

City of Merrill
Airport Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 15, 2023
Merrill Airport Terminal

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

Public Present: Steve Krueger, Larry Wenning, Jim Bergh, Draco Fink (Cameraman)

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 18:00 hours by Chairman Schwartz.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2023. Motion by Malsack; second by Weix. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Vouchers – Vouchers presented, received and initialed. Motion to pay vouchers by Malsack; second by Banser. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Runway 16/34 Project Status – Schwartz reported Anna Sullivan, who is second in charge for the FAA Chicago Region, asked for our wind analysis software which Beecher Hoppe developed. They will share these wind analysis results. Apparently FAA is still working on the Runway 16/34 issue and considering data on the runway.
5. Update Entitlement Projects 2022 – Nothing new because of Winter. Contractors were contacted recently and were ready for Spring/Summer construction season.
6. Discussion/Decision Large Hangar South of Terminal – Jim Bergh explained his intention to build a hangar south of new FBO. Next step is deposit and State approved plans. Motion by Schulz to approve the construction of 80' x 100' hangar on the lot by public entrance; second by Malsack. All ayes. Motion carried.
7. Update Airport Signage – Malsack explained a proposed sign for the FBO building and will work to estimate cost.
8. Update F-84 Monument – Banser reported he talked to John Chimel in Wausau. He provided us with the cost of their display of a A-7 military aircraft. We reviewed the cost of the excavation, cement/footing, steel fabrication, engineering, plane prep and painting and crane rental and mounting on stand, which is now from six years ago. The next step will be McCullough and Banser talking to Merrill Steel for current cost estimates and Bishop at ProColors for means of preservation.

9. Airport General Maintenance – Replaced key pad on north gate. Ordered new replacement lights for building exterior. Wind sock parts are being ordered to get light working. Airbag on courtesy car is replaced. Also fixed PAPI (Precision Approach Path Indicator) lights.

Discussion house sewer service – Schwartz reported that he has talked to Rod Akey about installing a gravity feed lateral to City Sewer, when weather allows this Spring, to eliminate the trouble with the lift pump.

11. Chairman's Report – Schwartz asked that the list of people renting City T Hangars needs to be updated to reflect all correct tenants. City has a 2015 patrol car that they offered to replace our 2012 Fusion courtesy car; but the Fusion is still in good shape, so we will stick with it. We would like to thank the City for thinking of the airport.
12. Aviation Happenings – Schulz reported on electric regional planes that are capable of winged flight and vertical takeoff. FAA Aircraft registration will be renewed every seven years instead of three. There has been a number of runway incursions (conflicting traffic) nationwide. FAA isn't requiring the Letter of Deviation for flight reviews or instruction any more.
13. Public Comment – None
14. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – Nothing
15. Adjournment – Motion by Schulz to adjourn; second by Malsack. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Lyle Banser