

# County budget forwarded to full board

Tax rate will decrease

By **DAN KITKOWSKI**

EagleHerald Editor  
 dkitkowski@eagleherald.com

MARINETTE—The Marinette County tax rate is going to decrease next year, according to a 2022 budget summary submitted by County Administrator John Lefebvre and recommended for approval Thursday by the Administrative Committee.

The matter now goes to the full county board on Tuesday. The motion gives the administration the power to make minor tweaks to the budget until it is finalized in early October.

According to the proposed budget, the county tax rate will be \$3.885 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. That's a decrease from \$4.065 per \$1,000 this year and \$4.154 per \$1,000 in 2020.

The debt service levy fell from 25 cents per \$1,000 this year to 12 cents per \$1,000 in 2022. The operating levy combined with the debt service levy is \$4.005 per \$1,000 in 2022, down from \$4.315 this year.

Total expenditures for the county, according to the proposed budget, are \$69,446,851. That's up from this year's total of \$66,911,368. Meanwhile, revenue is up from \$44.98 million in 2021 to \$51.154 million in 2022.

Lefebvre said he and members of the finance department, led by Finance Director Laura Mans, have been working on the budget documents for some time.

"We're all finding little, tiny changes that we need to correct," he told the committee, adding that committee members are sent updates whenever changes are made.

He said the changes are so small that they don't affect the actual budget, just how the numbers appear on the summary sheet.

Lefebvre asked the committee to pay particular attention to the capital improvement plan (CIP), included in the budget information. "It's a very important document," he said. "The CIP identifies those types of project or expenditures that are more or less considered capital improvements."

The CIP document points out where funding will come from for particular projects. For example, video upgrades to the courtrooms (\$75,000) will come from the general budget, while a transport vehicle for the jail (\$37,000) will come from the jail assessment fund.

The largest capital improvement costs are \$1.5 million for routine highway maintenance and \$1.25 million for winter maintenance.

Total capital improvements for 2022 are just under

See TAX, A3



EagleHerald/Maya Shimizu Harris

Hatton's eagle sculpture in Triangle Park, Crivitz has a 10-foot wingspan. Hatton said it's the largest sculpture he has ever made.

## The art behind Hatton's eagle

By **MAYA SHIMIZU HARRIS**

EagleHerald Staff Writer  
 mshimizu@eagleherald.com

CRIVITZ—A giant eagle has landed at Triangle Park in the Village of Crivitz.

Crivitz resident and Owner of Jim's Custom Metal Art Jim Hatton made the eagle.

Originally from Appleton, Hatton moved to the Village of Crivitz in 2013 and now permanently lives there.

"I just like the people, the area, the outdoors, the woods," he said.

He started working at the Thilmany Papermill in Kaukauna when he was 19 and continued there until his retirement in 2013. In 1974 when he was 24, he began a sheet metal apprenticeship at Fox Valley Technical College and earned his journeyman card five years later.

Hatton said he used to practice cutting shapes out of metal to make shadow art on his own time. He bought a plasma cutter and taught himself how to weld with both his right and left hand, a skill that took a couple of years to master. "Actually, I got pretty good at it," he said,

chuckling.

He began making metal sculptures more seriously in the mid-80s after he made a deer cutout for his colleague, who was retiring.

"People said to me, 'hey Jim, that looks really good!' So I started making more of them," he said.

His supervisor and superintendent let him use the papermill's large format machine after hours to blow up pictures that he made into patterns. After he retired, he purchased his own used machine from a shop in Appleton.

The giant eagle that Hatton made for the Village of Crivitz has a 10-foot wingspan and sits on a mound of rocks in Triangle Park at the intersection of U.S. 141 and County Trunk W in Crivitz. Hatton said the sculpture is the biggest he has ever made.

"I've gotten a lot of positive feedback for it," he said. "When I go to the grocery store, people will say, 'hey Jim, I saw your eagle, looks pretty cool!'"

The Village of Crivitz asked Hatton to create something to display on top of the discontinued waterfall feature in Triangle Park.

"The village said it wanted to have

a local artist do this, not someone from Wausaukee, not someone from Coleman, they wanted someone from Crivitz," he said. "It's an honor that they called me, they think enough of my stuff that they would like it displayed in town."

He brought a smaller prototype eagle to a village meeting, and the village approved the design. Hatton completed the statue July 4 and installed it in Triangle Park a month later.

Hatton makes metal shadow art and garden sculptures as a hobby in his retirement.

He begins working at 8 a.m. almost every morning in the shop he built on his Crivitz property. His metal cutouts cover the walls of his shop. There is a boat, shelves stocked with paint cans, templates, Sharpies, an electric drill, sheets of metal leaning against each other and scraps of metal piled on the concrete floor.

A little after 10 a.m. Wednesday morning, Hatton was in his shop spray-painting a cutout of the American flag framed by the stoic head of an eagle. He said it was for Thunder

See EAGLE, A2

## Ship part vies for best of Michigan title

By **ANN MEYER**

EagleHerald Staff Writer  
 ameyer@eagleherald.com

MENOMINEE—Long before "green" was a hot marketing term for products and businesses, Robert Fernstrum came up with an environmentally friendly way to cool ship engines.

Eight decades later, R.W. Fernstrum & Company's GridCooler Keel Cooler is still "cool" in more than one way.

The product, manufactured in Menominee, has made it onto the Top 10 list in the Michigan Manufacturers Association's 2021 "Coolest Thing Made in Michigan" contest. The Top 10 was determined from votes tallied for 37 Michigan products during the contest's first round, Aug. 30 to Sept. 10. Round two of voting

to determine the state winner is open and runs through Sept. 24 at <https://coolestthing.mimfg.org/>.

"I was pleasantly surprised we made the Top 10," said Sean Fernstrum, president of the fourth-generation, family-owned company and grandson of its founder, the late Robert Fernstrum. "It just helps show the importance of the work that we're doing up here in the Upper Peninsula."

Besides generating good publicity for the company, moving up to the Top 10 also promotes Menominee and the Michigan Manufacturers Association, which represents 1,700 member companies in Michigan.

The GridCooler Keel Cooler is similar to a car radiator because it keeps an engine cool, but it looks nothing like a radiator and

it's typically mounted below the water line on the outside of a vessel. "It's a heat exchanger. It does water-to-water heat exchange instead of water-to-air heat exchange," Fernstrum said.

Unlike other cooling systems that pulled sea water on board a vessel, piped it through the cooling system and expelled it back into the sea water, Robert Fernstrum designed the GridCooler as a closed-loop system.

"It's more of a green application. You're not processing sea water and throwing it back into the sea," Fernstrum said. "You don't have engine coolant coming into contact with the sea water."

Locally, the company's keel coolers are used on commercial fishing vessels and Washington

See FERNSTRUM, A3



Special to the EagleHerald

Sean Fernstrum, president of R.W. Fernstrum & Company in Menominee, stands next to the company's GridCooler Keel Cooler, which was elevated to the Top 10 list in the Michigan Manufacturers Association's coolest product contest.

Good morning,  
**Betty Figas!**  
 Thank you for subscribing to the EagleHerald



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### DEATHS

**Blohm**, Russell F.  
**Boutin**, Dianne L.  
**Evans**, William L.  
**Fifarek**, Kenneth G.  
**Giver**, Joseph E.  
**Gronmark**, Lawrence  
**Rondeau-Porter**, Bobbie J.

### INSIDE

**State:** Michigan weatherman out after refusing to get vaccine. **A8**

**Sports:** Maroons face toughest test yet. **B1**



**TODAY:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms.  
**HIGH:** 74 **LOW:** 49

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