary, complete technical amendment after verifying that the Native name is correct.

No objection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby confirms that it owns the building described below:

- Woolworths Building (Min Waban Dan): 531 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that nothing in this Resolution diminishes, divests, alters, or otherwise affects any inherent, treaty, statutory, or other rights of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians over the property or activities described herein. The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians expressly retains all rights and authority over the property and activities described herein, including but not limited to legislative, regulatory, adjudicatory, and taxing powers.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-266, Hartford Life Insurance Company Life and Disability Benefits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes renewal of the life and disability benefits through Hartford Life Insurance Company for a three-year period and authorizes the Chairman or his designee to execute such documents as may be necessary to effectuate this renewal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby resolves to renew the benefits at the rates indicated in the attached document.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director St. Onge, to approve Resolution 2026-267, FY 2026 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 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Austin Lowes, Tribal Chairperson, 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 Sorenson, supported by Director St. Onge, to approve Resolution 2026-268, Trust Land Status for Strawberry Fields City of St. Ignace Mackinac 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 the Interior accept title to the following described parcels of land in trust for the benefit of Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians: Land situated in the City of St. Ignace, County of Mackinac, Michigan Meridian.

SEE LEGAL DESCRIPTION ATTACHED

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 Causley-Smith, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2026-269, Purchase of EPIRBS for Licensed Commercial Fishers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby authorizes the expenditure of up to \$20,000 for the purchase of EPIRBS for licensed commercial fishers that meet the minimum criteria of 20 fishing days per year calculated over the past two fishing season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the expenditure shall be made from the Fishery Trust, cost center 4101.

Motion carries with Director Barbeau abstaining.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director K. Gravelle, to approve Resolution 2026-270, Accepting Resignation of Health CEO.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby accepts the resignation of the Health Division CEO, effective August 25, 2026.

Motion carries unanimously.

A Resolution, Interim Appointment – Health CEO, dies due to lack of support.

Moved by Director Sorenson, to approve a Resolution, Authorizing the Hiring of a Legal Consultant.

Motion dies due to lack of support.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director St. Onge, to approve Resolution 2026-271, Improving Safety on Highway US-2 Near St. Ignace.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman or their designee to advocate on behalf of the Tribe pursuant to the intent of this resolution.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Lee, to approve a Resolution, Rescinding Resolution 2026-145.

Without objection, read Resolution in its entirety.

No objection.

Roll Call Vote: Motion fails with Directors' Lee, A. Gravelle, Sorenson, Causley-Smith, Barbeau, St. Onge supporting; Directors' Goudreau, McRorie, Payment, LaPlaunt, McKerchie, K. Gravelle, Chairman Lowes opposing.

Moved by Director Payment, to approve a Resolution, Authorizing Sale of Sibley Property.

Motion dies due to lack of support.

A Resolution, Upholding the Membership's Right to Vote and Enforcing Board Accountability, dies due to lack of support.

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Payment, to approve the Commercial Captain License C-62 Transfer from Charles Matson to Katy Matson.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve the following Appointments to the Child Welfare Committee:

- Kimberly Hampton, Member, Appointment, term expiring September 2030
- Christina Menard, Member, Appointment, term expiring May 2029 (filling seat vacated by Sherri O'Crotty)

Motion carries unanimously.

**Moved by Director Payment, supported by Director McRorie, to appoint Michael McKerchie as the Vice Chairperson of the JKL Fiduciary Committee.
Motion carries unanimously.**

**Without objection, meeting adjourned.
No objection.**

Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Date: 9/22/26

Secretary: 
Ashley Gravelle

Others Present: Lona Stewart, Ryan Mills, Holly Haapala, Jessica Dumback, Bill Connolly, Latisha Willette, Joseph Street, Damien Hopper, Michelle Moore, Officer Anthony Lester, Robert Marchand, Dani Fegan, Elaine Clement (Z), Clarence Hudak (Z), Danielle Goudreau (Z), Doug Goudreau (Z), Josh Elliot (Z), Wayne Olmstead (Z), Joel Lumsden, Mariea Mongene