

City of Merrill
Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 21, 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 June 16, 2021 – Motion by Malsack; second by Weix to approve minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Vouchers – Vouchers reviewed and initialed. Motion to pay vouchers by Malsack; second by Schulz. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Runway 16/34 Project Status – Schwartz explained a 60-page document that he and Karl have compiled which contains the history and supporting documents of the Merrill Airport's struggle with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to maintain Runway 16/34. These documents are being forwarded to Senator Ron Johnson's Office and Tom Tiffany's Office to explain our problem with the FAA not using the current written guidelines to support Merrill's crosswind runway.
5. Discussion/Decision Young Eagles Flight 2021 – Malsack reported that finding enough pilots is becoming an issue in the middle of Summer. May be possible in latter Summer or Fall.
6. ARPA Grant from BOA – Schwartz circulated a grant we are applying for. It would be for \$30,000 to be applied to Airport costs such as utilities, and salaries.
7. Discussion F-84 Display and Mounting – McCullough reported the 115th Fighter Group plan to move the F-84 to a temporary spot-on Champagne Street between August 23-26. The jet will be mounted on a display stand when it is built and installed.
8. Update Entitlement Projects 2021 – Schwartz presented to the Commission the plan to get the T-Hangar drainage problem completed and then the resealing and repair of all black top, not counting Runway 16/34. Currently, Karl Kemper from Becher & Hoppe is working to get the job done by October of this year.
9. Update EAA Race – Malsack reported the Air Cup Race will be this Sunday, July 25, with Merrill as the finish line. Joe will have tables and chairs set up for the finish line crew.

10. Manager's Report – Fuel supplies on hand to date are 3,039 gal. Jet A and 5,469 gal. Low Lead. Had good reports on the new fuel system. Need a new light by the fuel pump.

11. Airport General Maintenance -

Reported on Merrill Hamburger Fly-In. It was an excellent night with 23 aircraft in attendance.

Airport golf cart was repaired and back in service. Thanks to Larry Wenning for the loan of his golf cart for the Airport's use this last year.

Also, zero-turn mower is running well.

Schwartz asked about landscaping around Doug Drost's new hangar. McCullough will contact Doug about this.

Airplane tie downs are on hold until the new apron size is determined in the Entitlement Grant project

McCullough reported sewer lift pump in the Airport home was temporarily fixed after an overflow situation. Discussion followed.

McCullough is replacing the fueling nozzle on the fuel truck.

Airport Lighting Outside – Nothing new.

Airport Signage – Nothing new.

12. Chairman's Report – In reference to the Airport home's sewer lift pump in the Manager's Report, Schwartz asked that McCullough check if it would be possible to make it a gravity drain directly to the sewer, and hopefully eliminate problems with the lift pump.
13. Aviation Happenings – Schulz reported on the problem with compensation for training pilots and bi-annuals along with training for different types of planes. FAA is creating problematic rulings without offering solutions. Several pilot training and safety advocacy groups (AOPA, EAA) are looking for solutions.
14. Public Comment – None
15. Agenda Items for Next Meeting –
16. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Malsack ; second by Banser . All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Lyle Banser