

City of Merrill
Airport Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 15, 2022
Merrill Airport Terminal

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

Public Present: Larry Wenning, Anthony Kromire, Ben Hoerstromm

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Chairman Schwartz at 19:00. Kromire and Hoerstromm were allowed to have the floor at the beginning of the meeting so they could leave afterwards. They asked for Merrill Airport cooperation to do a promotional and community video. Commission signaled that we would be in favor of this video but requested a preview before release. Wiex suggested they talk to the City's Marketing and Communication Department to get involved, and will facilitate getting their request on the City's Agenda.
2. Approval of May 2022 Minutes – Motion by Malsack; second by Banser to approve minutes. 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 Kyle Lewis is the Great Lakes Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) representative. Lewis informed him of an informal meeting with representatives of the Airport District Office (ADO) and staff. At that meeting, the suggestion was made that Lewis should contact Gary Schwartz, as a Merrill Airport representative, and suggest he ask the Bureau of Aeronautics (BOA) to submit a request for a review of their denial of the crosswind runway. Hopefully, there will be a meeting between BOA, ADO and AOPA to move the Merrill crosswind runway issue forward.

Malsack reported he took County personnel to look at cracks in Runway 16/34 that need filling and sealing to extend the runway life until a more permanent fix is available. He will be getting an estimate for next meeting. We will try to get an estimate on paint markings from the City.

5. Update Entitlement Projects 2022 – No news on entitlements being released.
6. Discussion – Edits to Update T-hangar Lease and Ground Lease – To discuss next month.
7. Discussion/Decision Entrance Gate Annual Inspection – McCullough reported on gate maintenance for three gates. A list of checks and maintenance was discussed. Schulz motioned to have entrance system maintained on a once-a-year basis for under \$800.00 per year; second by Malsack. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. Airport General Maintenance – Manager McCullough reported we need new brakes on the courtesy car; and it will be repaired promptly. All other equipment has been running good with regular maintenance. Replaced blades on zero turn mower. Replaced U.S. Flag. Reported electrical contractor fixed contactor on T-hangar door. McCullough reported Central Wisconsin Airport (CWA) has a Gulf Stream facility being built.
9. Chairman's Report – Schwartz reported that about one to one-half years ago, Town of Merrill asked for help to obtain a grant for Airport road reconstruction. The Town of Merrill was passed over on the first round but was notified they received the grant in the second round. Road construction/rebuild will possibly be over a two-year period. Also reported that Craig and Hugh Hannig will be getting a 1% raise.
10. Aviation Happenings – Schulz reported a new hangar was built at Wisconsin Rapids Airport. It was partially funded by a State tourism grant. It was questioned if we really need Emergency Location Transponder (ELT) and thought that probably not with cell phone technology. Two California airports are not selling 100LL fuel. A study was done to determine the lead in the air at 6" and 18" around the airport. It was substantially below limits. Checks were made by a local highway and lead was just below the limit, but six times more than the Airport. FAA is making a lot of arbitrary decisions from propeller approvals to landing strips to crosswind runway decisions. FAA is being lobbied by drone operators to include drones having the right of way over General Aviation, which sounds crazy to General Aviation (GA) pilots.
11. Public Comment – Wenning reported on towers possibly being suitable for Merrill's airport beacon. Schwartz will check on these possible availabilities. Just received a full load of 100LL fuel priced at \$5.99.
12. Agenda Items for Next Meeting -Discussion/Decision edits to update T-hangar Lease and Ground Lease.
13. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Wiex; second by Malsack. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Lyle Banser