

**CITY OF MERRILL
AIRPORT COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING MERRILL AIRPORT TERMINAL 7:00 PM**

- I. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. by Gary Schwartz
Present: Banser, Malsack, Schulz, Schwartz, Alderperson Weix Jr.
Present Not Voting: Larry Wenning, Alderperson Lass, Mayor Hass, Kraig Hanig
- II. **Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting**
 1. **July 17 Meeting Minutes** - Malsack motioned to place minutes on file.
Alderperson Weix Jr. seconded and the motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Vouchers**
 1. **July vouchers** - Banser motioned to approve. Malsack seconded and the motion passed.
- IV. **General Agenda Items for Consideration**
 1. **Discussion on Runway 16/34 Project** - Wausau did get approved for their crosswind runway reconstruction. We think FAA is working on more justification requirements beyond what they have already shared with us. We do not know what they may be. We have enough operations to meet the 500 justification for 16/34. Currently, we are not getting operations recorded after 4 pm and at weekends. FAA will not take extrapolation numbers; they want actual numbers. AOPA contacted Gary Schwartz for a meeting. They are concerned about what is going on with crosswind runways. 950 crosswind runways in the U.S. could be at risk.
 2. **Discussion/Decision on Deer Ramps** - No report. Kraig's contact has retired. Currently, we may have 1 deer on the field.
 3. **Discussion, City to Follow Up on Hatz Hangar Structural Issues** - City to Follow up on Hatz hangar structural issues. Lyle talked to Lyman and is considering turning the hangar over to someone else to repair and own. Gary Schulz will discuss this with him. City will follow up on their end if nothing happens.
 4. **Jet A Fuel truck sale** - Gary Schulz got one hit from Barnstormers' ad; he turned it over to Rich, but there is no current information. Kraig will find out if the city can come and free up the brakes. The engine runs fine. We will need fuel hoses and tank frame rails which are hardwood. Mayor Hass suggested that we list the truck at the Wisconsin Surplus Auction.
 5. **Update F-84 Monument** - Waiting on a decision in September.
 6. **Airport General Maintenance - update** - PTO on a lawn mower making noise. Interstate landscaping was here filling in washed-out areas per Kraig.

7. **Antique Aircraft Show 2025/2026 - discussion and update** - Bob looked into an antique aircraft show and is looking for avenues to move forward. Discussion on show vs judging was brought up.

V. Chairman's Report

1. **Master Plan update** - Put on hold due to FAA having not approved our data submitted to them. They have been sitting on the plan for 4 months. Evan Krueger BOA has been calling every 2 weeks to find out status. We do not want to finalize the Master Plan until the FAA has approved our submitted data.
2. **Economic Impact Study Aviation update** - Currently sitting in the Public Affairs Information Bureau at the Governor's office. Gary has contacted some of our representatives, and they have had no luck getting information.
3. **Maintenance Hangar update** - Financing of the hanger is complicated. Gary will get people to come and update the commission and the city on how the financing will work. The city will have to pay only 10% of the total cost of the project.
4. **RRL Fuels P&L update** - No update.
5. **Telephone Service - update** - No update.
6. **Garage Maintenance - update** - Waiting for money from the sale of the rock to pay for maintenance and shingle on the garage so we can match the shingles on the house.

VI. Aviation Happenings Finding alternative fuel to replace 100LL turning into a mess. Manufacturers are going STC route to not release formula, causing engine companies to not allow use of these new fuels for warranty concerns.

VII. Public Comment We had to cancel the movie night at the airport due to the weather. We will try again next year. Dylan asks if we could have it inside a hangar. We will have to work on it and see if any are available. Bob L. asked about the flight simulator here at Merrill. Red Bird flight simulators run approximately \$7000 to 2.8 million, like the one just installed at Mankato's flight school. Without a certified flight instructor to oversee its use, the hours logged on the simulator cannot be logged as training. Flight instructors are hard to find with all the younger students trying to get into the airlines.

VIII. Date and Time of Next Meeting - Wednesday, September 18 The time for the September 18th meeting is 6:00 pm.

IX. Adjournment Malsack motioned to adjourn. Banser seconded and the motion passed.

Minutes prepared by J. Malsack and published by City Clerk Anderson-Malm
The minutes are in draft form until approved at the next scheduled meeting.

