

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
KEWADIN CASINOS CONVENTION CENTER
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN
January 20, 2026

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

Present: Isaac McKechnie, Larry Barbeau, Tyler LaPlaunt, Kimberle Gravelle (not in room for roll call), Lana Causley-Smith, Bridgett Sorenson, Aaron Payment (Z), Kimberly Hampton, Shawn Borowicz, Rob McRorie, Kimberly Lee, Michael McKerchie, Austin Lowes
Absent: None

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

- 1. Resolution, Approving Review of Long-Term 2% Agreements, was not read in to agenda at sponsor's request.**

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-24, Natural Resources Division – Nature Conservancy 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 the Nature Conservancy with Other Revenue monies of \$50,000.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-25, Authorization for 2025 Year-End Budget Reconciliations.

Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director Payment, to Amend to state once identified, a detailed list will be provided to the board of directors for their information.

Motion to Amend carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Barbeau, to Amend to include the Health Division CEO in the discussions.

Motion to Amend carries unanimously.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Governmental CFO to utilize third-party revenue to replace tribal support for any eligible uses of third-party revenue from October to December 2025 for year-end budget reconciliations, with the assistance of the Budget Department, Legal Department, Health CEO, and Governmental CEO.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governmental CFO and CEO are Authorized to perform any administrative budget modifications that may be necessary for the 2025 year-end reconciliation budget reconciliations.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that once all tribal support dollars that can be replaced with third-party revenue are identified, a detailed list will be provided to the board of directors for their information.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2026-26, Amending Resolution 2012-103 Extension of Tobacco Cessation Services.

Moved by Director McRorie, supported by Director Barbeau, to direct tax dollars to the Land Claims fund.

Motion to Amend carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McRorie, supported by Director Payment, to direct the Legal Department to bring back a recommendation on whether this allocation can be directed to the Elder Fund within 30 days.

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 amends Tribal Resolution 2012-103 to fund the Tobacco Cessation Services entirely through HIS funds and Third-Party Revenue.

BE IT FURTHER 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 appropriate the Tobacco Tax funds – previously allocated under Resolution 2012-103 from the Health Division to tribal tax and directs the Legal Department to bring back a recommendation on whether this allocation can be directed to the Elder Fund within 30 days.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this appropriation will be effective January 1, 2026.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Gravelle, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2026-27, Accept 2026 MILEAP Out-Of-School Time (OST) Grant.

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 Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement and Potential (MiLEAP).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians acknowledges that the Youth Education & Activities Program (YEA) will return with a budget establishment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians acknowledges and supports the partnership with Lake Superior Academy (LSA) in the implementation of the MiLEAP Out-of-School Time grant program for FY 2026, recognizing the Youth Education & Activities Program (YEA) and Lake Superior Academy's (LSA) vital roles in providing educational enrichment and support services to participating youth.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director Barbeau, to approve Resolution 2026-28, Award Generator Maintenance Contract to Wolverine Power.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby approves the contract with Wolverine Power for \$63,380 from Cost Center 860 for a Generator Maintenance Contract.

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 unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Hampton, to approve Resolution 2026-29, Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) Low Income Housing Tax Credit Application and Signature Authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors hereby authorizes and directs the Sault Tribe Housing Authority to prepare and submit an application for a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit award through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the, Interim Housing Director and/or the Housing Director, or their duly authorized representative, is hereby granted authority to sign, execute, and submit any and

all documents required to complete the LIHTC application and any associated pre-development or post-award requirements.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2026-30, Trust Land – Land Lease to Sault Tribe Housing Authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians ("Tribe") hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman and Treasurer to execute a lease of Tribal Trust Lands as they deem to be in the best interest of the Tribe and land being described as follows:

SEE EXHIBIT A.

To the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Housing Authority upon such terms and conditions as they may set out, and to execute such further documents, and certificates as may be necessary to complete the lease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the lease is in promotion of the public purposes 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 2026-31, Waiver of Sovereign Immunity and Consent to Waiver of Tribal Court Jurisdiction BS&A Software.

Without objection, waive the reading of this Resolution.

No objection.

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.

1.2 The Tribe wishes to enter into a Software and Service Agreement ("Agreement") with BS&A Software ("BS&A") as negotiated by Housing Authority; and

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

1.4 In order to induce BS&A 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 BS&A 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 BS&A 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 BS&A; 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 BS&A and the assertion of any claim in a court of competent jurisdiction including any federal courts, courts located in Delaware, 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; 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 June 30, 2026, shall render the waivers and consents granted in this resolution to become void immediately.

Section 5. AUTHORIZATION

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

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Hampton, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2026-32, Waiver of Sovereign Immunity and Consent to Waiver of Tribal Court Jurisdiction Central Savings Banks.

Without objection, waive the reading of this Resolution.

No objection.

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.

1.2 The Tribe wishes to enter into a Letter of Credit Agreement ("Agreement") with Central Savings Bank ("CSB") as negotiated by the Governmental CFO for the pole agreement with Cloverland Electric for the Broadband Reconnect 3 and 4 Grants; and

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

1.4 In order to induce CSB 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 CSB 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 CSB 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 CSB; 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 CSB and the assertion of any claim in a court of competent jurisdiction including any federal courts, courts located in Michigan, 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; 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 June 30, 2026, shall render the waivers and consents granted in this resolution to become void immediately.

Section 5. AUTHORIZATION

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

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Gravelle, to approve Resolution 2026-33, USDA – Request to Transition Duties to Standard USA Forms and Contracts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the transfer of applicable grant-related duties and responsibilities from the Development Agreement to the prescribed USDA forms and contracts described in the attached RIS with supporting documentation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all terms, conditions, and obligations applicable to the original Development Agreement shall continue to apply to the duties and responsibilities transferred to the USDA forms and contracts, unless otherwise required by USDA.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that The Tribal Chairman is authorized to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2026-34, Border Security and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Tribal Lands.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby condemns and unlawful action by ICE or any other federal law enforcement agents in their pursuit of enforcement of federal law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Chairman or his designee to take any action deemed necessary to further the intent of this resolution including employing advocacy efforts and issuing public statements on behalf of the tribe consistent with this resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby directs that any statement issued from the Chair's office consistent with this resolution be sent to the Board of Directors.

Motion carries unanimously.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Payment, to approve Resolution 2026-35, Approving JKL High School Expansion Plan.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Payment, to Amend to state the board of directors approves JKL Fiduciary Committee's recommendation to expand JKL School to include 9th grade for the 2026-27 school year.

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 JKL Fiduciary Committee's recommendation to expand JKL School to include 9th grade for the 2026-27 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby directs the Tribal Administration to work with JKL School to identify all available funding sources that may be utilized in furtherance of the intent of this resolution.

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 that do not require additional Board approval under any applicable Tribal Policies.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors' McKechnie, Barbeau, LaPlaunt, Payment, Hampton, and Lee approving; Directors' Gravelle, Causley-Smith, Sorenson, Borowicz, McRorie, McKerchie opposing; Tie Vote: Chairman Lowes supporting.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director Borowicz, to approve a Resolution, Establishing Use of Tribal Vehicles for Elected Officials and Tribal Team Members.

Roll Call Vote: Motion fails with Directors' McRorie, McKechnie, Lee, Borowicz, Payment supporting; Directors' Barbeau, McKerchie, Sorenson, LaPlaunt, Hampton, Gravelle, Causley-Smith opposing.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve a Resolution, Establishing Use of Camera Policy for Remote Attendance.

Roll Call Vote: Motion fails with Directors' Payment, Borowicz, McKechnie, McRorie supporting; Directors' Sorenson, Barbeau, Lee, McKerchie, Gravelle, LaPlaunt, Hampton, Causley-Smith opposing.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2026-36, Adding Mackinac Band as a Historic Band in the Draft Amended Constitution.

Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to Table to next workshop.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby authorizes and approves the draft amended constitution to include the following language in Article III:

All persons descended from the seven historical bands (Grand Island, Point Iroquois, Sault Ste. Marie, Garden River, Sugar Island, Mackinac Band, and Drummond Island Bands) of the Sault Ste, Marie Chippewa Indians whose names appear on any historical roll, census or record made by officials of the Department of the Interior or Bureau of Indian Affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that once the Board of Directors authorizes, upon the finalization of the review process, the amended constitution that the above language shall be included in what is to be submitted to the Secretary of Interior for the purpose of holding a secretarial election for the membership to approve or deny the amendments.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Director McRorie opposing.

Moved by Director Barbeau, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to accept the resignation of Election Commission member Phillip Martin with term expiring end of January 2026.

Motion carries unanimously.

Without objection, adjourn.

No objection.

Adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Date: February 3, 2026

Secretary: 
Kimberly Hampton

Others Present: Jessica Dumback, Holly Haapala, Bill Connolly, Lona Stewart, Ryan Mills, Samuel Derusha, Michelle Moore, Gerard Sagassige, Dani Fegan, Scott Church, Stephanie Sprecker, Mariea Mongene, Andrew Lane, Dan Doyle