PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

13235 Center Road, Traverse City MI 49686
Ph. 231.223.7323 Fax: 231.223.7117
www.peninsulatownship.com

MAURA A. SANDERS SUPERVISOR
REBECCA CHOWN CLERK
KATIE M. CLARK TREASURER

JULIE ALEXANDER TRUSTEE
J.P. MILLIKEN TRUSTEE
DAVID K. SANGER TRUSTEE
ISAIAH S. WUNSCH TRUSTEE

July 10, 2025

Peninsula Township Residents and Property Owners,

On behalf of Peninsula Township, we want to address the recent opinion in the Wineries of Old Mission Peninsula lawsuit. We recognize the seriousness of the decision and the broader implications it may have for our community. Given the complexity of the case and the magnitude of the decision, we want to be sure that as a Board we take the necessary and appropriate time to consider our next steps, including whether to appeal the decision and to seek a stay of the money judgment. We are currently in the process of thoroughly reviewing the opinion in consultation with our legal team. As part of this process, we are evaluating all legal options available to the Township, including the potential for an appeal. No final decisions have been made at this time. But we expect those decisions will be made in short order.

We recognize that the community has many questions, and we appreciate the interest and involvement of our residents in this process. There have been many questions about collection of the judgment and insurance coverage. If the Township decides to appeal, it will ask the court to stay the collection of the judgment while the appeal is pending. It is important to understand that the judgment in this case is not self-enforcing. If the court refuses to enter a stay, the wineries would have the option of voluntarily agreeing to a stay or seeking collection of the judgment. It is unlikely that the wineries would agree to a voluntary stay. If the wineries seek collection, this will entail the wineries presenting the judgment to the Township and the amount of the judgment not covered by insurance, being placed on the tax rolls.

We also wish to clarify that Peninsula Township does have insurance coverage for certain types of claims, and that coverage may apply to some of the judgment amount. Because of the complexity of the claims and the long period of time involved, we are actively working with our insurers to determine the scope and extent of that coverage, as well as any additional financial implications for the Township and its residents.

We understand there is significant public interest in this matter. Unfortunately, the legal process is far from over and it is important to respect that process, and the rights of all parties involved. As such, at this time, we will refrain from making further comment until more definitive steps are taken. We do expect to be able to provide more information in relatively short order.

Sincerely,

Maura Sanders, Supervisor
Peninsula Township