

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
KEWADIN CASINOS CONVENTION CENTER
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN
MINUTES
January 7, 2025**

This meeting was opened at 5:03 p.m. by Chairman Austin Lowes.

Present: Rob McRorie, Kimberly Hampton, Tyler LaPlaunt, Kimberly Lee, Lana Causley-Smith, Isaac McKechnie (not present for roll call), Shawn Borowicz (Z), Aaron Payment, Larry Barbeau, Bridgett Sorenson, Kimberle Gravelle, Michael McKerchie, Austin Lowes

Absent: None

Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to accept the agenda as read.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Payment, to approve the meeting minutes from Regular Meeting December 17, 2024.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2025-01, Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Document 004 Enterprises.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Document 004 Enterprises as referenced in the RIS.

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

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2025-02, Fiscal Year 2025 Enterprises Capital Purchases Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves a total of \$1,748,100 for the Enterprises Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Purchases Budget.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2025-03, Law Enforcement – COPS Tribal Resources Grant Program Establishment 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 COPS TRGP with Federal DOJ Revenue monies of \$52,965.50. No effect on Tribal Support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2025-04, Law Enforcement – Adam Walsh Establishment 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 Adam Walsh with Federal DOJ Revenue monies of \$145,422.74. No effect on Tribal Support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2025-05, Natural Resources Division – Tribal Forest Protection 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 Tribal Forest Protection with Federal USDA Revenue monies of \$275,000.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2025-06, Natural Resources Division – BIA Forestry Funds, Ishkode Project I, and Ishkode Project II Establishment of FY 2025 Budgets.

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 BIA Forestry Funds with Federal BIA Revenue monies of \$50,000.00. 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 2025 budget for Ishkode Project I with Federal USDA Revenue monies of \$146,558.21. 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 2025 budget for Ishkode Project II with Federal USDA Revenue monies of \$95,707.38. No effect on Tribal Support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2025-07, Natural Resources Division – Inter Tribal Fisheries, GLRI Distinct Tribal Program Capacity, and PPG EPA GAP Establishment FY 2025 Budgets and FY 2025 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 2025 budget for Inter-Tribal Fisheries with Federal BIA monies of \$592,737.81, Other Revenue monies of \$36,000.00, and Tribal Support monies of \$88,129.50.

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 2025 budget for GLRI Distinct Tribal Program Capacity with Federal BIA monies of \$133,222.03. 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 FY 2025 budget modification to PPG EPA GAP for a reallocation of expenses. No effect on Tribal Support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2025-08, Cultural – Repatriation Establishment 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 Repatriation with Tribal Support monies of \$150,366.64.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2025-09, Housing Authority Strategic Plan 2025-2029.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors adopts the attached 2025-2029 Strategic Plan as written.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2025-10, Amending Resolution 6-21-88A.

Without objection, change the name to “Shedawin Haven”.

No objection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby Amends Resolution 6-21-88A to reflect the following:

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby names the Substance Abuse Building (located at 2318 Shunk Rd., Sault Ste. Marie, MI) the “Shedawin Haven.”

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2025-11, Waiver of Sovereign Immunity and Consent to Waiver of Tribal Court Jurisdiction Healow, LLC.

Without objection, the reading was waived.

No objection.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, as follows:

Section 1 FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS:

The Board of Directors finds and determines that:

1.1 The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians (“Tribe”) is a federally recognized Indian Tribal Government organized under the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934.

1.2 The Tribe wishes to enter into a License and Support Agreement (“Agreement”) with Healow, LLC (“Healow”) as negotiated by Tribal Health; and

1.3 Healow will not consent to such agreement without a waiver of sovereign immunity or Tribal Court jurisdiction; and

1.4 In order to induce Healow to enter into an Agreement, the Tribe is required to confirm that the Tribe and all other entities claiming by, through or under the Tribe will not claim sovereign immunity or exclusive Tribal Court jurisdiction with respect to any disputes or causes of action between the Tribe and Healow that might arise from, or relate to, in any respect, the Agreement, or object to the venue clauses found in the Agreement. All the foregoing are referred to herein as the “Waiver and Consent Obligations”; and

1.5 It is in the Tribe's interest to resolve as stated herein.

Section 2 WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY; CONSENT TO JURISDICTION; GOVERNING LAW

2.1 The Tribe hereby waives its sovereign immunity from suit in favor of Healow only should an action be commenced under the Agreement referenced above.

This waiver:

- i) Shall terminate upon performance by the Tribe of all of its obligations under the Agreement; and
- ii) Is granted solely to Healow; and
- iii) Shall extend to inter alia, any judicial or non-judicial action, including, but not limited to, any lawsuit, arbitration, and judicial or non-judicial action to resolve disputes between the Tribe and Healow and the assertion of any claim in a court of competent jurisdiction or with any arbitrator or arbitration panel to enforce the obligations under the Agreement; and
- iv) Shall be enforceable only in a court of competent jurisdiction, including courts in the State of Massachusetts, the Tribal Court and federal courts in Massachusetts (including the United States Bankruptcy Court or any arbitrator or arbitration panel); and
- v) Shall be enforceable against the assets of the Tribe to the extent necessary to satisfy the Tribe's obligation in the Agreement; and
- vi) The Agreement, and other associated documents shall be construed in accordance with and governed by all applicable laws and regulations of governmental bodies with competent jurisdiction, as set forth in such documents.

Section 3. WAIVER OF TRIBAL COURT JURISDICTION

3.1 The Board of Directors waiver the exclusive jurisdiction of the Tribal Court over any action arising under the Agreement. The Board authorized the Tribe to consent to the jurisdiction of any courts with competent jurisdiction, including any courts to which decisions may be appealed, with respect to any controversies arising from this resolution or any of the finance documents, note or Agreement.

Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

4.1 This waiver shall become effective upon the final execution of the Agreement executed by the Chairman or his designee. Failure or refusal of any individual to execute the Agreement shall render the waivers and consents granted in this resolution to become void immediately. Failure or refusal to execute the Agreement prior to the close of business on June 1, 2025, shall render the waivers and consents granted in this resolution to become void immediately.

Section 5. AUTHORIZATION

5.1 T The CEO of Health Service or his designee is authorized to execute any and all documents to effectuate the forgoing.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2025-12, Authorization to Enter into a Vendor Agreement with Millennium.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves entering into a vendor agreement with Millennium in the amount of \$505,074.00 utilizing Reconnect 3 grant funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman or his designee to execute all documents and agreements to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2025-13, Authorization to Enter into a Contract with CCI Systems.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Tribe Purchasing Department, with the concurrence of the Broadband Group and CCC, recommends awarding the contract to CCI Systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves awarding the design and engineering contract to CCI Systems in the amount of \$999,071.00 for the engineering and design services for the ReConnect3 award.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes the Chairperson of the Tribe, or their designee, to enter into and execute the contract and any supporting documents with CCI Systems to fulfill the intent of this Resolution.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2025-14, Approving Supplier Contract with U.S. Venture, INC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the supplier contract with U.S. Venture, Inc for Midjim University.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman or his designee to execute all documents and agreements to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Aimee Penrose's appointment to the Unit 1 Sault Elder Committee for a term expiring January 2029.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Carl Frazier's resignation from the Unit 2 Naubinway Elder Committee.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Darlene Belleville's appointment to the Elder Advisory Committee for a term expiring January 2029.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McRorie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Diane McLeod-Maleport's resignation from the Special Needs/Enrollment Committee and approve Michael Larson as the Chairperson to the Special Needs/Enrollment Committee with a term still expiring in June 2026.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Michael Larson's resignation from the Cultural Committee.

Motion carries unanimously.

Without objection, Closed Session.

No objection.

Without objection, Open Session.

No objection.

Without objection, meeting adjourned.

No objection.

Adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Date: 11/21/2025

Secretary:


Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Robert Schulte, Jessica Dumback, Christine McPherson, Ashlee Mielke, Lona Stewart, Aaron Schlehuber, Joseph Street, Damien Hopper, Michelle Moore, Gerard Sagassige, Jen Clerc, Josh Elliot, Dan Doyle, Robin Clark, Robert Marchand, Jack Tuomikoski, Joni Talentino, James Benko, Carrie Horton