

City of Merrill
Airport Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 15, 2021
Merrill Airport Terminal

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

Public Present: Doug Drost, Craig Hanig

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 18:00 hours by Chairman Schwartz.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 17, 2021 – Motion by Malsack; second by Weix. 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 a meeting between himself and Mark Nielson (Ron Johnson's Office), John Lanctin (Tom Tiffany's Office), Kyle Lewis and Andy Williams (AOPA) and Brian Grefe (WAMA). They discussed an airport in Michigan which is having the same scenario in which FAA is not supporting their crosswind runway, saying they have 97% coverage. Running the Beecher-Hoppe Program, which is based on the FAA guidelines, the Michigan airport's coverage at 93%, which makes them eligible for a crosswind runway. This problem is expanding, as there are seven airports in Tom Tiffany's district that will have their crosswind runways questioned (not supported).
5. Update Entitlement Projects 2021 – Discussed entitlement projects. T-Hangar drainage problems were discussed and it was decided to investigate other T-hangar drainage solutions. Bidding for projects are targeted for March of 2022 for construction start in May or June.
6. Discussion F-84 Display and Mounting – Agra has not gotten back with estimate on plane mount. Hopefully, after Christmas.
7. Discussion/Decision T-Hangar and Future Projects – Discussed the Airport's economic impact on the City of Merrill and if we should have a more recent estimate done. The last study was in 2008. Checking on cost to have a study done.
8. Airport Maintenance Staff Pay Scale – Weix discussed/explained wage adjustments for Craig Hanig, Hugh Hanig and others. Weix made a motion to raise pay for Craig Hanig to \$23.00 an hour and Hugh Hanig to \$15.00 per hour. Second by Schulz. All ayes. Motion carried.
9. Manager's Report – McCullough reported snow removal going well.

10. Airport General Maintenance – Working on problem with plow. DNR will only deal with bears when they are out of hibernation. McCullough asked to review the reimbursement for snow removal employee.

Airport Lighting Outside – Lights have been delivered. Installation has to be arranged.

Airport Signage – Nothing new.

11. Chairman's Report – Questioned insurance for business running at the Airport Flight Training, etc. T Hangar 4 rental is discussed. Due for vote at next meeting.
12. Aviation Happenings – Schulz discussed possible problems with 5G interfering with radar because frequencies are too close and problems can happen.
13. Public Comment – Drost, who built a new hangar adjacent to the new FBO, reported his hangar was appraised at approximately \$137,000.00 and his tax bill is approximately \$4,300.00, which is very high for basically a pole building. Conversation followed on how to seek a reasonable tax

Commission members and Drost will investigate comparable property.

14. Agenda Items for Next Meeting –

Airport T-hangar rules.

Discuss insurance for FBOs (corporations/businesses) operating out of Merrill Airport.

Review the reimbursement policy for snow and mowing.

15. Adjournment – Motion by Malsack to adjourn; second by Weix. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Lyle Baner