

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
KEWADIN CASINOS CONVENTION CENTER  
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN  
MARCH 18, 2025

This meeting was opened at 5:02 p.m. by Vice Chairman Tyler LaPlaut.

Present: Bridgett Sorenson, Aaron Payment, Larry Barbeau, Kimberly Lee, Michael McKerchie, Kimberle Gravelle, Shawn Borowicz, Tyler LaPlaut, Lana Causley-Smith, Isaac McKechnie, Rob McRorie

Absent: Kimberly Hampton, Austin Lowes

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Payment, to excuse Director Hampton and Chairman Lowes.**

**Motion carries.**

**Without objection, add the following under Resolutions:**

- 1. Waiver of Sovereign Immunity and Consent to Waiver of Tribal Court Jurisdiction Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.**

**No Objection.**

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

**Motion carries.**

**Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McRorie, to approve the meeting minutes from Regular Meeting February 4, 2025.**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2025-40, Continuing Funding Authority – Health Division for FY 2025 Schedule B Budgets October through September, January through December.**

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 June 30, 2025.

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

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2025-41, Continuing Funding Authority – Governmental for Fiscal Year 2025 January to December.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves continuing funding for the attached cost centers for fiscal year 2025, at their 2024 spending levels, for a period not to exceed June 30, 2025.

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

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve Resolution 2025-42, Continuing Funding Authority for Fiscal Year 2026 April to March.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves continuing funding for the attached cost centers for fiscal year 2026, at their 2025 spending levels, for a period not to exceed June 30, 2025.

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

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2025-43, Law Enforcement – Operation Stonegarden 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 Operation Stonegarden with Other Revenue monies of \$39,295.59. No effect on Tribal Support.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2025-44, FY 2025 Buildings Capital Expenditures Budget.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2025 Buildings Capital Expenditure budget for a total of \$600,000, with funds coming from the Buildings Fund Balance.

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

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2025-45, Natural Resources Division Tribal Youth Initiative 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 Youth Initiative with Federal BIA Revenue monies of \$8,183.96. No effect on Tribal Support.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2025-46, Natural Resources Division – Epoufette Harbor Access Road 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 Epoufette Harbor Access Road with Federal USDA Revenue monies of \$21,598.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Resolution 2025-47, ACFS – Establishment FY 2025 Budgets and FY 2025 Budget Modifications – Social Work, Binogii, LIHEAP, and CCDF.**

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 Social Work with Federal BIA monies of \$793,452.00 and Tribal Support monies of \$240,697.58.

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 Binogii with State of Michigan monies of \$1,059,812.21 and Other Revenue monies of \$57,000.00. 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 FY 2025 budget modification for LIHEAP for an increase in Federal HHS Revenue monies of \$155,938.00 and a decrease in Tribal Support monies of \$30,108.62.

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 for CCDF for a decrease in Federal HHS Revenue monies of \$3,315.15. No effect on Tribal Support.

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

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2025-48, Governmental – FY 2025 BIA Transportation Budgets Establishment 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 Transportation with Federal BIA monies of \$310,774.22. 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 IRR Road Maintenance with Federal BIA monies of \$150,000.00. 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 Transportation Road Construction with Federal BIA monies of \$3,357,000.00. 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 Transportation Road Maintenance with Federal BIA monies of \$10,000.00. 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 Transportation Bridge Maintenance with Federal BIA monies of \$150,000.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

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

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2025-49, Legal – Tribal Attorney.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves the salary for the Tribal Attorney – ACFS, referenced in the Resolution Information Sheet, effective immediately. This change will be reflected in the FY 2025 budget submitted.



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

**Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2025-50, Amendment – 2025 Indian Housing Plan.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors and Sault Tribe Housing Commission does agree to follow the HUD approved Indian Housing Plan in order to provide housing opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Housing Authority Director is authorized to submit the 2025 IHP AMENDMENT in the HUD online GEMS System.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorize the Tribal Chairman or his designee, to negotiate, execute and amend any and all documents resulting therefrom on the Tribe's behalf on a contract between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Native American Programs (ONAP).

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

**Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2025-51, NRD – Rebuild of Nunns Creek Lamprey Barrier and Weir.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors authorizes the Division to work on cooperative design of these structures and allows for implementation of structural rebuilds by the GLFC and USFWS.

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 Barbeau, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve Resolution 2025-52, NRD – St. Mary's River Dredged Materials Placement Recommendation.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors authorizes the Division to develop recommendations to USACE regarding dredged materials placement.

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 Sorenson, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2025-53, Award Contract to Cherry Capital Connection for Broadband Feasibility Study.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby approves the Broadband Feasibility Services Agreement with Cherry Capital Connection for \$140,000 from Cost Center 13051. This activity is fully grant funded by BIA-Indian Economic Development-National Tribal Broadband Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Tribal Chairman, or his designee, to execute any and all documents including as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the terms, conditions, and intent of this resolution.



**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors' McKechnie, Payment opposing.**

**Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2025-54, Tribal Operations Cyber Response.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Tribe's Risk Manager Director, CEO and CFO to create the necessary internal processes to address the financial impact of this CYBER Attack including exclusions under the Emergency Provision of the current Purchasing Policy, any necessary budgets along with the financial transfer of funds. All such purchasing exclusions, budgets and financial transfers will be reported to the Board of Directors on a monthly basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CFO is authorized to create the necessary cost centers and to take such additional steps as may be appropriate to assure a full and proper accounting and reconciliation of any funds utilized to actively pursue the insurance claims.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Tribe, or his designee, is authorized to execute or amend any and all documents relating to this CYBER Event.

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

**Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director Borowicz, to approve Resolution 2025-55, Waiver of Sovereign Immunity and Consent to Waiver of Tribal Court Jurisdiction Horvath Towers VI, LLC.**

**Without objection, waive the reading.**

**No Objections.**

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; and

1.2 The Tribe wishes to enter into Distributed Antenna System Agreement ("Agreement") with Horvath Towers VI, LLC ("Horvath") as negotiated by IT Department for Distributed Antenna Systems at Kewadin locations; and

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

1.4 In order to induce Horvath 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 Horvath 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 Horvath only should an action be commenced under the Agreement referenced above.

This waiver:

Shall terminate upon performance by the Tribe of all of its obligations under the Agreement; and  
Is granted solely to Horvath; and  
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 Horvath 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  
Shall be enforceable only in a court of competent jurisdiction, for the sole purpose of a binding arbitration agreement; and  
Shall be enforceable against the assets of the Tribe to the extent necessary to satisfy the Tribe's obligation in the Agreement; and  
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 waives the exclusive jurisdiction of the Tribal Court over any action arising under the Agreement resulting in arbitration. 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 for arbitration.

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 May 31, 2025, shall render the waivers and consents granted in this resolution to become void immediately.

Section 5. AUTHORIZATION

5.1 T The Tribal Chairman or his designee is authorized to execute any and all documents to effectuate the foregoing.

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

**Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director Lee, to approve Resolution 2025-56, Approving Contract Newberry Yooper Fitness.**

**Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McKechnie, to Amend to add Not to Exceed \$5,000.**

**Without objection, Motion to Amend carries unanimously.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the contract with Newberry Yooper Fitness, not to exceed \$5,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby directs the CEO of Health Services to include the costs to carry out the intent of this resolution in the 2025 Community Health budget, to be approved by the Board of Directors, in a cost center determined by the CEO of Health Services.

**Motion carries unanimously.**



**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2025-57, Waiver of Sovereign Immunity and Consent to Waiver of Tribal Court Jurisdiction Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.**

**Without objection, waive the reading.**

**No Objections.**

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; and

1.2 The Tribe wishes to enter into a Grant Agreement ("Agreement") with the State of Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity ("Grantor") on behalf of ACFS for the Lodge of Hope; and

1.3 Due to the time sensitive nature of the Agreement the Tribe and Grantor wish to pursue a waiver of sovereign immunity; and

1.4 In order to timely effectuate entering into the 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 Grantor 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 The Tribe and Grantor are negotiating future language to incorporate into these agreements that would not require a waiver of sovereign immunity; and

1.6 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 Grantor only should an action be commenced under the Agreement referenced above.

This waiver:

Shall terminate upon performance by the Tribe of all of its obligations under the Agreement; and Is granted solely to Grantor; and

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 Grantor 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

Shall be enforceable only in a court of competent jurisdiction, including the Michigan Court of Claims located in Ingham County; and

Shall be enforceable against the assets of the Tribe to the extent necessary to satisfy the Tribe's obligation in the Agreement; and

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 The Chairman or his designee is authorized to execute any and all documents to effectuate the forgoing.

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

**Without objection, adjourn.**

**No Objections.**

Adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Date: 4/1/25

Secretary:   
Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Lona Stewart, Christine McPherson, Jessica Dumback (Z), Aaron Schlehuber, Robert Schulte, Josh Elliot, Elaine Clement, Jennifer Clerc, Robert Marchand, Jack Tuomikoski, Megan Miller, Mariea Mongene, Dan Doyle, Michelle Moore