

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING  
KEWADIN CASINOS CONVENTION CENTER  
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN  
MINUTES  
April 2, 2024**

This meeting was opened at 5:01 p.m. by Chairman Austin Lowes.

Present: Betty Freiheit, Lana Causley-Smith, Isaac McKechnie, Shawn Borowicz, Michael McKerchie, Rob McRorie, Bridgett Sorenson, Tyler LaPlaunt, Darcy Morrow (Z), Kimberly Lee, Kimberly Hampton, Austin Lowes  
Absent: None

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

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve the meeting minutes from Regular Meeting March 19, 2024.**

**Motion carries with Directors' Morrow, McKerchie, Causley-Smith abstaining.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Resolution 2024-95, FY 2025 – Budget Document 001.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2025 Budget Document 001 totaling \$19,790,996, of which \$195,609 comes from Tribal Support.

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

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2024-96, Internal Services – Shipping & Receiving 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 Shipping & Receiving to decrease Tribal Support \$14,233.76. This budget modification reflects changes to the personnel sheet.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2024-97, ACFS – USDA FDPIR Nutrition Education 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 USDA FDPIR Nutrition Education with Federal USDA Revenue monies of \$173,618.48. No effect on Tribal Support.

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

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2024-98, Big Bear – Building Operations 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 Big Bear Building Operations for a decrease in Tribal Support of \$4,118.04. This budget modification will make changes to the personnel sheet.  
**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2024-99, Elder Division FY 2024 Budget Modification to Eldercare Services and Establishment of FY 2024 Budget for Expanding Public Health Workforce.**

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 Eldercare Services to decrease Tribal Support monies of \$71,307.60. This budget modification will make changes to the personnel sheet and reallocate expenses.

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 Expanding Public Health Workforce with HHS Revenue monies of \$80,000.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

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

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2024-100, Governmental Admin Staff and Indirect Costs FY 2024 Budget Modifications.**

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 Governmental Admin Staff to increase Indirect Cost Revenue \$19,690.00 and Tribal Support \$19,690.00. This budget modification reflects an increase for consulting/contracting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of the Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2024 budget modification to Indirect Costs to increase the expenses \$19,690.00 and decrease Fund Balance \$19,690.00.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2024-101, Utility Authority – Hessel, Manistique, and Wetmore FY 2024 Budget Modifications.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to amend to use LATCF Funds instead of tribal support.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Director McKechnie opposing.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2024 budget modification for Utility Authority Hessel to increase Other Revenue monies of \$5,714.44 and to decrease the use of Fund Balance monies of \$5,714.44. 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 FY 2024 budget modification for Utility Authority Manistique to increase Other Revenue monies of \$6,764.49 and to decrease the use of Fund Balance monies of \$10,222.03. This budget modification is requesting the use of previously obligated LATCF Funds per resolution 2024-22 of \$3,457.54.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves FY 2024 budget modification for Utility Authority Wetmore to increase Other Revenue monies of \$3,788.00 and to decrease the use of Fund Balance monies



of \$21,634.00. This budget modification is requesting the use of previously obligated LATCF Funds per resolution 2024-22 of \$17,846.00.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Director McKechnie opposing.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2024-102, Enterprises – Odenaang Homes Lease to Purchase Establishment of FY 2024 Budget.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Hampton, to amend to use LATCF Funds instead of tribal support.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Director McKechnie opposing.**

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 Odenaang Homes – Lease to Purchase with Other Revenue monies of \$38,500.00 and use of previously obligated LATCF Funds per resolution 2024-22 of \$60,174.10 be extended to this project.

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

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2024-103, Award Agreement to U.P. Engineers & Architects for Professional Services for Unit 1 Big Bear Arena.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby approves Task Order No. 14 Agreement with U.P. Engineers & Architects for Professional Services related to the Unit 1 Big Bear Arena HVAC replacement project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the Task Order amount of \$64,650.00 for design work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the use of any available ARPA funds for Unit 1.

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, including appropriate internal budget modifications or forms that do not change the substantive terms of the agreements and project, as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the terms, conditions, and intent of this Resolution.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2024-104, Amending Tribal Code Chapter 30: Child Welfare Code.**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby adopts the proposed amendments to Chapter 30: Child Welfare Code attached and incorporated herein.

**Without objection motion carries with unanimous consent.**

**No objection.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve a Resolution, Funding the Lodge of Hope.**

**Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director McKerchie, to table.**

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



**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve a Resolution, Eighth Amendment to List of Key Employees.**

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

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2024-105, Eighth Amendment to List of Key Employees.**

**Moved by Director Lee, supported by Director McKechnie, to amend to correct the title of the Board Administrator position.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion to Amend carries with Director McRorie opposing.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the additional employment positions deemed to be key employees, effective upon enactment, shall be:

Chief Information Officer, MIS

Chief Executive Officer, Health Services

Board Administrator

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the title of Director of Health Division will be removed as a key employee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this revised list and correct titles shall be effective immediately upon the enactment of this resolution.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors' McKernie, Morrow opposing.**

**Moved by Director Freiheit, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2024-106, Authorizing Complaint Under Section 6.7(b) of Sault Tribe Inc. Charter.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McRorie, to waive confidentiality.**

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Legal Department to prepare and issue the complaint required under the Sault Tribe Inc. Charter Section 6.7(b) to initiate the process of removal of STI Board of Directors Alan Barr, Mike Griggs, Roderick Blanchard, Steve Johnson, and Madan Saluja for their clear breaches of the fiduciary duties placed upon them.

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

**Moved by Director Freiheit, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Michelle Moore's appointment to the Child Welfare Committee for a 4-year term expiring April of 2028.**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Freiheit, supported by Director Lee, to accept Lynda Gregorini's resignation from the Health Board Committee and declare the seat vacant.**


**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve a small mesh permit for Matt Campbell for 2024.**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

Adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Date: 4/23/24

Secretary:   
Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Robert Schulte, Christine McPherson, Jessica Dumbach, Aaron Schlehuber (Z), Ashlee Mielke, Lona Stewart, Ryan Mills, Caine Vandermolen, Tyler Bouschor, Robert Marchland, Tammy Graham, Andrew Lane, Clarence Hudak, Elaine Clement, Jen Clerc, Josh Elliot (Z), Sheryl McKerchie, Latisha Willette