

City of Merrill
Airport Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 21, 2023
Merrill Airport Terminal

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

Public Present: Luke Lazar, Steve Krueger

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 19:00 hours by Chairman Schwartz.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 24, 2023. Motion by Banser; second by Malsack. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Vouchers – Vouchers presented, received and initialed. Motion to pay vouchers by Banser; second by Malsack. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Runway 16/34 Project Status – Schwartz reported on the re-authorization bill going through Congress; and for the first time in the history of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), General Aviation (GA) had a separate funding source which was increased from \$650,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000 to be dedicated to GA. Things that the FAA is looking at doing with the increase in funding is hangar space and that FAA address current issues with runway projects, which is encouraging. Both are issues that Merrill Airport is facing. Schwartz sent an email to Andy Trimble at Bureau of Aeronautics (BOA), asking if he has any information on Merrill's project regarding the 16/34 runway, which will also give the FAA a notice that Merrill Airport is still working toward the restoration of our 16/34 runway and we aren't going away.
5. Update Entitlement Projects 2022/2023 – The T-hangar drainage/blacktop project is blacktopped on both side if the City T Hangars, and will be finished this week.
6. Discussion/Decision RFP Current FBO Hanger – Nothing new.
7. Update Airport Signage – Malsack is applying for permits for new signs.
8. Update F-84 Monument – Nothing new.
9. Airport General Maintenance – No lights have arrived yet. Nothing new on Airport house sewer improvement. Will be lowering 100 LL fuel price to \$4.99 to draw aircraft planning their trip to Oshkosh. Schulz asked how long should we wait to operate on the new blacktop; a couple days is preferred with no tires turning or stopping on the new blacktop. Pulling straight across it shouldn't be a problem.

10. Chairman's Report – Schwartz reported he contacted Bureau of Aeronautics on Merrill's AWOS System that has been putting out a weak signal. They will be looking into the problem
11. Aviation Happenings – Schulz reported that Congress is supporting hangars up to 5,000 square feet and, also, expanded basic medical parameters, allowing heavier airplanes and more passengers. No word yet on action taken on light sport. Also, some U.S. Senators have stated they would like to see a program to support future airline pilots.
12. Discussion EAA Cup Race – Merrill Municipal Airport is the finish line on July 23, 2023. It should be publicized in Foto News so public is aware and can watch the finish.
13. Public Comment – None.
14. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – T-Hangar policies and lease agreement.
15. Adjournment – Motion by Schulz to adjourn; second by Weix. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Lyle Banser