

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, held at the Chippewa County Courthouse, 319 Court St., Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on the 18th day of July, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Scott Shackleton, Don McLean and Jim Martin

ABSENT: Conor Egan and Robert Savoie

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Commissioner McLean and seconded by Commissioner Martin.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-22
RESOLUTION SEEKING SUPPORT
FOR SUGAR ISLAND RESIDENTS

Whereas the Sugar Island Township board has requested Chippewa County to request assistance from Michigan's Governor and state and federal legislators regarding their concerns over United States Coast Guard icebreaking operations,

Whereas the Township board specifically asks that legislators assist:

Help improve the efficiency, economy and effectiveness of the St. Mary's River Ferry system;

Help the community obtain relief, in writing, and obtain a Memorandum of Agreement with, or law from the US Government for ice breaking levels of service for the naturally ice-free ferry crossing;

Help protect the rights of island residents of the Lower St. Mary's River;

Chippewa County does request that the Governor of the State of Michigan and state and federal legislators assist Sugar Island Township in having their concerns addressed.

Sugar Island Township

6401 E. 1 ½ Mile Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Twp. Office Phone: 906-253-9353, Twp. Office Fax: 906-635-9886

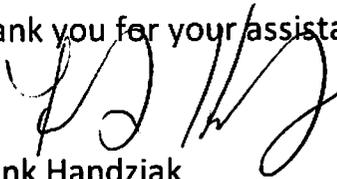
07-12-2019

Kelly Church

Chippewa County Deputy Administrator

Enclosed please find the Resolution passed by Sugar Island Township on July 9th 2019. This Resolution asks the Chippewa County board to request oversight from our Federal Representatives and assistance from our State Representatives. Please circulate this to all board members for the next county Board meeting on July 18, 2019. Also please circulate to Jim German, County Administrator.

Thank you for your assistance



Frank Handziak

Sugar Island Township Treasurer

Sugar Island Township, Mi. Resolution to Chippewa County, Mi.

Whereas, a Request for Assistance pursuant to Federal law was signed and sent to the USCG Commandant by Sugar Island Township, Mi., the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Bay Mills Indian Community on March 21, 2018. That document asked "that the United States of America and the State of Michigan provide increased resources as necessary to partners involved in ferry service transportation to and from Sugar Island in order to ensure maximum service reliability in essential ferry service operations." The request also sought a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on ice breaking with Sugar Island Township, MI. and two Tribal Nations.

Whereas, on March 23, 2018 the Ninth District Commander replied in a letter to Sugar Island Township, MI., Sault Tribe Of Chippewa Indians and Bay Mills Indian Community that said in pertinent part, "In response to the specific requests in your letter, I offer the following: 1) Request for a Memorandum of Understanding. I have asked Capt. Broz and his staff to work with you to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that clearly identifies roles and responsibilities regarding our shared objectives."

Whereas, the proposed November 2018 Memorandum of Understanding requires the USCG to only assist if our communities are in "immediate need of food, fuel or medical assistance."

Whereas, from 1974 until 2003 performance standards or levels of service existed for ice breaking services to the St. Mary's River ferry system during Winter Navigation. The level of service, in writing, has gone from "all possible assistance" in the 1970's, 80's and 90's to "immediate need of food, fuel or medical assistance". Our priority comes from the US Government funding Winter Navigation which causes brash ice from shipping and ice breaking. This was recognized and addressed in the 1970's Demonstration Program.

Whereas, the population of Sugar Island is approximately 600 persons needing to go to work or school or have home health care each day. Our St. Mary's River ferry crossings carry food, fuel, and medical assistance every day.

Whereas, the St Mary's River ferry transportation was a large and serious concern of the 1970's Winter Navigation Demonstration Program passed by Congress. The Winter Navigation Final Study in 1979 said in the very first paragraph of the preface; "this program was undertaken to demonstrate the practicability of extending the navigation season on the Great Lakes and St Lawrence Seaway System. It is important to note that while the program and study are in response to specific legislation by Congress, participating Federal agencies have continuing responsibilities for development of ice control measures; these are funded and carried out under normal mission activities, funded under individual agency programs."

Whereas in response to the 1970's study until 2003 the Federal government undertook to provide 1) preventive ice breaking in The Little Rapids Cut, 2) an icebreaker in Sault Ste. Marie, Mi., 3) meetings with stakeholders and 4) the closing of the West Neebish Channel to Winter Navigation by Federal safety regulation.

Whereas, these requested matters were all part of the Demonstration Program that satisfied Congress that island transportation would not be infringed upon by Winter Navigation.

Therefore Be It Resolved, that request is hereby made to Chippewa County, Mi. to request our Michigan Governor, Gretchen Whitmer, our Senator Wayne Schmidt and our Representative Lee Chatfield for Assistance to:

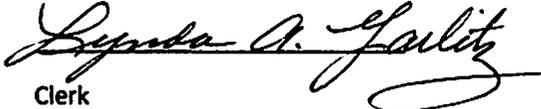
- help improve the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of the St. Mary's River Ferry system;
- help our community obtain relief, in writing, and obtain a Memorandum of Agreement with, or law from, the US Government for ice breaking levels of service for our naturally ice free ferry crossing
- help protect the rights of island residents of the Lower St. Mary's River.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member, Treasurer Frank Handziak and supported by Board Member, Trustee Patrick Moher..

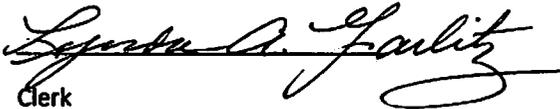
Upon a roll call vote, the following voted "Aye" or "Nay"

	Aye	Nay
Kathy Dickey, Trustee	X	—
Frank Handziak, Treasurer	X	—
Rick D. Roy, Supervisor	X	—
Lynda Garlitz, Clerk	X	—
C. Patrick Moher, Trustee	X	—

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Passed 5/0


Clerk

I, Lynda Garlitz, the duly elected and acting Clerk for Sugar Island Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the township board of said township at the Board Meeting of said board held on July 9, 2019 at which meeting a quorum was present by a roll call vote of said members as hereinbefore set forth: that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.


Clerk
