

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
KEWADIN CASINOS CONVENTION CENTER  
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN  
April 7, 2026

This meeting was opened at 5:02 p.m. by Chairman Austin Lowes.

Present: Kimberly Lee, Kimberly Hampton, Rob McRorie, Bridgett Sorenson, Aaron Payment (Z), Tyler LaPlaunt, Lana Causley-Smith, Michael McKerchie, Larry Barbeau, Shawn Borowicz, Kimberle Gravelle, Austin Lowes  
Absent: Isaac McKechnie

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

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to excuse Director McKechnie.**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Barbeau, to add the following resolutions to the agenda.**

- **Key Employee**
- **Clarifying the Intent of the Creation of the Tribe's Separate and Distinct Legal Entities**

**No objection.**

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve 3/24/26 Meeting Minutes.**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2026-92, Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Modifications and Year End Reconciliations.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Kim Hampton, to amend Resolution 2026-92, to add the final BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED.**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby waives resolution #2024-205, Governmental Budget Policy, for the prohibition of budget modifications after a cost center's fiscal year end.

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 to Eagle Lending Capital and Debt for a transfer out of \$86,443.69 to EDC (CC#1155).

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 to EDC (CC#1155) for a transfer in of \$86,443.69 from Eagle Lending Capital and Debt.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of

Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2025 Year End Reconciliations for the re-allocation of Tribal Support monies of \$1,488,982.18.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Governmental CFO to perform any administrative budget modifications necessary to CCI 155 and CCI 160 from tribal support up to \$47,470.73 to account for close-out from the year-end adjustments.

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

**Moved by Director LaPlaut, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-93, Governmental - ARPA Budgets Establishment of FY 2025 Budgets.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby waives resolution #2024-205, Governmental Budget Policy, for the prohibition of budget modifications or establishment of new budgets after a cost center's fiscal year end.

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 ARPA Governmental Administration with Federal ARPA Revenue of \$448,849.45. 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 ARPA Housing & Community Centers with Federal ARPA Revenue of \$18,792,123.42 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 ARPA Revenue Loss with Federal ARPA Revenue of \$556,257.15. 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 ARPA Governmental Capital Projects with Federal ARPA Revenue of \$127,454.50. 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 ARPA Proprietary Capital Projects with Federal ARPA Revenue of \$5,476,529.76. No effect on Tribal Support.

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

**Moved by Director LaPlaut, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-94, Governmental - ARPA Budgets Establishment of FY 2026 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 2026 budget for ARPA Governmental Administration with Federal ARPA Revenue of \$84,641.88. 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 2026 budget for ARPA Housing & Community Centers with Federal ARPA Revenue of \$2,257,278.11 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 2026 budget for ARPA Revenue Loss with Federal ARPA Revenue of \$1,373.45. 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 2026 budget for ARPA Governmental Capital Projects with Federal ARPA Revenue of \$389,254.20. 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 2026 budget for ARPA Proprietary Capital Projects with Federal ARPA Revenue of \$1,262,446.37. No effect on Tribal Support.

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

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve Resolution 2026-95, Natural Resources Division - Aquatic Invasive Species Establish 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 for Aquatic Invasive Species with Federal US Fish and Wildlife Services Revenue monies in the amount of \$16,719.58. No effect on Tribal Support.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Resolution 2026-96, Natural Resources Division - Forestry Funds Establish 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 for BIA Forestry Funds with Federal BIA Revenue monies in the amount of \$43,265.02. No effect on Tribal Support.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve Resolution 2026-97, Natural Resources Division - GLRI Coastal Initiative Establish 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 for GLRI Coastal Initiative with Federal BIA Revenue monies in the amount of \$107,024.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

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

**Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2026-98, ACFS - 2022 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside (TVSSA) Establish 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 for 2022 TVSSA with Federal U.S. Department of Justice Revenue monies in the amount of \$267,526.34. No effect on Tribal Support.

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

**Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2026-99, ACFS - 2025 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside (TVSSA) Accept Grant and Establish FY 2026 Budget.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes acceptance of the 2025 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Program (TVSSA) grant award in the total amount of \$531,628 for a five-year project period.

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 2026 budget for 2025 TVSSA with federal U.S. Department of Justice revenue monies in the amount of \$122,744.56 with no effect on Tribal Support.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Chairman, or their designee, is hereby authorized to accept said grant award from the Department of Justice, to negotiate, execute, and amend any documents on the Tribe's behalf.

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

**Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-100, Legal - Tribal Attorney 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 Tribal Attorney for an increase in Tribal Support of \$113,529.29.

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

**Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve Resolution 2026-101, Contract with Loyola University of Chicago for Refining the Manoomin Habitat Suitability Model.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves awarding a professional services contract to Loyola University of Chicago, for the period March, 2026- May 1, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$61,008.00 to refine the manoomin habitat suitability model. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NRD is authorized to administer the contract, charge allowable costs to approved budgets and/or grants, and ensure compliance with reporting, audit/records, IP, and other applicable requirements.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Chairman (or designee) is authorized to enter into and execute the contract and any supporting documents necessary to fulfill the intent of this Resolution.

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

**Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2026-102, NRD Application to 2026 National Coastal Resilience Fund.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors approves the Natural Resources Division to apply for up to \$7,000,000 in NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund funding.

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 Hampton, to approve Resolution 2026-103, Accept State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Grant Award.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby accepts the grant funding from the State of Michigan - Michigan State Police, (Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division) State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Chairman of the Tribe, or their designee, to execute all documents, contracts, and subcontracts 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 Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2026-104, Accept U.S. Department of Treasury Grant Award for AP Wireless Devices.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby accepts the grant funding from the US Department of Treasury Grant Program.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Chairman of the Tribe, or their designee, to execute all documents, contracts, and subcontracts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the terms, conditions, and intent of this resolution.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-105, Health Division - Reappropriation of 3rd Party Revenue.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby amend Resolution 2024-233 to allocate the funds to the SSM Expansion & Renovation Project #25-136 in lieu of the Recovery Campus.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby appropriates \$14,465,591 of third-party revenue to a new company/cost center SSM Expansion & Renovation Project #25-136.

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

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2026-106, Adopt the Sault Tribe Governmental Wage Grid for Housing Authority.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the adoption and implementation of the Governmental BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all positions of STHA will be placed in a grid, evaluated, and adjusted by years in their current position.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these changes will be reflected in an administrative budget modification by STHA.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, any changes in wages under this Resolution will be effective by a date to be determined by the Housing Director and communicated to all STHA staff, with all changes in full effect by January 1, 2027.

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

**Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2026-107, Establishing a Moratorium Prohibiting the Development, Approval, or Operation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Data Centers on Tribal Lands.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby establishes a moratorium prohibiting the approval, permitting, development, construction, leasing, or operation of artificial intelligence (AI) data centers on all Tribal lands and trust lands under its jurisdiction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this moratorium shall apply to all Tribal governmental departments and any external entities seeking to conduct such activities within Tribal jurisdiction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no Tribal official, department, or entity shall enter into agreements, negotiations, or commitments that would allow or facilitate the development of AI data centers during the duration of this moratorium.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this moratorium is enacted to protect Tribal treaty reserved resources, environmental integrity, water resources, energy sustainability, cultural preservation,

and community well-being.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this moratorium shall remain in effect indefinitely unless and until explicitly lifted by a subsequent resolution of the Board of Directors following:

- A comprehensive Tribal impact assessment
- Environmental and cultural resource evaluations
- Infrastructure and energy capacity analysis
- Robust community consultation and input process

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors affirms that any future consideration of such developments must be grounded in Tribal values, long-term sustainability, and the protection of future generations.

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

**Moved by Director LaPlaut, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2026-108, Key Employee.**

**Without objection, unanimous consent?**

**Director Payment objects and requested a Roll Call Vote.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby terminates the Chief Judge, for good cause pursuant to section 5 of the employment agreement, effective immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Chairman or his designee to execute any contract necessary for judges to keep the Tribal Court operational until a new Chief Judge is hired, up to the standard rate that the legal department uses for outside counsel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, any contract entered for the continued operation of the Tribal Court will be reviewed with the Board of Directors every two-weeks.

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

**Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director LaPlaut, to approve Resolution 2026-109, Clarifying the Intent of the Creation of the Tribe's Separate and Distinct Legal Entities.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby clarifies that the intent of Sault Tribal Code Chapters 93 and 94 was to create legally separate and distinct economic arms of the tribe that enjoy the Tribe's Sovereign immunity but carry out economic purposes of the tribe, not governmental functions and that these entities are governed separately from the Board of Directors and are not subject to the obligations of the tribal government unless explicitly and expressly stated in tribal resolution or code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby clarifies that Sault Tribal Code Chapter 15: Tribal Freedom of Information Ordinance, in its current form, applies to governmental entities only and does not apply to economic entities of the Tribe and further clarifies that the KGA, the EA, Sault Tribe Inc, and Indian Energy are economic entities not governmental entities not subject to Chapter 15 in its current form.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Legal Department to update Tribal Code Chapters 15, 93, and 94 to reflect the intent of this Resolution.

**Without objection, unanimous consent?**

**No objection, motion carries with Unanimous Consent.**

**Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve the following disenrollment:**

1. Jacob Pringle, 05/02/2013.  
**Motion carries unanimously.**


**Moved by Director McRorie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to reaffirm Resolution 2024-118, Establishing Protection of our First Family.**  
**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Without objection convene to a Closed Session. 6:45 p.m.**  
**No objection.**  
**Meeting reconvened to Open Session. 7:23 p.m.**

Any objection to adjourning the meeting?  
No objection.

Adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Date: 4/21/26

Secretary:   
Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Lona Stewart, Samuel Derusha, Ryan Mills, Bill Connolly, Elaine Clement (Z), Jen Clerc, Michelle Moore, Gerard Sagassige, Joseph Street, Damien Hopper, Jessica Dumback, Holly Haapala, Josh Elliot, Bob Marchand, Dani Fegan, Katie Schultz, James Benko, Ashley Samuelson, Bill Travitz, Shawn Tackaberry, James Shelleby