

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
KEWADIN CASINOS CONVENTION CENTER
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN
December 2, 2025

This meeting was opened at 5:05 p.m. by Chairman Austin Lowes.

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

**Without objection, excuse Director Gravelle.
No objection.**

**Without objection, add Resolution: Approving Bison Purchase.
No objection.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve the agenda as read.
Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve the minutes from 11/18/25.
Motion carries unanimously.**

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Payment, to approve Resolution 2025-318, Approving Bison Purchase.

Moved by Director McKerchie, supported by Director McRorie, to amend to include up to \$15,000 from Indian Energy donation per the donation parameters with no effect on tribal support.

Motion to amend carries unanimously.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves up to \$15,000 to be utilized from the Indian Energy donation per the parameters of the donation, with no effect on tribal support.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby approves the purchase of bison meat from BuBray Buffalo Ranch in South Dakota.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby approves Leadercharge's Mobile Processing Unit and Mauer's Little Meat Shop as processors for the bison meat.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the tribal Chairman, or his designee, to sign any and all necessary documents to effectuate the intent of this resolution.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Payment, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2025-319, Continuing Funding Authority – Governmental FY 2026 Schedule B and C Budgets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves continuing funding for the attached cost center list for fiscal year 2026, at their 2025 spending levels, for a period not to exceed March 31, 2026.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries (Director McKechnie not in the room for the vote).

Moved by Director LaPlaut, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2025-320, Continuing Funding Authority – Health Division FY 2026 Schedule B and C Budgets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves continuing funding for the attached cost center list for fiscal year 2026, at their 2025 spending levels, for a period not to exceed March 31, 2026.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries (Director McKechnie not in the room for the vote).

Moved by Director LaPlaut, supported by Director McKerchie, to approve Resolution 2025-321, Natural Resource Division – Tribal Youth Initiative 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 for Tribal Youth Initiative with Federal BIA Revenue of \$4,779.07. No effect on Tribal Support.

Motion carries (Director McKechnie not in the room for the vote).

Moved by Director LaPlaut, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2025-322, Natural Resource Division – Aquatic Invasive Species 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 for Aquatic Invasive Species with Federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Revenue of \$100,000.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

Roll call vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaut, to approve Resolution 2025-323, ACFS – USDA 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 for USDA (2740) with Federal USDA Revenue of \$753,135.00 and Third Party Revenue of \$273,833.81.

Roll call vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director LaPlaut, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2025-324, ACFS – USDA Establishment of FY 2026 Budget.

Moved by Director LaPlaut, supported by Director Payment, to replace tribal support with Third Party Revenue.

Motion to amend carries.

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 USDA (2745) with Federal USDA Revenue of \$60,666.67 and Third Party Revenue of \$15,984.66.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2025-325, Governmental – Human Resources 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 for Governmental Human Resources with Tribal Support of \$602,593.14 and Indirect of \$473,466.04.

Roll call vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2025-326, Application to EPA SWIFR Grant Funding for Tribal Recycling and Waste Management Planning.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Natural Resources Division to apply for up to \$260,000.00 in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funding. BE IT FURTHER 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 McKechnie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2025-327, Application to NFWF Healthy American Forests Initiative (HAFI) Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Natural Resources Division to apply for up to \$2,000,000.00 in NFWF Healthy American Forests Initiative funding.

BE IT FURTHER 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 McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2025-328, Renewal of Tribal License for Sault Tribe Youth Facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby issues a facility license, attached and incorporated herein by this reference, for the Sault Tribe Youth Facility to operate within the boundaries of the Tribe.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the Tribal Chairman, or designee, to execute any and all documents, including ancillary or supplemental documents or forms that do not change the substantive terms of the License 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 LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2025-329, Amend ADP Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman or his designee to negotiate, execute, and sign any documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this resolution.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2025-330, Amending Chapter 11 Membership Ordinance Fees Section.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby amends Chapter 11.112 as follows:

(4) The enrollment department shall set reasonable fees for services including, but not limited to, application fees, membership card processing fees, and membership card replacement fees. Enrollment department fees will not increase without notice to the membership of at least thirty (30) days.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2025-331, Awarding Contract to Sault Tribe Construction for Unit III Lodge.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to amend to state up to \$111,000.

Without objection, no roll call.

No objection, motion to amend carries.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby awards a contract to Sault Tribe Construction to build a lodge near the McCann School Property, for up to \$111,000, utilizing Unit III cultural enhancement funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby grants a waiver of the Purchasing Policy requiring formal solicitation of services over \$50,000.

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

Roll call vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director Payment, to approve Resolution 2025-332, Supporting Nomination to the National Institutes of Health Tribal Advisory Committee.

Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Hampton, to amend to remove any reference to Tyler LaPlaunt and delegate.

Motion to amend carries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors supports the nomination of Director Kimberly Hampton to continue as the Bemidji area alternate.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the board supports the Chairman to submit a letter of nomination for Director Hampton to the Bemidji area NIH TAC.

Motion carries with Director McRorie opposing.

Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve the 2026 Board Meeting Calendar.

Moved by Director Payment, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to amend to direct Board Administrator to bring a venue for Lansing to the board in January.

Motion to amend carries.

Roll call vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Is there any objection to doing all committee appointments together?

No Objection.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve the following appointments/re-appointments:

- 1. Appoint Lyonl White, Jr. to the Cultural Committee, filling seat vacated by Michael Larson with term expiring July 2028.**
- 2. Appoint Carl Frazier to Unit 2 Naubinway Elder Subcommittee, filling seat he previously vacated with term expiring May 2026.**
- 3. Re-appoint Dianne Compo and Frances Hank to the Health Board, with terms expiring November 2029.**
- 4. Appoint Aaron Payment to the Higher Education Committee, filling seat vacated by Tenniel McLeod with term expiring August 2026.**
- 5. Appoint Sara Archer to Housing Commission, filling seat vacated by John Causley, Jr. with term expiring November 2026.**

Motion carries unanimously.

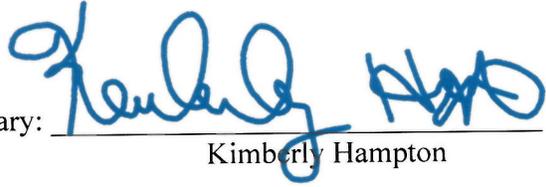
Without objection, adjourn.

No objection.

Adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Date: January 6, 2016

Secretary: _____



Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Lona Stewart, Ryan Mills, Jessica Dumback, Holly Haapala, Bill Connolly, Josh Elliot, Joseph Street, Damien Hopper, Clarence Hudak, Jennifer Clerc, Joel Lumsden, Dani Fegan, Sheryl McKerchie, Ashley Samuelson, Julie Salo