

**CITY OF MERRILL
AIRPORT COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025 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: Lyle Banser (remote), Joe Malsack, Gary Schulz (remote), Gary Schwartz, D7 Alderperson Weix Jr.
Present Not Voting: Rich McCullough - Airport Manager, Larry Wenning, Kraig Hanig
- II. **Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting**
 1. **April Minutes** - (Malsack/D7 Alderperson Weix Jr.) motion/second place minutes on file. The motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Vouchers** Reviewed and signed vouchers to get paid. Joe made a motion to pay vouchers. Seconded by Mark. Motion passed. No financial reports sent out with minutes. Commission reviewed Gary's copy.
- IV. **General Agenda Items for Consideration**
 1. **Discussion Runway 16/34 Project** - WAMA has sent a letter to FAA and Sean Duffy in regards to runway rebuilding delays. Merrill was one of only several specific airports reviewed in the text of the letter. Gary sent a second letter directly to Secretary Duffy at US DOT.
 2. **Maintenance Hangar Status - discussion** - BOA is working with other airports to release the funds they cannot use. BOA has not released the contract yet. The contractor has to prove he has \$800,000 in the ground by August 21, 2025. The contractor has not ordered materials yet due to delays on the contract.
 3. **Discuss and consider the Snow Plow Blade** - Kraig inspected and stated the snow blade will work for the airport. We will have to have rings installed in bucket for attachment. Joe made a motion to purchase from MLD, Lyle seconded. Motion passed.
 4. **Discuss and consider a refund of the hangar development downpayment** - Deposits are non-refundable as was explained prior to signing paperwork. Mark made a motion due to past practices we will not refund the money back. Joe seconded, passed.
 5. **F-84 Monument - update** - Rich is working to get the paperwork ready to return the Jet to Army engineer group. Two representatives will be coming in June to inspect the airplane.
 6. **Discuss and consider Movies at the Airport** - Moving forward with everything. Rain location at Les and Jim's. Just need help and power installed on the outside of the vault. Foto News is writing an article about the movies.
 7. **Airport General Maintenance - discussion** -

- a. **Lightning Damages - update** - Rich stated the uplink to the internet was damaged in the last storm. The AWOS is transmitting and can be reached by phone. Problem is waiting on part with no update. Van Ert has been working on, but delayed today due to the rain. Trying to get all new parts for the west gate thru the insurance.
- b. **Deer ramps - update** - Waiting on city when they have time and weather permits. We will have to work on this summer.
- c. **Trees growing through the security fence - update** - Dustin will look at when working on deer ramps, possible when they are slow looking for work.
- d. **Maintenance hangar pass through door - update** - No report.
- e. **Flag pole - update** - Armory flag pole is not available. Dustin checking if they have any.

V. **Chairman's Report**

- 1. **Master Plan update** - FAA sitting on forecast plan now for 15 months. Without this approval we cannot get the ALP approved.
- 2. **Economic Impact Study BOA** - No news; no one will talk.
- 3. **RRL Fuels P&L** - Gary Schwartz is working on.
- 4. **Telephone Service - update** - No report.
- 5. **Garage Maintenance** - Still trying to get money owed for the rock used.

VI. Aviation Happenings Airport damaged due to tornado in Kentucky. Many aircraft and life flight helicopter destroyed. Flying Hamburger Social will be happening June, July, August Wednesday nights for summer.

VII. Public Comment Merrill is the finish line for the Air Cup Race for EAA, July 20. Tractor tire replaced. Keypad in terminal to go onto ramp not working at times. Rich will replace. Hamburger night June 11 at Merrill at 5 pm. Rich received a check for land rent, the farmer wants clear about 10 acres on the hill north of 7/25 runway by fence, not on the approach end. They would like 5 years of rent free. Lots of rocks and tree stumps to remove. Gary stated Karl stated ok. Kurt Zastrow is back with the Citation Jet for the summer. Gary has been talking to Rep. Callahan about grant for Merrill Airport. Letters of support for \$2.2 Million possible for new maintenance hangar.

VIII. Agenda Items & Date/Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 18 at 6:00 pm Vents on t hangars damaged, SRE building/old FBO buildings, which one to sell. Rent on land. The time for the June 18th meeting is 7:00 pm.

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

Minutes are in draft form until approved at the next scheduled meeting.