

**CITY OF MERRILL
AIRPORT COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING MERRILL AIRPORT TERMINAL 6:00 PM**

- I. **Call to Order** Gary Schwartz called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
Present: Joe Malsack, Gary Schulz (remote), Gary Schwartz, Alderperson Mark Weix Jr. Lyle Banser was excused.
Others: Larry Wenning, Alderperson Lass, Steve Krueger, Rich McCullough
- II. **Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting**
 1. **Minutes from the October 16th meeting.** - Malsack motioned to approve. Alderperson Weix seconded and the motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Vouchers - Budget Discussion**
 1. **Consider approving the October vouchers.** - Alderperson Weix Jr. motioned to approve. Schulz seconded and the motion passed.
- IV. **General Agenda Items for Consideration**
 1. **Discussion Runway 16/34 Project** - Still waiting on the FAA. They are talking about maintaining the runway, and we have been talking about rebuilding the runway. Gary Wilson wants us to investigate a maintenance project. Gary Schwartz stated we have been talking about a rebuild since 2012. Gary Schwartz will request construction for possible 2026/2027. AIP program has surplus money from last year. Other airports can utilize some of these funds. Gary Schwartz will investigate criteria needed to request funds.
 2. **Status of deer ramps.** - Discussion to talk to Dustin to build a dirt ramp along the north side of the fence for the deer to get out. No budget currently and too wet to get in. They will start in 2025. Currently 3 deer on the field. Rich is working with Merrill PD to remove the deer on the airport.
 3. **Discussion - Jet A fuel truck repair/sale - transfer to the City** - Dustin at the city states they cannot use the truck. Discussion followed to have it trucked to an auction site and be sold.
 4. **Update F-84 Monument** - Working on budget for the 2025 year, they are looking for funding or possibly taking back.
 5. **Discussion - Airport General Maintenance** -
 - a. **Lightning** - Waiting on Van Ert for a quote on repairs. Gate software is only thing missing for west gate.
 6. **Discuss and consider the transfer of ground lease hangar 18 from Hatz to Roth** - Gary Schulz made a motion to transfer ground lease Hatz to Roth.

Joe M seconded. Motion passed. City requires ground lease fees be paid prior to transfer.

7. **Discuss and consider ending the ground lease reservation of Bright Silver LLC** - Joe M. made a motion to withhold the \$500 deposit for-hangar spot that never started construction within 12 months. Mark W. seconded, motion passed.

V. Chairman's Report

1. **Master Plan update** - Still on hold by the FAA.
2. **Economic Impact Study Aviation update** - Still held up in the Governor's Public Affairs office.
3. **Maintenance Hangar update** - City passed the building. Sponsor letter signed by the mayor. This reduces time in process to keep moving forward. Shortens about 3 months of time in overall process. We are now looking at February bid. We did not get the January bid. We are hoping to get competitive bids to keep costs down. Access to hangar due to we do not want all the traffic coming thru the terminal. Looking at moving the fence on the east side or putting a walk-in gate on the west side on the blacktop.
4. **RRL Fuels P&L update** - Gary will work with the city on the accounting.
5. **Telephone service update** - No report. Still working on.
6. **Garage maintenance update** - Concrete poured and looks very good.

VI. Aviation Happenings FAA has allowed A&P to use helpers. They ruled no unsupervised workers allowed without A&P not at location. Due to mechanic shortage, it was reversed. Boeng losing money and selling off Starship business. Wausau airport will be reduced to 75 feet wide on runway 5-23 instead of the current 100-foot-wide runway. Basic Med changed ruling on more passengers and heavier weight aircraft. We now have an audio-visual system to use at the airport from the profits of the snack bar funds.

VII. Public Comment Joe M. will be working with Dylan on 3 movies playing in 2025, 2 at Normal Park and 1 at the airport; dates to be determined. Steve hosted an online safety seminar, through the FAA, the 2nd Wednesday of the month. 15 people showed up for November with more attending through the winter.

VIII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting and Date and Time of Next Meeting Trees growing thru fence. Error on 1 lease in T-hangar. The next meeting - Dec. 18th at 6:00 pm.

IX. Adjournment Joe M. made a motion to adjourn, Mark W. seconded, motion passed.

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

