

**CITY OF MERRILL
AIRPORT COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING MERRILL AIRPORT TERMINAL 6:00 PM**

- I. Call to Order** Chair Gary Schwartz called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
Present: Lyle Banser (remote), Joe Malsack, Gary Schulz, Gary Schwartz, D7
Alderperson Mark Weix Jr
Others present: Airport Manager Rich McCullough, Larry Wenning, Merrill
Community Media
- II. Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting**
 - 1. Minutes from the March 19th meeting.** - (Schulz/ Malsack) motion/second to approve. The motion passed.
- III. Approval of Vouchers - Budget Discussion**
 - 1. March Revenue/Expense report** - (Malsack/Banser) motion/second approve
The motion passed.
- IV. General Agenda Items for Consideration**
 - 1. Discussion Runway 16/34 Project** - The FAA has had our Master Plan sitting for 14 months, causing the delay. ALP has to be approved within 45 days of receipt. We couldn't get the ALP started without the Master Plan not being approved. Wisconsin is a block grant state, and they should not be able to block us. They are looking to 2030 to replace the runway. Legacy crosswind runway, a new name for the crosswind runways.
 - 2. Maintenance Hangar Status - discussion** - The BOA is potentially awarding us an \$800,000 entitlement with no fees or pay back. The only catch is the money has to be spent by September 1. A May start of construction is possible. Gary Schwartz will work with the City Executive team and City Council to get all the paperwork completed to get the money.
 - 3. Discussion/Decision on the Snow Plow Blade - Joe** - Joe and found a 12-foot push blade only used for 1 year for \$2500.00. It attaches to the bucket with d rings in the bucket. Rich will discuss it with Kraig and look over it for the next meeting.
 - 4. F-84 Monument - update** - Rich is working to get the paperwork ready to return the Jet to the Army engineer group. No money available to restore it at this time. They only restore one aircraft a year and the F84 is not on the list for restoration.
 - 5. Discussion/Decision on Movies at the Airport** - Moving forward with everything. Crazy Fresh will allow us to park on their property if needed. Extra donations are still coming in. We will need some volunteers to help that night. We also have a back-up plan in case of rain. Chambers website, fliers around town for local advertising. We have a meeting with the Chamber next week.

6. Airport General Maintenance - discussion -

- a. Update - lightning damages** - Rich is working with Van Ert, waiting for rail light, but should be coming to start work next week, weather permitting. The west gate still has problems with programming. The company is still having problems with gate, still not working. Rich recommended replacing all the components due to programming issues. This is a safety concern due to fire department cannot get in if an emergency occurs. AWOS is up and running, covered by the State of Wisconsin. Parts were only replaced at this time. We are still on the list for a whole new system.
- b. Status of the deer ramps** - Waiting for the city when they have time and weather permits. We will have to work on this during the summer.
- c. Discussion regarding trees growing through the security fence** - Dustin will look at when working on deer ramps, possible when they are slow looking for work. We may have to pay someone to do it.
- d. Maintenance hangar pass-through door update** - No report.
- e. Status of the flag pole** - Quotes of \$1800 - \$2500 for a 20-foot pole with a 5 ft sleeve that goes into the ground and will stand up in high winds. Just looking at 1 pole at the new terminal and ground-based lights for ease of maintenance. Discussion about flag pole down at the Armory.

V. Chairman's Report

- 1. Master Plan update** - No report.
- 2. Economic Impact Study BOA** - No news and no one will talk.
- 3. RRL Fuels P&L** - Gary Schwartz is working on this.
- 4. Telephone Service - update** - No report.
- 5. Garage Maintenance** - Still trying to get money owed for the rock used.

VI. Aviation Happenings Multiple aircraft crashes recently with a variety of causes.

VII. Public Comment

VIII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting and Date/Time - Wednesday, May 21 at 6:00 pm

IX. Adjournment (Malsack/D7 Alderperson Weix Jr.) motion/second to adjourn. The 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.