

City of Merrill
Airport Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 16, 2022
Merrill Airport Terminal

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

Public Present: Rich and Marlene Lussow, Lee Opsahl, Larry Wenning

1. Call to Order – Chairman Schwartz called the Meeting to order at 18:00.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February, 16, 2022 – Will approve Minutes at next meeting.
3. Approval of Vouchers – Vouchers presented, received and initialed. Motion to pay vouchers by Malsack; second by Weix. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Runway 16/34 Project Status – FAA is doing a nationwide impact study. No results are available yet. AOPA (Aircraft Owners Pilot Association) is working with Midland Michigan that is facing the same crosswind runway scrutiny that Merrill is. Their wind data shows they are eligible for a crosswind runway but the FAA is saying they are not. They are involving their Senator. Senator Peter's staff is having a meeting next week with AOPA, Midland Airport, Wisconsin Senator Johnson's Staff and Congressman Tiffany's Staff to discuss this issue. We are hoping to involve Senator Imhoff of Oklahoma. He is ranking member on the Aviation Committee.
5. Update Entitlement Projects 2022 – Schwartz reported on the bid meeting. Bids are to be open Friday. We should know what the bids are Friday afternoon and will be made public the following week.
6. Discussion/Decision CIP Projects with BOA – Schwartz passed out the Merrill Municipal Airport CIP with future projects from 2022 to 2027. Motion by Malsack to approve future five-year projects document; second by Weix. All ayes. Motion carried.
7. Discussion FBO Templates – To be discussed at next meeting.
8. Manager's Report –Manager McCullough, after shoulder surgery on Tuesday, was at Wednesday's meeting. (Must be because he is a marine.) After MUCH discussion, the T-hangar Lease Agreement wording in Paragraph 2 will have the addition of 'owned/leased' added to allow a leased plane to qualify. Discussion included the understanding that serial renting of an aircraft for short periods of time and then invoking the 90-day grace period of the lease will not be allowed. Motion by Malsack to add additional wording; second by Banser. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. Airport General Maintenance – Manager McCullough reported snow plowing equipment is in good shape after repairs. City equipment did a substantial amount of brush cutting at the Airport this winter. Also reported on T-hangar Unit 1 having a bad contactor; and it will be replaced. Still waiting on lights to be delivered and schedule electrician to install and make repairs. With the warmer weather, the access door on back Mechanic's Hangar will be scheduled for replacement. Vestibule lights are waiting for warranty. Outside South side entry lights will be replaced.
10. Chairman's Report – Schwartz reported we are expecting bids on new T-hangar project so we have a current cost to work with. Malsack made a motion to add a 12-point addendum to the Merrill Municipal Airport T-hangar Policy; second by Baner. All ayes. Motion carried.
11. Aviation Happenings – No new report.
12. Public Comment – Opsahl expressed his appreciation for the Airport facilities and the people involved. He received his private pilot's license at Merrill, working with Rich Lussow and is planning to continue training on more complex planes. He also reported he has visitors coming into Merrill Tool from Knoxville, TN to tour his facilities in Merrill. Opsahl expressed his support for the training, proper equipment being available and Airport facilities.
13. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – Equipment for trimming/Airport brush cutting.
14. Adjournment – Motion by Baner to adjourn; second by Weix. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Lyle Baner