

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING  
KEWADIN CASINOS CONVENTION CENTER  
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN  
MINUTES  
June 6, 2023**

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

Present: Robert McRorie, Bridgett Sorenson, Tyler LaPlaunt, Lana Causley-Smith, Isaac McKechnie, Betty Freiheit (Z), Darcy Morrow, Kimberly Lee, Kimberly Hampton, Shawn Borowicz, Michael McKerchie, and Austin Lowes.

Absent: None.

**Moved by Director Morrow to approve agenda without investigation.  
Dies due to lack of support.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve the agenda  
Motion carries with Director Morrow opposing.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McKechnie to amend agenda to add  
Key Employee to New Business.  
Motion carries with Director Morrow opposing.**

**Without objection move Video Productions to the beginning. No objections.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McRorie, approve Video Productions  
Establishment of FY 2023 Budget.**

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to Table.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion to table carries with Directors' Sorenson, McKerchie, Causley-Smith,  
McKechnie, Borowicz, Morrow, Lee, Hampton supporting; Directors' McRorie, LaPlaunt,  
Freiheit opposing.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution  
2023-191, Trust Land Lease-1267 E. Polaris Drive Sault Ste. Marie, MI.**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby authorized its Tribal Chairman and Treasurer to execute a lease to the land located in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan to, Michael P. Krull and Kathaleen A. Cook and land being described as follows: A parcel of land located in the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 29, Town 47 North, Range 1 East, Soo Township, Chippewa County, Michigan being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the West $\frac{1}{4}$  corner of Section 29, Town 47 North, Range 1 East; thence South 87° 41' 17" East, along the South line of the Northwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of said Section 29, a distance of 1319.99 feet to the Southwest corner of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$  of said Section 29; thence North 01 ° 46' 50" East, along the West line of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$  of said Section 29, a distance of 373.91 feet to the Centerline of Polaris Drive; thence South 88° 09' 52" East, along said Centerline, 82. 96 feet; thence North 01 ° 50' 08" East, 40. 00 feet to the Northerly right-of-way of Polaris Drive and the Point of Beginning of the herein described parcel; thence North 01 ° 46' 50" East, parallel with the West line of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$  of said Section 29,

a distance of 145.85 feet; thence South 88°13'1 0" East, 275.21 feet to the Westerly right-of-way of South Cougar Lane; thence South 01 °50'08" West, along said Westerly right-of-way, 116.12 feet; thence 47.12 feet, along the road right-of-way, and along a curve with its center to the Northwest having a radius of 30.00 feet, a chord distance of 42.43 feet, and a chord bearing of South 46° 50' 08" West to said Northerly right-of-way; thence North 88° 09' 52" West, along said Northerly right-of-way, 245.07 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Containing 0.92 acres of land more or less.

RESOLVED, the lease is in furtherance of a Housing program operated in the 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 Sorenson, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2023-192, Establishing Wildlife and Forest Research Consortium.**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby endorses and supports the establishment of a collaborative wildlife and natural resources research program among the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, partner universities, and our federal agency partners. Furthermore, the Tribal Chairman or his designee is hereby authorized to negotiate and execute an appropriate agreement between the Tribe, the partner universities, and the federal agencies, outlining the terms and conditions of this cooperative effort.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2023-193, ACFS - CCDF ARPA FY 2023 Budget Modification.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2023 budget modification to Child Care Development Fund for a decrease in Federal HHS monies of \$120,419.35. No effect on Tribal Support.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Morrow, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2023-194, ACFS Emergency Assistance FY 2023 Budget Modification.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2023 budget modification to Emergency Assistance for an increase in Tribal Support monies of \$99,145.64. This modification reflects an increase in direct services and actual expenses.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaunt, supported by Director McKechnie, to approve Resolution 2023-195, Health Center IHS Aftercare FY 2023 Budget Modification.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2023 budget modification to IHS Aftercare for a change to the personnel page and a reallocation of expenses. No effect on Tribal Support.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director McRorie, to approve Resolution 2023-196, Law Enforcement - Juvenile Detention Operations FY 2023 Budget Modification.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2023 budget modification to the Law Enforcement Juvenile Detention

Operations to increase Federal BIA monies \$11,829.78. No effect on Tribal Support. This budget modification will make changes to the personnel sheet.

**Motion carries with Director Morrow abstaining.**

**Moved by Director Causley-Smith, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2023-197, Circle of Life - Manoomin Habitat Suitability Establishment of FY 2024 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 2024 budget for Circle of Flight – Manoomin Habitat Suitability with Federal BIA monies of \$60,606.00. No effect on Tribal Support.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKerchie, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2023-198, Inter-Agency Planning for St. Mary's River Coastal Wetlands Resiliency Establishment of FY 2024 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 2024 budget for Inter-Agency Planning for St. Mary's River Coastal Wetland Resiliency with Other Federal monies of \$123,713.87. No effect on Tribal Support.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McKechnie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2023-199, Purchasing Department FY 2023 Budget Modification.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2023 budget modification to the Purchasing Department to decrease Tribal Support monies \$1,170.16 and decrease Other Revenue – Indirect monies \$4,680.57. This budget modification will make changes to the personnel sheet.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director McRorie, supported by Director LaPlaunt, to approve Resolution 2023-200, Strategic Director FY 2023 Budget Modification.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2023 budget modification to Strategic Director to increase Tribal Support \$4,020.48 and increase the transfer in from Indirect Costs \$24,697.30. This budget modification reflects changes to the personnel sheet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of the Chippewa Indians hereby approves the FY 2023 budget modification to Indirect Costs to increase the transfer out to Strategic Director \$24,697.30 and increase Tribal Support \$24,697.30.

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors' McRorie, LaPlaunt, McKerchie, McKechnie, Borowicz, Freiheit, Lee, Hampton approving; Directors' Sorenson, Causley-Smith, Morrow opposing.**

**Moved by Director Morrow, supported by Director Sorenson, to approve Resolution 2023-201, Sault Tribe Corporate Charter Board Appointment Approval.**

BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to Article VI, section 6.6 of the Sault Tribe Corporate Charter, the following individuals are hereby reappointed to the Corporate Board of Directors of Sault Tribe Incorporated to serve terms as specified below:

Dr. Madan Saluja – for a term expiring June 30, 2026

Rod Blanchard – for a term expiring June 30, 2026

**Motion carries with Directors' Freiheit, McRorie opposing.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaut, supported by Director Freiheit, to approve Resolution 2023-202, Approve Contract for Professional Services for Grant Development of DOE Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP).**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the contract, pending legal review, and authorizes Austin Lowes, Tribal Chairman or his designee, to negotiate, execute and amend any documents resulting therefrom, on the Tribe's behalf, on a contract between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the Consultant, for contracted services required to complete the DOE GRIP Project, and authorizes up to \$40,000 from tribal support funding.

**Motion carries with Director Morrow opposing.**

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to approve Resolution 2023-203, Acting Appointment for The Environmental Program.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians hereby approves the Acting appointment of Crystal Falk for the Administrative oversight of the Environmental program until the Program Director is filled. This appointment will provide a 5% increase in salary per this resolution with an administrative modification.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaut, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to accept the Recommendation to Hire the Board Administrator at the rate of the wage review as discussed in today's workshop.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion carries with Directors' Lee, Freiheit, Borowicz, McRorie, Causley-Smith, Hampton, McKerchie, LaPlaut, Sorenson, McKechnie approving; Director Morrow opposing.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaut, supported by Director Freiheit, to release the preliminary investigative report on former Director DJ Hoffman to be released on all Sault Tribe media platforms.**

**Moved by Director Sorenson, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to Table.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion to Table carries with Directors' McKechnie, Morrow, McKerchie, Causley-Smith, Borowicz, Sorenson supporting; Directors' LaPlaut, Freiheit, Hampton, Lee, McRorie opposing.**

**Moved by Director McKerchie, supported by Director Causley-Smith, to appoint Joanne Carr to the vacant Unit 1 seat.**

**Moved by Director LaPlaut, supported by Director Hampton, to Table.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion to table fails with Directors' LaPlaut, McKechnie, Borowicz, Lee, Hampton supporting; Directors' Sorenson, Morrow, McKerchie, McRorie, Causley-Smith, Freiheit opposing.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion fails with Directors' Causley-Smith, McKerchie, Morrow, Sorenson, Borowicz, supporting; Directors' Lee, Freiheit, LaPlaut, McRorie, Hampton opposing; Director McKechnie abstaining; Tie Vote – Chairman Lowes opposing.**

Adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Date: 12/15/23

Secretary: 

Others Present: Christine McPherson, Jessica Dumback, Robert Schulte, Elaine Clement, Jennifer Clerc, Michelle Moore