

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
KEWADIN CASINO AND CONVENTION CENTER
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN
November 4, 2025

This meeting was opened at 5:00 p.m. by Treasurer Isaac McKechnie.

Present: Kimberly Hampton (Z), Tyler LaPlaunt (Z), Rob McRorie (Z), Michael McKerchie, Kimberly Lee (Z), Isaac McKechnie, Larry Barbeau (Z), Bridgett Sorenson (Z), Kimberle Gravelle, Aaron Payment (Z), Shawn Borowicz

Absent: Lana Causley-Smith, Austin Lowes

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Payment, to excuse Director Causley-Smith and Chairman Lowes.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director Gravelle, to add 2 Resolutions to the Agenda:

1. Administration for Community Living/Administration on Aging Application; and
2. Approving Letter of Support Opposing SB 511 Social Wagering.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director Borowicz, to approve the agenda as read.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve the minutes from 10/14/25.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKerchie, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve the minutes from 10/21/25.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Resolution 2025-285, Health Division – Health Education Community Health Establishment of FY 2026 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 2026 budget to Health Education Community Health with Federal IHS Revenue of \$23,728.00, Third Party Revenue of \$509,291.81, and Other Revenue of \$111,000.00.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve Resolution 2025-286, Acceptance of the 2024 401K Audit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors, as approved by the Audit Committee, on October 16, 2025, hereby accepts the 2024 401K 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 also approves the Chairman or CFO to execute any and all documents associated with the FY24 401K Audit including the Client Representation Letter.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director Borowicz, to approve Resolution 2025-287, Amending Chapter 30 Child Welfare Code: 30.1203 Membership and Terms.

Moved by Director McRorie to make Director McKerchie the alternate.

Motion out of order; Resolution will be brought forward next meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby amends the Tribal Code Chapter 30: Child Welfare Code as follows:

30.1203 Membership and Terms

- (1) Members of the Committee must be eighteen (18) years old and a Sault Tribe member.
- (2) Members of the Committee must complete and pass a complete background check determined by Sault Tribe.
- (3) Members of the Committee shall hold office for staggered terms of four (4) years.
- (4) Members of the Committee shall hold office until their respective successors have been appointed.
- (5) Renewal of past membership are nominated by the Committee and reaffirmed by the Board of Directors.
- (6) The Board of Directors for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians shall appoint a Board Liaison and a Board Liaison Alternate to the Child Welfare Committee.
 - a. Qualifications. The Board Liaison and the Board Liaison Alternate shall be a member of the Board of Directors for the Sault Ste. Marie of Chippewa Indians.
 - b. Selection Process.
 - i. The Board of Directors shall have sole discretion in choosing which Board member to appoint as Board Liaison and Board Liaison Alternate to the Child Welfare Committee.
 - ii. The Board of Directors may seek advice and input from the Child Welfare Committee.
 - c. Term of Service. The Board Liaison and the Board Liaison Alternate's terms of service shall be until his or her current elected term of service to the Board of Directors is completed. The Board Liaison and the Board Liaison Alternate can be reappointed if they retain his or her Board of Directors seat.
 - d. Duties.
 - i. The Board Liaison shall be a voting member of the Child Welfare Committee.
 - ii. The Board Liaison shall attend all meetings of the Child Welfare Committee, unless excused by the Board of Directors.
 - iii. The Board Liaison shall make reports to the Board of Directors about the operation and functions of the Child Welfare Committee. Such reports shall not breach any confidentiality regarding Child Welfare Committee business.
 - iv. The Board Liaison Alternate may attend Child Welfare Committee meetings to observe and will not be able to vote unless the Board Liaison is absent.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve Resolution 2025-288, Amending Chapter 30 Child Welfare Code: 30.306a Best Interest of the Child.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby amends the Tribal Code Chapter 30: Child Welfare Code as follows:

30.306a Best Interest of the Child

“Best interest of the child” means the sum total of the following factors to be considered, evaluated, and determined by the Court and/or Child Welfare Committee:

- (a) The love, affection, and other emotional ties existing between the parties and the child;
- (b) The capacity and disposition of parties to give the child love, affection, guidance and to continue educating and raising the child in their religion or creed;
- (c) The capacity and disposition of the parties involved to provide the child with food, clothing, medical care or other remedial care, and meet any unique individual needs of the child;
- (d) The length of time the child has lived in a stable, satisfactory environment and the desirability of maintaining continuity;
- (e) The permanence, as a family unit, of the proposed home;
- (f) The moral fitness of the parties, as determined by their conduct, habits, and associations, including the criminal and child protective services record of any adult residing in the proposed home;
- (g) The mental and physical health of the parties;
- (h) The home, school, and community record of the child;
- (i) The reasonable preference of the child, if the court deems the child to be of significant age to express that preference;
- (j) The willingness and ability of the parties to facilitate and encourage a close and continuing parent-child relationship between the child and the other parent or the child and the parents, if appropriate;
- (k) Domestic violence, regardless of whether the violence was directed against or witnessed by the child; and
- (l) The capacity and disposition of the parties involved to instill the child with Sault Tribe culture and values and, secondarily, other native American culture and values through the customary child rearing practices of the Sault Tribe.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2025-289, Amending Chapter 30 Child Welfare Code: 30.336 “Parent”.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby amends the Tribal Code Chapter 30: Child Welfare Code as follows:

30.336 Parent

“Parent” means a person who is legally responsible for the control and care of the child, including a mother, father, stepparent, live together partner, guardian, or custodian, including a natural or adoptive parent, but does not include persons whose parental rights have been terminated, nor does it include an unwed father whose paternity has not been acknowledged or established.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director Payment, to approve Resolution 2025-290, Amending Chapter 30 Child Welfare Code: 30.602 Foster Care and Permanency Placement Preferences.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby amends the Tribal Code Chapter 30: Child Welfare Code as follows:

30.602 Foster Care and Permanency Placement Preferences

1) The Tribe's first priority for permanency and foster care placement is for placement of tribal children through the Binogii Placement Agency.

2) For the purposes of this section only, "appropriate" is defined by the Agency in consultation with the Sault Tribe Child Welfare Committee.

3) Foster Care Placement Preferences

a. The first priority is for placement with appropriate extended family in the immediate area as follows:

- i. Grandparents;
- ii. Biological siblings to a parent;
- iii. Biological siblings to the child;
- iv. First cousins to a parent (i.e. seconds cousins to the child).

b. The second priority is for placement with appropriate extended family outside of the immediate area as follows:

- i. Grandparents;
- ii. Biological siblings to a parent;
- iii. Biological siblings to the child;
- iv. First cousins to a parent (i.e. seconds cousins to the child).

c. The third priority is for appropriate placement in the immediate area as follow:

- i. Any other biological relative to the child;
- ii. An Indian family;
- iii. A non-Indian family.

d. The fourth priority is for placement with an appropriate Indian family outside the immediate area.

e. The fifth priority is for placement in the best interest of the child as determined by the Child Welfare Committee.

4) Permanency Placement Preferences

a. The first priority is for placement with appropriate extended family as follows:

- i. Grandparents;
- ii. Biological siblings to a parent;
- iii. Biological siblings to the child;
- iv. First cousins to a parent (i.e. seconds cousins to the child).

v. Any other biological relative to the child;

b. The second priority is for placement with an appropriate Indian family.

c. The third priority is for placement in the best interest of the child as determined by the Child Welfare Committee.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Payment, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2025-291, Approving Opioid Settlement Funds for Child Welfare Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves \$291,507 to be allocated from the Opioid Settlement funds to help operate the Tribe's Child Welfare Program and continue combating the opioid use epidemics.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this allocation shall be reflected in the Tribe's FY 2026 budget and tribal administration is hereby authorized to make any necessary budget changes through an administrative budget modification consistent with this resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Payment, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2025-292, Approving Opioid Settlement Funds for Lodge of Hope.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves an additional \$157,589.11 to be allocated from the Opioid Settlement funds to help operate the Lodge of Hope and continue combating the homelessness and opioid use epidemics.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors previously allocated \$935,658 to support the support the operation of the Lodge of Hope and hereby allocates an additional \$157,589.11 for a total of \$1,093,247.11 alleviating the request for Tribal Support for FY 2026.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve Resolution 2025-293, Updating Utility Easement Cloverland Electric.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby approves updating the Cloverland easement on Sugar Island.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes its Chairman, or designee, to execute any documentation required to update this easement consistent with this resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be effective immediately.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2025-294, Expanding the Tribes Contract Health Services.

Director Payment requested roll call vote.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the expansion efforts of the Tribes PRCDA to include the counties of Emmet and Cheboygan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the application to IHS to expand the PRCDA service area shall be submitted within 30 business days of the enactment of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Chairman or their designee is authorized to execute any documents as may be necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Without objection, removing Establishing and Approving Wilwalk Cemetery Committee and Bylaws Resolution from the Agenda until November 18th Board Meeting.

No objection.

Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2025-295, Administration for Community Living (ACL)/Administration on Aging (AOA) Application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby supports, approves, and authorizes the Elder Services Division of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to apply for and accept the Administration for Community Living (ACL)/Administration on Aging (AOA) funding from the Health and Human Services in order to secure funding to provide direct services to Native American Elders with a funding cycle of April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2029.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Borowicz, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2025-296, Approving Letter of Support Opposing SB 511 Social Wagering.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Chairman or his designee to sign on to, with other Michigan Tribes, a letter of support opposing SB 511.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes the Chairman or his designee to sign onto to any documents in any efforts that may be in line with this resolution and opposition to SB511.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to accept Rita Glyptis's appointment to the Unit 5 – Munising Elder Subcommittee, with a term expiring November 2029.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKerchie, supported by Director Hampton, to adjourn.

Motion carries unanimously.

Adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Date: 11/18/2025

Secretary: 

Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Lona Stewart, Ashlee Mielke, Bill Connolly, Holly Haapala, Ryan Mills, Jessica Dumback, Joseph Street, Michelle Moore, Megan Miller, Latisha Willette, Jennifer Constantino, Melissa VanLuven, Juanita Bye, Katie Peabody, Carrie Rodgers