

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
KEWADIN CASINOS CONVENTION CENTER  
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN  
February 17, 2026

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

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

**Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director McKerchie, to add Approving Contract Enterprise Resource Planning Project.**

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

**Moved by Director LaPlaut, supported by Director Hampton, to excuse Directors' Barbeau and McRorie (arrived via Zoom at 5:03).**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

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

1. Resolution, Amending Chapter 82, was not read in to agenda.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Borowicz, to approve 2/3/26 Meeting Minutes.**

**Motion carries with Director Hampton abstaining.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaut, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2026-46, Internal Services – Natural Resources Building 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 Natural Resources Building for an increase in Other Revenue of \$70,985.52 and the use of Fund Balance of \$116,980.00.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries (vote not recorded from Director Lee).**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Resolution 2026-47, NRD Application to 2026 WNS Small Grants Program.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors approves the submission of a grant proposal to WMI for up to \$15,000 to enhance Tribal capacity in wildlife conservation through safe and effective bat monitoring and conservation activities.

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 (vote not recorded from Director Lee).**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2026-48, Memorandum of Agreement with Consolidated Community Schools Services.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in the 2025 -2026 agreement between Consolidated Community Schools Services and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the Consolidated Schools will reimburse the Tribe in the amount of \$47,476.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribe agrees to meet or exceed all rules and regulations regarding certification and class curriculum in the operation of a state adult education program, and that the Tribe will absorb such expenses as teacher wages, space cost, and other associated administrative costs.

**Motion carries (vote not recorded from Director Lee).**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2026-49, Approving JKL PSA School Compensation Plan.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the JKL PSA School Compensation Gold Plan, committing \$1,018,212 of Bureau of Indian Education's ISEP, Title I, IDEA and Facilities Operating Funds to take effect at the start of the 2026-2027 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Accounting Department and Education Department are to prepare the 2026-2027 JKLFC Budget to incorporate the JKL PSA Compensation Gold Plan.

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

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2026-50, Partial Waiver of Convictions for MS. Alyssa Rickley.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors, pursuant to Tribal Code Chapter 76 grants a partial waiver to Ms. Alyssa Rickley.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaut, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2026-51, Approving Contract Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry, LLP.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors hereby approves the contract between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry, LLP, ending December 31, 2026, at the annual fee of \$99,000, for the purpose of providing consulting services to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

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

**Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2026-52, Approving Contact Cedar Rock Alliance/Elizabeth Molle-Carr.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors hereby approves the contract between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Cedar Rock Alliance/Elizabeth Molle-Carr, ending December 31, 2026, at the annual fee of \$25,000, for the purpose of providing Federal Policy Analyst Services to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director LaPlaut, to approve Resolution 2026-53, Approving Contract Khoury Johnson Leavitt.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors hereby approves the contract between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Khoury Johnson Leavitt, ending December 31, 2026, at the annual fee of \$99,000, for the purpose of providing consulting services to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

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

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve Resolution 2026-54, Approving Contract Michelle Castagne.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors hereby approves the contract between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Michelle Castagne, ending December 31, 2026, at the annual fee of \$25,000, for the purpose of providing Federal Policy Analyst Services to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2026-55, Residential Land Lease Request and Rescission of Resolution 2025-268 Michelle Lackey and John Lackey.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman and the Treasurer to execute a Residential Land Lease for the land located at Kincheloe, Michigan, to Michelle Lackey and John Lackey, the land being described as:

Township of Kinross, County of Chippewa, State of Michigan  
Sec. 29 & S. ½ Sec. 20, T 45 N, R 1 W (0.23 acres, more or less)  
Lots 834 and 835 Cedar Grove Estates III

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Residential Land Lease is in furtherance of a Housing program operated in the promotion of the public purpose, and the negotiated rental amount has been determined to be in the best interest of the Tribe and its people, and valuation in accordance with 25 CFR 162.320 is hereby waived.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Board of Directors rescinds Resolution 2025-268.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2026-56, Residential Land Lease – John James McClellan.**

**Without objection, waive the reading of this Resolution.**

**No objection.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman and the Treasurer to execute a Residential Land lease for the land located at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to John James McClellan, a single man, the land being described as:

A parcel of land located in the Southeast ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 20, Town 47 North, Range 1 East, Soo Township, Chippewa County, Michigan being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the South ¼ corner of Section 20, Town 47 North, Range 1 East; thence North 88° 23' 23" West, along the South line of the Southwest ¼ of said Section 20, a distance of 1267.98 feet to the Easterly right-of-way of Seymour Road; thence North 2° 04' 04" East, along said Easterly right-of-way, 545.86 feet to the Point of Beginning of the herein described parcel; thence

continuing North 2° 04' 04" East, along said Easterly right-of-way, 150.00 feet; thence South 87° 55' 56" East, 290.40 feet; thence South 2° 04' 04" West, 150.00 feet; thence North 87° 55' 56" West, 290.40 feet to the Point of Beginning. Containing 1.00 acres of land more or less.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal staff is directed to prepare the appropriate Residential Land Lease documents for BIA recording.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Residential Land Lease is in furtherance of a Housing program operated in the promotion of the public purpose, and the negotiated rental amount has been determined to be in the best interest of the Tribe and its people, and valuation in accordance with 25 CFR 162.320 is hereby waived.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2026-57, Authorization to form a Limited Partnership for Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby:

1. Authorizes the formation of a limited partnership or similar single-purpose entity to develop, own, and operate the proposed supportive housing development and to apply for Low-Income Housing Tax Credits.
2. Authorizes the Housing Authority, or a wholly owned or tribally controlled affiliate, to serve as the General Partner of the limited partnership.
3. Authorizes the submission of an application for Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to MSHDA, including any amendments or supplemental materials required.
4. Authorizes the Chairperson, Housing Director\Interim Housing Director, or other designated officers of the Housing Authority to execute all documents necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution, including but not limited to partnership agreements, LIHTC application materials, and related development and financing documents.
5. Authorizes all other actions necessary to implement this resolution and move the Project forward in compliance with tribal, federal, and state requirements.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2026-58, Approving Sault Tribe Housing Authority to Manage and Operate ARPA Affordable Housing Units.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians authorize the Sault Tribe Housing Authority to manage and operate all affordable housing units constructed with ARPA Affordable housing funds including any future housing constructed on land developed with ARPA funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all units constructed and land developed under the interagency agreements approved under resolution 2024-169 and Odenaang Homes Tribal Enterprise approved under resolution 2023-119 will be placed under Sault Tribe Housing Authority and recognized as assets of the Authority.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2026-59, Health Division – Authorization to Negotiate Property Acquisition.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Sault Tribe Health Division CEO or his designee, to negotiate the purchase of the properties TIN: 051-048-053-00 & TIN: 051-048-053-60, not to exceed the agreed upon terms as reflected in the attached RIS approved by the Board of Directors. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, upon successful negotiations, the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairperson or his designee, to sign any and all documents, to complete the purchase of the property using funds determined by the Health Division CEO.

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

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2026-60, Health Division – Tribal Opioid Settlement Fund.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors authorizes the Health Division's acceptance for the TOSF Funds in the amount of \$538,461.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Health Division CEO, 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 McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2026-61, Assignment of Rights Under Third Amended and Restated Online Gaming and Sports Betting Agreement to Kewadin Casinos Gaming Authority.**

**Without objection convene to a Closed Session. 6:23 p.m.**

**Meeting reconvened to Open Session 6:37 p.m.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes and approves the assignment of all of its rights, obligations, title, and interest under the Agreement to the Authority pursuant to the Assignment of Rights Under Third Amended and Restated Online Gaming and Sports Betting Agreement ("Assignment Agreement").

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this assignment pursuant to the Assignment Agreement is effective immediately upon the Authority accepting such pursuant to a resolution adopted at a duly called Authority meeting.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Director Borowicz opposing, Director Gravelle abstaining.**

**Moved by Director Payment, supported by Director Hampton, to approve a Resolution, Guaranteeing Sault Tribe Citizen has the Rights to Due Process and Standing in Tribal Court to Uphold their Constitutional Rights Until a Three Branch Separation of powers is Established.**

**Moved by Director Borowicz, supported by Director Gravelle, to Table to next workshop.**

**Roll call Vote: Motion to Table fails with Directors' Lee, Gravelle, McKerchie, Borowicz, and Sorenson supporting; Directors' McRorie, Payment, McKechnie, Hampton, Causley-Smith, and LaPlaunt opposing.**

**Moved by Director Payment, supported by Director McKerchie, to Refer to General Counsel to come back within 90 days to identify all codes that need changes.**

**Roll call Vote: Motion to Refer carries with Directors' McRorie, Payment, McKechnie, Hampton, McKerchie, LaPlaunt supporting; Directors' Gravelle, Borowicz, Causley-Smith, Sorenson opposing (vote not recorded from Director Lee).**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve Resolution 2026-62, Approving Contract Enterprise Resource Planning Project.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby approves the contract for the ERP Project with the preferred vendor indicated on the attached RIS, up to the amount listed on the attached RIS, from Tribal Support funds allocated for this project as a Capital Expenditure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the name of the vendors and the amount are deemed proprietary information pursuant to Resolution 2025-72 for the reasons listed on the attached RIS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the Tribe and the preferred vendor are unable to come to terms on the final contract, then the Board authorizes negotiation and approval with the other vendor listed on the RIS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final contract for the ERP Project needs to be approved by the Legal Department prior to execution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes the Governmental CFO to perform any necessary administrative budget modifications to carry out the terms of this resolution.

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

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Director McKechnie opposing (vote not recorded from Director Lee).**

**Any objection to handling license transfers together?**

**No Objection.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve the following Grandfather letters:**

1. David Whitman, C-44, license transfer to his grandson, Dakota Whitman.
2. Floyd Paquin, C-51, license transfer to his son, Robert Paquin.

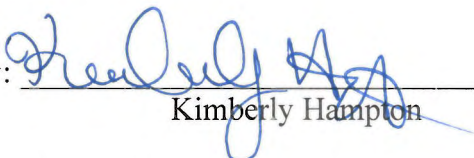
**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Without objection, adjourn.**

**No objection.**

Adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Date: 3/3/26

Secretary:   
Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Gerard Sagassige, Lona Stewart, Samuel Derusha, Ryan Mills, Holly Haapala, Jessica Dumback, Bill Connolly, Joseph Street, Damien Hopper, Michelle Moore, Jen Clerc, Harrison Thorne, Bob Marchand, James Benko, Andrew Lane, Dani Fegan, Katie Shultz, Stephanie Sprecker, Helen Wilkins, Mariea Mongene, Annette Thibert, Joel Lumsden, Nick Eitrem, Bill Travitz