

City of Merrill
Airport Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 26, 2022
Merrill Airport Terminal

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

Public Present: Steve Krueger, Ian Morgan (Cameraman)

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 18:00 hours by Chairman Schwartz.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 15, 2021 – December Minutes read and approved. Motion by Weix; second by Banser. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Vouchers – Vouchers presented, received and initialed. Motion to pay vouchers by Banser; second by Weix. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Runway 16/34 Project Status – Schwartz reported a meeting took place with AOPA's Andy Williams Washington DC, and Great Lakes area AOPA rep Kyle Lewis. FAA has suggested to AOPA That FAA will conduct a nationwide impact study of the crosswind runway impact for similar airports nationwide. FAA is not following their own published written engineering guidelines for crosswind runways for Merrill and a growing number of similar airports. We are being slow walked, but will be firmly persistent on following FAA published guidelines. We may try to expand our outreach for help by explaining Merrill's and other small airports' problem to the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association).
5. Update Entitlement Projects 2022 – Discussed an acceptable fix/repairs for the T-Hangar. Still haven't decided on the best remedy to the frozen snow that piles up and freezes in front of the doors. When best remedy to our problems have been decided on, we will be ready to bid both projects. Also, the apron area by new FBO.
6. Discussion/Decision T-Hangar and Future Projects – Schwartz will work with Rod Akey to get bids on new T-Hangar to get an estimate of the cost we are dealing with. Schwartz also reported through infrastructure legislation, Merrill should receive \$159,000 per year for 4 – 5 years, with guidelines on the use of the money, maintenance building, etc. Discussed the projects that could be done.
7. Discussion FBO Templates – There are written requirements called templates that Schwartz is working on to both comply with FAA guidelines for operation of airport and businesses running at the airport. Will discuss at next meeting.

8. Discussion T-hangar Policies – Schwartz asked that the T-hangar policies be reviewed so they can be adopted at next month's meeting
9. Manager's Report – McCullough reported door for the Repair Shop is here. No date yet on installation. Doing some maintenance on the V plow controls/valves.
10. Airport General Maintenance – Nothing new.
Airport Lighting Outside – Schultz reported on lights out on SE side of new FBO entrance
Airport Signage – Nothing new.
11. Chairman's Report – Schwartz commented that the airport budget was as good as it has ever been. Currently at about 76% and after December, expenses should come in at about 80%. Schwartz asked McCullough to compile a list of area airports with maintenance services available. Full-time maintenance is available at less than half of surrounding airports. Merrill is one of the few airports in the area that offers full-time aircraft maintenance.
12. Aviation Happenings – Schultz reported on conflict between the 5G activation and potential problems with altimeter radar on passenger and freight planes. The interference problems will have to be worked out. Some 5G operations may be controlled in a perimeter around airports. Another topic was a proposal to force carbon monoxide detectors on front-mounted single engine planes. Too early to tell if it will be required yet.
13. Public Comment – None.
14. Agenda Items for Next Meeting –

Review T-hangar policies.

City T-hangar repair projects.
15. Adjournment – Motion by Banser to adjourn; second by Weix. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Lyle Banser