

City of Merrill
Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 16, 2021
Merrill Airport Terminal

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

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 May 2021 – Motion by Malsack; second by Baner to approve minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Vouchers – Vouchers reviewed and initialed. Motion to pay vouchers by Malsack; second by Baner. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Runway 16/34 Project Status – Reviewed a letter sent to Chairman Schwartz from Gary Wilson, Chicago ADO. Airport Commission does not agree with his opinion that Merrill Airport has not met criteria in the design manual; so, we will procure other means to come to resolution.
5. Discussion Flight Training – Schwartz reported on the Sundowner (flight training plane). It was beyond repair after an a forced off airport landing. Park City Flight Training has proven local training is feasible and is looking for persons interested in continuing flight training at Merrill Airport.
6. Update Fuel System Credit Card Reader – Schulz reports the new card reader system works great. It is easier to use and read and is fast. It will be a great improvement. McCullough is working with QT Pod to gain access on computer.
7. Discussion F-84 Display and Mounting – McCullough is working with Master Sargent Mike Schmidt. He will be available to help after February 2022. Also, McCullough is hoping to get a local company to design a stand and we will keep working on the display stand.
8. Update Entitlement Projects 2021 – Schwartz circulated a map showing the pavement to be coated with the GEE pavement restoration product. We are hoping to start the project by August.
9. Update EAA Race – No report. Will have information next meeting.
10. Manager's Report – McCullough reported the New Holland tractor air conditioner was not working properly, so they charged it and will see how it works. The zero-turn mower will

be getting a new seal so the Airport is temporarily using a smaller mower. McCullough reported we needed a new push mower. Schulz offered a mower he has. Problem solved. Thanks Gary. Malsack made a motion for a local farmer to use 18 acres of tillable land in exchange for maintaining weed spraying on Airport gravel road bases/taxiways. Second by Banser. All ayes. Motion carried.

11. Airport General Maintenance – Contractor is looking for a different supplier for the walk-in door on the Mechanics Shop and try to make it a standard size. Wind sock will be replaced. Wednesday, June 23 will be the Merrill Fly-In Hamburger Night. It's great to get fly-ins going again. Peterson Construction is going to try to push the wooden fence posts down next week.

Airport Lighting Outside – Nothing new.

Airport Signage – Nothing new.

12. Chairman's Report – Schwartz explained about a grant that saved the City over \$15,000 for charge card equipment recently installed because old system was obsolete. Cost to the City would have been over \$18,000 without the grant, now approximately 3,000.
13. Aviation Happenings – Schulz reported an article about how fast, unmanned aerial vehicles are being conceived and designed. There is interest in making these planes work Uber rides to pick up and deliver passengers to their destinations utilizing smaller airports like Merrill for the drop off points.

Schulz reported that the FAA is changing their stance on special training for different types of planes (i.e., War Birds). They are suggesting trainers are not allowed to charge (make a profit) for special training done on these types of planes, which makes it almost impossible for pilots to learn to fly different types of planes, some of which are WWII vintage.

Development is happening for supersonic transport planes. A company called Boom has partnered with Boeing for production of short- and long-range planes and have already received orders for 15 planes.

14. Public Comment – None
15. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – Young Eagles Event
16. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Schulz; second by Malsack. All ayes. Motion carried.