

City of Merrill
Airport Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 17, 2022
Merrill Airport Terminal

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

Public Present: Larry Wenning, Draco Fink (Cameraman)

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Chairman Schwartz at 19:00.
2. Approval of July 2022 Minutes – Motion by Malsack; second by Schulz to approve minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Vouchers – Vouchers not available. Will sign during the next week at FBO.
4. Runway 16/34 Project Status – Schwartz reported FAA sent their data to Karl Kemper (Beecher-Hoppe) to analyze. Schwartz is meeting with David Green and Mark Graychevik to talk about the Block Grant so the State is on board when the FAA approves the runway project. There are several other airports having the same crosswind runway issues with the FAA, Manitowish Waters being one of them. Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is an advocate for pilots and are involved in this crosswind runway issue.
5. Update Entitlement Projects 2022 – Schwartz reported no new action taken yet for release of monies. Because of the stall in the release of funds and the fall weather coming, projects will probably be pushed into next year.
6. Discussion/Decision Hangar Ground Lease, Commercial Hangar – Nothing new.
7. Repairs to Runway 16/34 – Malsack reported that we should be able to do crack filling starting in early September.
8. Airport General Maintenance – Schulz reported of an outside night light at the new FBO and asked Rich to pick a photo cell light up at Menards or Home Depot. Malsack asked about putting some filler, tar/mastic filler in front of his City T-hangar to help the snow clean up. Schulz reported of a change in pianos at the new FBO; a more approachable piano with great sound.
9. Chairman's Report – Schwartz asked for volunteers for F-84 maintenance and display stand. Banser and McCullough will work on preservation and new mount for the display. Anyone interested please join our group. Schwartz reported on a conversation with Kathy Unertle about a compact tractor with brush mower to be added to the budget

request.

10. Aviation Happenings – Schulz updated us on 100LL fuel. There is some movement on selection of the replacement fuel but it is moving slowly/cautiously. He reported on American Airlines ordering 20 EVOL airliners, and the development of the proposed Supersonic Jet capable of 1300 mph (three and one-half hours to London) and could operate at that speed over land and also putting investment into hydrogen/electric engine development. He mentioned a jump plane that the co-pilot was in command of which had damage to landing gear on an attempted landing. The pilot, at some point, took control; and they flew to another airport to do a fly-by assessment of the damage to the landing gear. They did have damage, so they were continuing to a damaged airplane landing at Raleigh-Durham Airport. While in transit to the landing, the co-pilot said he needed to get air. He opened his window, then got up and walked to rear end of the plane. At some point, the rear door was opened and it is undetermined if he fell or jumped out.
11. Public Comment – None.
12. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – September meeting will be moved back to 6:00PM for fall/winter months.
13. Adjournment – Malsack motioned to adjourn; second by Schulz. All ayes; motioned carried.

Minutes prepared by Lyle Banser