

**CITY OF MERRILL
AIRPORT COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING MERRILL AIRPORT TERMINAL 6:00 PM**

I. Call to Order Present: Chairman Schwartz, Schulz, Malsack, Banser, Alderperson Weix Jr.

Others present: Rich McCullough (Airport Manager Non-voting)

II. Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting

1. **March 20, 2024 meeting minutes** - Malsack motioned to Approve. Alderperson Weix. seconded and the motion Passed.

III. Approval of Vouchers

1. **March 2024 Airport & Fuel vouchers** - Review and initial vouchers. Malsack motioned to Approve. Weix seconded and the motion Passed. Schwartz commented that due to the mild winter, the Airport grounds were improved and clean up done (rock piles hauled away, brush cutting). The Airport is probably as clean and orderly as it has ever been. All agreed. Talked about some remaining paving/cementing projects by the new garage and how that expense will be covered. Schwartz is working on consolidating and or eliminating any under used phone lines to the Airport.

IV. General Agenda Items for Consideration

1. **Runway 16/34 Project Status** - Schwartz reported the budget containing the re-authorization bill is now in conference. Funding for crosswind runways is under assault by FAA, which is now referring to crosswind runway as additional or extra runways, which is totally misleading because they provide safety to pilots operating when winds are not favorable or safe for landing on a main runway. Wausau Downtown Airport's crosswind runway project has now been shut down by FAA. Reportedly because they did not meet FAA's unwritten "justification" requirements. There are 965 crosswind runways in the US that are now under threat of loss of funding by FAA. Malsack reported that he has been in touch with Dustin at the City Street Department on the topic of crack filling on Runway 16/34 to extend the usable life of the runway.
2. **Fuel Farm Maintenance** - McCullough reported all new hoses are installed and that we may have to buy a load of Jet A fuel to keep the supply up. Discussed the price of fuels to stay competitive.
3. **Jet A fuel truck** - Schultz reported nothing new in the sale of the fuel truck. He renewed the ad for the truck.
4. **Airport Signage** - Malsack reported on signage that notifies the public walking up to the building that they are on camera and also a sign on the

runway side of the FBO to notify pilots that to gain admission to the building, they must use CTAF.

5. **Update on the F-84 Monument** - Nothing new. Waiting on response from Air National Guard.
6. **Airport General Maintenance** -
 - a. **Acquire used box snow blade for our tractor** - Nothing new to report.
 - b. **AWOS** - The system is still waiting on a part for lightning detection. Schulz reported the AWOS signal is now excellent.

V. Chairman's Report

1. **Master Plan** - The third of four meetings is being held tomorrow (April 18).
2. **Economic Impact Study Aviation** - Schwartz reported that Evan Krueger is working on the Economic Impact Plan. It may be available in June.
3. **Maintenance Hangar** - Progress with the hangar is currently at the 30% design stage. Showed a preliminary sketch to all present.
4. **RRL Fuels P&L** - Schwartz is working with Rich and Brandi to determine the true cost and profit of fuel sales.
5. **Telephone Service** - Schwartz is working on Airport phone lines.
6. **Garage Maintenance** - As discussed earlier, the remaining work to be done on the garage.
7. **Governance Policy** - There is a need to establish standards for usage of the Airport, so there are no problems with businesses or individuals on Airport grounds.

VI. Aviation Happenings Will have a report on Boeing next month.

VII. Public Comment McCullough reported that a group called 99 Group will paint the compass rose by the FBO. Discussed the paint and who will provide the paint. He reported about a company that records radio traffic to keep track of planes using Runway 16/34. Costs are being checked on.

VIII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting The next meeting will be May 15 at 6:00 PM - Discuss holding a movie night at the Merrill Airport.

IX. Adjournment Malsack motioned to Adjourn. Schulz seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Lyle Banser. Minutes published by City Clerk Anderson-Malm.

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