

City of Merrill
Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 18, 2021
Merrill Airport Terminal

Members Present: Gary Schwartz (Chairman), Lyle Banser, Joe Malsack, Gary Schulz, Rich McCullough (Airport Manager), Mark Weix Jr. (Alderman)

Public Present: Draco Fink (Cameraman)

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Chairman Schwartz at 19:00.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 21, 2021 – Motion by Weix; second by Malsack to approve minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Vouchers – Vouchers reviewed and initialed. Motion to pay vouchers by Banser; second by Malsack. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Runway 16/34 Project Status – Schwartz, McCullough and Karl Kemper, Randy Van Netta of Becher Hoppe Engineering met with Congressman Tom Tiffany and Paul Chamberlain, Regional Director of Senator Ron Johnson's Office. Schwartz started the meeting with a tour of the 16/34 Runway in vehicles to demonstrate the deteriorated state of the blacktop and its rough surface condition because of large cracks in the blacktop. They then met back in the conference room for a presentation of the criteria for crosswind runways and the refusal of FAA officials to use FAA approved data for reconstruction of crosswind runways. Both representatives are assigning staff from their offices to work on our 16/34 issue., There are ten other Wisconsin airports that have been targeted for loosing crosswind runways in future years.
5. Dream Flight for Veterans – McCullough reported that the Dream Flight Organization came to Merrill and gave three WWII veterans a ride in a vintage Steersman Bi-wing. Veterans and their families observing enjoyed the event.
6. Discussion F-84 Display and Mounting – McCullough reported that the 115th Fighter Group maintenance team will prepare for move Monday and move the jet on Tuesday morning.
7. Update Entitlement Projects 2021 – Schwartz reported that there has been two meetings with Bureau of Aeronautics (BOA) over the video conference equipment. No approvals have been given yet for the resealing of all blacktop except 16/34 so it takes too long for approvals it will not be possible to schedule the process while its warm enough to get a good result and it may be pushed into summer of 2022.

T-hangar drainage construction was also discussed and the blacktop replacement on the west side of hangar. This construction could happen in 2021.

Also discussed expanding the apron by fuel pumps, which will be in 2022.

8. Discussion EAA Cup Race – Malsack reported the Air Cup Race went very well. He helped with the set-up for the race and everyone reported Merrill as the finish line worked very well.
9. Manager's Report – McCullough reported he looked at the north fence with Petersons Excavating and they feel they won't be able to get the posts down any more than the Airport Crew had already done. He is getting quotes for getting steel posts repositioned.
10. Airport General Maintenance -

Airport Lighting Outside - Talked with electrical contractor about the fuel pump flood lighting. No response yet and, also, a light on the East side of the T-hangar.

Airport Signage – Tom O'Neal will be talking with Schulz about the signage for the airport.
11. Chairman's Report – No additional information.
12. Aviation Happenings – Schulz explained Letter of Deviation Authority (LODA) that has become the only way for pilots of certain aircraft, limited category, amateur built, light sport, primary category to receive training and bi-annual flight review. There is a chance the Congress will attach an amendment to a bill to correct this problem. EAA Airventure was huge, with 610,000 in attendance. Schultz remarked that Merrill's Steve Krueger is Chairman of ultra-light operations, which is the whole South end, red barn and grass runway operations. Great job Steve.
13. Public Comment – None
14. Agenda Items for Next Meeting –
15. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Malsack ; second by Weix. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Lyle Banser