

North Crawford Board moves forward with Plan of Finance

By GILLIAN POMPLUN
The agenda for the last meeting of 2022 of the North Crawford School Board was dominated by discussion and votes regarding the 'Plan of Finance' for the \$4.5 million debt service resolution approved by referendum in November of 2022. The amount will be used for repairs and improvements to the district's facilities and grounds.

The two agenda items on the December 21 agenda were for a short-term borrowing resolution, and for a long-term sale of bonds. The short-term borrowing resolution would authorize a \$4.5 million 'Bond Anticipation Note' (BAN). The BAN is a short-term loan, taken out in anticipation of the subsequent sale of bonds for interim financing of the building and facilities projects. The other resolution would authorize the issuance and establish parameters for the sale of not to exceed \$4.5 million General Obligation Refunding Bonds.

The board voted unanimously for both resolutions as presented. Jim Dworschack was not in attendance at the meeting.

Short-term borrowing
The short-term borrowing will involve a six-month loan of the \$4.5 million amount that will be realized by the long-term sale of General Obligation Refunding Bonds.

This approach was recommended by Baird & Co., Inc., and is designed to give the district the flexibility to watch interest rates and move into the bond market at the most advantageous moment. It will also allow the district to earn investment income on the amount while waiting for the bond sale.

The short-term borrowing will be through the People's State Bank, and will take effect on January 11, 2023, at 4.32 percent interest. The short-term borrowing will be paid off no later than July 11, 2023. Interest paid on the \$4.5 million amount over the full six months will be \$97,200. If the revenue from the bond sale is realized in time, the short-term borrowing could be paid off as soon as April 11, 2023, reducing interest paid to \$48,600.

Monthly interest earned on the borrowed amount is expected to be approximately \$13,000.

Bond sale
Beginning in March, the district will have obtained the bond rating, and be poised to enter the bond market at the most advantageous moment. Baird & Co., Inc. will make the purchase as directed by the district, and their all-encompassing compensation for their work will be 1.5 percent of the initial public offering price. Another 2.5 percent of the initial public offering price will pay for cost of issuance, including bond insurance premium (if any).

The purchase price to be paid to the district by Baird Co. Inc. for the bonds shall not be less than 96 percent of the initial public offering price of the bond, and the difference between the initial public offering price of the bonds and the purchase price to be paid

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RICK REDFIELD'S DREAM came true, when he built a small steam engine from brass and steel he machined at his rural machine shop in Crawford County. Redfield used the plans from a 1946 Model Craftsman magazine, some brass and steel he purchased from the Metal Supermarket, and some high-quality lathes and a milling machine in his shop. Oh, he also used a lot of talent and perseverance to see his project through to completion.

Contest recognizes unique project

Redfield's persistence pays off, when steam engine is finished

By CHARLEY PREUSSER
At Rick Redfield's property in rural Clayton Township, a lot of dreams have come true over the years.

Rick created and operated a successful auto repair shop in the 80s. He returned to the property years later, set up and operated a woodworking shop with the help of his wife Becky and son Cory.

There were a few other dreams that came true along the way. Rick is a talented and ambitious kind of guy—that's pretty obvious. At another point in his life, he served as paramedic in Chicago and then a physician assistant at a hospital in Evanston, working in orthopedic surgery.

Despite all those dreams and projects that came to fruition over the years, one accomplishment that happened recently may have been the longest of all in being realized. It happened last year and has been recognized with an award recently.

How long did it take to complete this project? Well, about 55 years...the 70-year-old Redfield took on the project of building a steam engine from scratch as a 15-year-old boy.

Rick's father, Bob Redfield, was an accomplished electronics engineer. The family lived in the northern suburbs of Chicago. At some point, Nick Fishnick, an engineer friend of Rick's dad, turned over a steam engine project to Bob Redfield. Fishnick said that he felt it was a project he would never finish.

Rick's dad turned it over to his son. Among other things, the steam engine plan called for precise brass and steel parts to be manufactured on lathes and milling machines. Rick started the 'cool steam engine' project at the age of 15.

Over the years, Rick reviewed the plans for the two-

cylinder vertical steam engine. Those plans were taken from a 1946 Model Craftsman Magazine. Every part in the plan was measured in precise fractions and all of that eventually needed to be converted to numbers with decimal points that could be used by modern machinery.

At some point years ago, Rick put together the small steam engine out of parts he had made. Unfortunately, the parts weren't precise enough and it wouldn't run.

However, the dream to follow the plans and build a working steam engine persisted. Remember every part needed to be made. There were no castings or kits, just the plans. Rick had to buy the brass and steel and cut it himself.

Rick's brother Bill Redfield later stepped in and made the conversion of the fractions to decimals with the help of an auto cad program.

Along the way, Rick acquired high quality industrial-grade lathes, a milling machine and more high-grade equipment. It's all in his machine shop now.

In his rural Crawford County shop, Rick Redfield began using his machinery to make the necessary pieces to the precise sizes and tolerances required to build the steam engine. He ordered his materials from the Metal Supermarket.

About six months to a year ago, he finally assembled the steam engine. Although the engine can definitely run on steam, Redfield does not have the necessary boiler to create the high pressure of steam need to run the engine, so he used compressed air available in his shop.

Guess what? The dang little steam engine ran and it ran perfectly. The complicated little thing worked.

Rick called his wife Becky

and son Cory to the shop for a demonstration. He demonstrated it to more friends and neighbors.

Rick Redfield laughed as he remembered the demonstrations.

"You can't really visit without getting a demonstration," Rick said. "I've demonstrated it to Tim Jenkins and Jane Keeley and just about everybody else."

Tim and Jane are among Rick's many old-time music friends.

On Monday, it was the Independent-Scout's turn to see Rick's model steam engine run, and run it did.

Rick's 'steam engine dream' had come to pass.

One day while online at the Metal Supermarket, Rick noticed a contest being advertised. You could submit projects you made to be judged in different categories. Our local dreamer submitted his steam engine project and was awarded first place.

Metal Supermarkets, the world's largest supplier of small-quantity metals, announced that Rick Redfield was the winner of the best industrial shop project for the '2022 Metal My Way' competition.

Rick learned the first place prize was a tool box. He was a bit surprised when the UPS driver delivered a large heavy box with a countertop-high solid metal toolbox.

It sure was nice to see Rick Redfield recognized for his work in making a 55-year-old dream come true.

And yes, it was a hoot seeing Rick run his steam engine in his little rural shop earlier this week.

"It was great just to see it run," Rick said, as he smiled with satisfaction. "It's the ultimate in a hobby project."

Dreams can come true!

Year in Review—2022

SWIGG results released

PART TWO
APRIL: The North Crawford School District is preparing for the fourth and final community input meeting regarding needed maintenance or upgrades to district facilities. The meetings are being held to secure input and ideas that will allow the district to pursue placing a referendum to exceed state tax levy limits on the November 2022 ballot... The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has announced a confirmed case of highly pathogenic avian influenza in a backyard flock in Rock County. This is Wisconsin's second confirmed case of HPAI in a domestic flock this year... The Soldiers Grove Village Board voted unanimously to ask their attorney to draft an addition to their ordinances, enabling the village to shut the water off at residences that are behind in their water payments. The process will be to send a warning after two months of non-payment, and to shut the utility off if the amount due is not paid by the third month... Local land trust Mississippi Valley Conservancy has purchased 1,600 acres of rugged land along the lower Kickapoo River for permanent protection. The site, just north of Wauzeka in Crawford County, which includes a stretch of Plum Creek and is located on both sides of Plum Creek Road, will be known as Plum Creek Conservation Area... Despite some real obstacles, the North Crawford High School drone team rose to the occasion at a competition held in Milwaukee recently. The team's adviser Liz Bransky shared that there was a huge problem with receiving the drone kits for the 12 teams from around the state. Materials to build and ready the drones was supposed to arrive in December. In fact, nothing arrived until March just one week before the competition... As the Seneca School board prepared to re-organize the body after the recent election, Mark Johnson began the meeting with an announcement. "I love this school," Johnson said. "And, I want to make the best decision for the school. So, after giving the matter significant thought. I believe it would be best for the school if another member of the board would serve as president."

MAY: 'Around the Farm Table,' with Inga Witscher, filmed last summer, is show-

ing on Thursday, May 5, at 7 p.m. featuring an episode of Kernza® in Wisconsin. Driftless Brewing Company was invited to film an episode with Inga and crew that showcases Kernza, a unique 'conservation' grain that can be used by a variety of food/beverage producers including breweries, distilleries and bakeries as well as providing forage for livestock. "We are the first brewery in Wisconsin to brew with Kernza. We've now done five versions," Driftless Brewing Company's Cynthia Olmstead said. "We brewed a new Kernza IPA for the show."... There was lots of music at the Gays Mills Folk Festival last weekend. The Volo Bogtrotters, a six-member, old-time string band, performed at the Saturday night concert... Joe Childs was a household name to North Crawford sports fans a few years ago. Childs led the Trojans to victories many times on the basketball court or baseball field. Then, Joe went off to college at UW-LaCrosse and has pretty much moved on from his sports career. Childs received a bachelor's degree in business management and returned to Crawford County to put it to work. Childs has started a business of custom grazing cattle, as he builds a herd of his own. Custom grazing, as Childs explained it, involves putting a beef producer's cattle on a pasture and caring for them through the summer and early fall.... About 65 citizens attended the unveiling of final results of the Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater and Geology Study (SWIGG) in Lancaster on Monday, May 16. The study tested 978 samples from 816 private wells (some wells were tested more than once) in the three counties. Well samples were distributed all across the counties, in all the different geologic formations found there. Results from water samples taken in 2018 and 2019 show that 32 percent of the private wells sampled tested positive for total coliform bacteria and/or nitrate greater than the Wisconsin and EPA health standard (which is 10 mg nitrate-nitrogen per liter). Additionally, the percentage of study wells with total coliforms or high nitrate was generally greater than statewide averages for private wells. A key finding of the study is that nitrate and total coliform [bacteria] contamination was more likely for wells closer to live-

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DR. MARK BORCHARDT, USDA Agricultural Research Service, was one of the lead investigators in the SWIGG Study, and a preceding study of drinking water quality issues in Keewaunee County. Since conclusion of the SWIGG Study, Dr. Borchardt has retired from his long career in public service.

Start the new year out right!
Imagine yourself meeting or even exceeding your health and wellness goals. Making small changes along the way and choosing a primary care provider who listens and encourages you is a great first step.

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Plan of Finance for building improvements is approved by school board

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to the district shall not exceed the four percent as specified above.

Interest will be payable semi-annually on March 1 and September 1 of each year, commencing on March 1, 2024. The true interest cost on the bonds (taking Baird Co. Inc.'s compensation into account) shall not exceed 5.5 percent (a conservative estimate, with a more likely interest rate of 4 to 4.5 percent).

The district will create a fund in the treasury separate and distinct from every other fund, designated as the 'Debt Service Fund Account for General Obligation Refunding Bonds - 2023.' This account will be maintained until the indebtedness evidenced by the bonds is fully paid or otherwise extinguished.

Moneys to be placed in the account will include:

- all accrued interest received by the district at the

time of delivery of and payment for the bonds

- any premium not used for the refunding which may be received by the district above the par value of the bonds and accrued interest thereon

- all money raised by the taxes levied and any amounts appropriated for the specific purpose of meeting principal of and interest on the bonds when due

- such other sums as may be necessary at any time to pay principal of and interest on the bonds when due

- surplus monies in the borrowed money fund (described below)

- such further deposits as may be required by Section 67.11, Wisconsin Statutes.

No money will be withdrawn from the Debt Service Fund Account and appropriated for any purpose other than the payment of principal of and interest on the bonds until all such principal and interest has been paid in full

and the bonds canceled, provided:

The funds to provide for each payment of principal and interest on the bonds prior to the scheduled receipt of taxes from the next succeeding tax collection may be invested in direct obligations of the United States of America maturing in time to make such payments when they are due or in other investments permitted by law, and

Any funds over and above the amount of such principal and interest payments on the bonds may be used to reduce the next succeeding tax levy, or may, at the option of the district, be invested by purchasing the bonds as permitted by and subject to Section 67.11(2)(a), Wisconsin Statutes, or in permitted municipal investments under the pertinent provisions of the Wisconsin Statutes, which investments shall continue to be a part of the Debt Service Fund Account.

When all of the bonds have been paid in full and canceled, and all permitted investments disposed of, any money remaining in the Debt Service Fund Account shall be transferred and deposited in the general fund of the district, unless the school board directs otherwise.

The proceeds of the bonds (other than any premium not used for the refunding and accrued interest which must be paid at the time of delivery of the bonds into the Debt Service Fund Account) shall be deposited into a special fund - the 'Borrowed Money Fund.'

The 'Borrowed Money Fund' is separate and distinct from all other funds of the district, existing within the 'Debt Service Fund,' and disbursed solely for the purpose or purposes for which borrowed. Monies in this fund may be temporarily invested in permitted investments.

Any monies, including any income from permitted

investments, remaining in the 'Borrowed Money Fund' after the purpose or purposes for which the bonds have been issued have been accomplished, and, at any time monies as are not needed, shall be deposited in the Debt Service Fund Account.

In other business, the board:

- learned that elementary staff recently held a personal development day digging into math and English Language Arts where teachers learned about the DreamBox program and the ways it can support differentiation within the classroom

- learned the district has received a \$250,000 'Out of School Time' grant aimed at addressing learning and mental health needs

- learned that Mrs. Klein was awarded a 'Math Recovery Exploratory Tuition Assistance Award' for Add+VantageMR Course

- heard that the 6-12 grade teachers and students will be working hard in the second semester on goals from the 'Teach and Kids Learn' website to establish a climate of respect, set high and clear expectations for quality work, insist on high quality by having students polish their work, read twice as much every day, write twice as much every day, establish a culture of evidence and justification in the classroom, introduce and discuss at least one new 'power word' every day, think with numbers every day, maximize the percentage of time that all students are engaged with content,

and make sure everyone understands a new concept or skill before moving on

- heard that Student Services staff is preparing students for the ACT

Heard that Student Services staff attended a CESA training focused on inclusionary practices

- approved Tina Volden stepping into the District Office Administrative Assistant position vacated by Angie Redman; that Jessica Pugh will step into the Elementary Administrative Assistant position; that Grace Roth will take the 4K Educational Aide position; and that Ray Strong will fill the open Elementary Educational Aide position

- approved a change in the Coaches Handbook language as follows: "The North Crawford School District supports co-curricular activities, but also supports family time for students. When possible, coaches and advisors should avoid scheduling events and practices on Sundays. In the event that a coach or advisor needs to schedule a Sunday practice or event, they need to receive prior approval from the Athletic Director and/or Middle/High School Principal. All players/participants with legitimate reasons for not attending shall receive no adverse actions due to missing the Sunday event/practice. Any open gyms that are scheduled on Sundays must be made optional."

2022 saw people get back out and put pandemic behind

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stock farms or cultivated land [fields used for row crops like corn and soybeans]. Two of the four findings of the study about risks for contamination of drinking water intertwine in the topics of well construction and bedrock geology. Generally, newer wells, and wells tapping deeper aquifers and cased below the water table, deliver cleaner water. Older, shallower wells, tapping water from a shallower aquifer and/or not cased below the water table, had a higher risk of delivering contaminated water. The study demonstrated that septic systems were not correlated with nitrate and coliform bacteria contamination of drinking water, but were correlated with contamination with some pathogens from a human source... McCormick-Rose American Legion Post #308 in Gays Mills honored Roger Van Riper for more than 50 years of continuous membership. The Navy veteran currently lives in Inca, Missouri.

JUNE: The Freeman Town Board unanimously passed adopting a Farmland Preservation zoning plan at their meeting Monday evening. The zoning creates a Farmland Preservation District, where properties that are agricultural are placed. One major change is the zoning requires that parcels being sold for residential use are 20 acres or larger. This differs from the current agricultural-residential zoning in place in the county. As part of the Farmland

Preservation Zoning passed at the meeting, the board extended the period residents could opt out of being in the new zoning district... With a stunning view of the beautiful Upper Mississippi River, the Ferryville Sportsman's Bar offers enchanting ambiance, great food, and an exciting lineup of live music. The fresh, clean décor, combined with the beautiful patio

overlooking the river, offers diners flexibility in seating. The menu features meats from Driftless Region farmers, processed at Eastman Locker and Bloomington Meats. From the succulent pulled pork on their loaded nachos, with fresh 'pico de gallo' salsa, to a mouthwatering ribeye steak sandwich, you can be sure when eating at this establishment, you're

supporting local farmers. Dining here will delight your taste buds and feast your eyes on nature's beauty... Around 1994, John Armbruster overheard two fellow teachers talk about a serviceman who fell four miles without a parachute and lived. He realized that this man's daughter, Joni Moran-Peterson, was a fellow teacher in the North Crawford School District. Armbruster's mind started racing with interest. Then after years of Armbruster and Moran's families becoming close and building trust, Joni Moran-Peterson agreed to share his remarkable story - but only if Armbruster wrote it. After three years of interviews and research, Armbruster wrote the book, 'Tailspin,' which came out April 30... Eric Lyons son of John Lyons, is seen holding a paddlefish that was discovered in the river below the Prairie du Sac Dam. Lyons has been delighting the public with fish shocking events for several decades, showcasing the diversity of fish in the Lower Wisconsin River... Bart Nies of Delta-3 Engineering explained to the Soldiers Grove Village board that current and upcoming regulations for phosphorous and E.coli, as well as the deficiencies in the sludge storage area, mean that the village must pursue upgrades to its wastewater treatment plant. Nies said that there a series of relevant deadlines that the village will be required by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to meet...



PROPRIETOR KARYL FRITSCHÉ is seen in the kitchen of the Ferryville Sportsman's Bar last summer, preparing delicious foods. The business is part of a portfolio of concerns operated by the dynamic business woman.

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OUTSTANDING WOMEN

who are accomplishing great things!

We want to identify female role models within Southwest Wisconsin who can inspire others with their story, as well as encourage the future generation of female professionals to be brave and reach their full potential.

This is not an 'award', but recognition for an individual's contribution to a profession and/or society. There will be no 'winners' or 'losers'.

HOW THIS WORKS:
We are asking you to nominate women in Southwest Wisconsin that you know are accomplishing great things and feature them in our **SHE SPECIAL SECTION**.

Nominations will be assessed by the local Morris Newspapers team and will be considered as a feature in our 2023 SHE.

HOW TO NOMINATE:
Please email heraldads@tds.net your nomination and include name, address, contact info and why they should be recognized. Also, include any volunteer work or organizations they belong to.

*Not all nominees will be featured.

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Crawford County Independent

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