

Minutes Merrill Airport Commission

Wednesday January 20, 2021

Present: Joe Malsack, Gary Schulz via phone, Gary Schwartz and Mark Weix (Alderman), Rich McCullough (Airport Manager).

Also: Larry Wenning, Ian Morgan(Camera Man).

1. Gary Schwartz called the meeting to order at 6 pm.
2. December 2020 minutes were reviewed. Joe M. made a motion to approve the minutes, Gary Schulz seconded. Motion passed.
3. Vouchers were passed around and discussed. Joe M. made a motion to approve paying the vouchers, Gary Schulz seconded, Motion passed. Our 2020 expenses came in significantly under budget. In the new budget for 2021 we removed the credit card expense line. This credit card line had been used to pre-pay rental car fees for business jets flying in to Merrill to do business here. Those expenses were repaid to the City at the time the car was used. There was never any real cost to the City. Supplies line for \$680.00 was for new tie downs hardware that was not installed this year in the new terminal area ramp. There is currently no provision for tying down transient aircraft on windy days.
4. Runway 16/34 project: Gary stated he has had a very productive month with moving forward. The 1975, and 2009 Master Plan both shows we have a need for a 16/34 parallel taxi way. DBT has not been back to correct errors in AWOS. Andy Timbal stated he may have a lightning detector for us. The main runway 7/25 by FAA guidance has to have 95% or less wind coverage to consider a crosswind runway. Karl Kemper has taken 10 years of data and put it into a spread sheet. The FAA data set used does not take into account or consider gust or calm winds events. Karl worked with a mathematician and found wind coverage is at 80% when considering gusting and calm event data. Gary contacted David Green with the BOA. They want us to go to the FAA with BOA in backup. Documentation in the FAA guidelines were then found. Gary read the information on wind, which matches what we have done on our own. FAA has now not responded to our request to meet and discuss this new information. The new data now shows that in fact for safety we do need the

crosswind runway 16/34. Gary will continue to work with the BOA for Federal funding of the 16/34 project.

5. Discussion Airport and T Hanger written policies: Gary Schulz has a draft started and was passing around to see if anything is missing or additions are needed.
6. Discussion/Decision fuel system credit card reader: Gary called Andy Timbal and found state aid program for 80/20 money for \$20,000. This will save the city \$15,000. Gary will have to fill out a number of forms for this money. Joe M. made a motion for move forward with 80/20 funding for the POS System. Mark W. seconded. Motion passed.
7. Discussion F-84 Display and Mounting: Army Core of Engineers wants a call in Feb. 2021 to get on list. Rich will contact next month.
8. Discussion T Hangar Project: TIF district 11 money - Mark states they are trying to get funds to support this project. There is a city meeting coming up Feb 9th on this subject. We are asking for \$200,000 to help with the building of the T- hangar. Gary Schwartz quoted that 85% of all new manufacturing and or additions occurs within 10 miles of a business class airport. Merrill is a Business Class Airport. We still have 18 people on the waiting list for hangar space.
9. Manager's Report: The city crew has brush cutting done on the south of runway 7 and Rich wants to clear the area east of the new terminal next. The fuel farm hoses have to be replaced this year. They are at the end of their 10-year life span. 5 hoses at about \$1000.00 each. The bid for labor from Northwest Petroleum to install is \$300.00 approx.
10. Airport General Maintenance/outside lighting/airport signage: Gary Schulz made a quick drawing of a sign for the airport. Drawing was passed around and discussed locations of 3 signs, one on Champaign / Taylor St. one on Airport Rd / Taylor St. one by maintenance building entrance to replace old existing sign. Gary Schulz is thinking of fund raising for possible funding of signs. Phone number also was suggested to be added to signs. Dual sided signs with arrows showing directions were also discussed.
11. Approve Return of Hangar Deposit: Gary Schulz made a motion to return Doug Droust \$500.00 deposit on building his hangar. Hangar is built and only has some ground work to complete in spring. Mark seconded; motion passed.

12. Chairman's Report: Obstructions on approaches, trees are getting too tall.
Gary is trying to get this added to the construction projects.
13. Aviation Happenings: Christmas decorations around airport, very nice. Thanks to the volunteers for putting up and taking down. 737 max is flying again with new pilot training. AD on Piper PA28 and PA32 wing bolts. Electric airplane development is growing fast.
14. Public Comment: Larry Wenning; Drotam – Drone Notice to Airman.
Unmanned large research drones are being flown in different areas of the US. These areas are not noted in normal briefings.
15. Agenda Items for Next Meeting: Unleaded fuel for our system vs 100LL.
Young Eagle rides or some other event for airport promotion.
16. A motion to adjourn was made by Joe M., seconded by Mark Weix. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by Joe Malsack