

City of Merrill
Airport Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 21, 2022
Merrill Airport Terminal

Members Present: Gary Schwartz (Chairman), Joe Malsack, Lyle Banser, Gary Schulz, Rich McCullough (Manager)

Public Present: Larry Wenning, Steve Krueger, Draco Fink (cameraman)

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Chairman Schwartz at 18:00.
2. Approval of November 16, 2022 Minutes – Motion by Malsack; second by Banser to approve minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Vouchers – Vouchers reviewed. Motion by Banser to pay vouchers; second by Malsack. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Runway 16/34 Project Status – No news on runway status. Bureaucracies move very slowly around the Holidays. Schwartz talked to David Green and engineer Matt Meliki asking that they contact FAA to check on the project.
5. Update Entitlement Projects 2022 – No construction projects can happen til Spring.
6. Update Airport Signage – Malsack reported he is working on permits and working with City for proper size of signs and with Zoning for placement of signs.
7. Discussion/Decision Airport Labor Rate – Discussed labor rates for Airport workers (snow removal/mowing). There has been no increase in 10 years. They are at \$18.00 per hour now. After discussion of operators for snow removal and mowing equipment and the responsibility they have running this equipment, Malsack made a motion to raise the reimbursement rate to \$21.00 per hour; second by Banser. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. Update F-84 Monument – No report.
9. Airport General Maintenance - McCullough reported a problem with gates lifting with ice buildup. Has a product to help remove ice from gates. Fixed Hydraulic hose on plow truck.
10. Chairman's Report – No report.
11. Aviation Happenings – Schulz reported FAA put out a notice of proposed rulemaking to bring the aircraft certification process back to the FAA. Prior to this rule, they were allowing Boeing to certify their own design and construction process. Reported problems with a Garmin 500 having runaway trim problems when using autopilot. Garmin is hoping to have a fix for the digital auto pilot within a couple of weeks. Basic medical has expanded. You are now going to be allowed to fly as a safety pilot with basic medical for pilots doing their reoccurring training/instrument proficiency or for other flights that require a safety pilot. Malsack reported Wausau is the starting point for Air Cup Race in 2023. Schultz reported on airline pilot Brian Krueger being checked out in a 787 Dreamliner and following him on a phone app from Frankfurt Germany to Dallas, TX. The airplane has takeoff weight of 564,000 pounds and 154,000 pounds of fuel on board; and it can fly at Mach .86 cruise. A beautifully engineered plane. France is banning all regional flights that people can make by ground transportation in two and one-half hours or less for the next three years; after which, they will compile the data to access what the carbon dioxide emissions are comparatively. A B2 Bomber has had a runway problem with landing gear. A severe clear air turbulence incident was reported in which people were injured in flight to Hawaii. Wear your seat belt aboard planes when possible.
12. Public Comment – McCullough reported that CWA no longer has a GA mechanic shop. He will help with getting planes finished up and out of the CWA Shop.
13. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – No new items.
14. Closed Session – This agenda item was read out loud prior to vote. The Committee may convene in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat 198.85(1)(e) for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a

closed session, to consider an offer and potential sale/purchase agreement of airport property. Motion by Malsack to convene in Closed Session; second by Banser. Voting Aye; Gary Schulz, Joe Mulsack, Lyle Banser, Gary Schwartz. Motion carried. Commission went into closed session pursuant to published notice.

15.Reconvening of Open Session. No Other Action Taken

16.Adjournment – Motion by Malsack to adjourn; second by Banser. All ayes; motioned carried.

Minutes prepared by Lyle Banser