

**CITY OF MERRILL  
AIRPORT COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2025 MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING MERRILL AIRPORT TERMINAL 7:00 PM**

- I. **Call to Order** Gary Schwartz called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm  
Present: Lyle Banser, Joe Malsack, Gary Schulz, D7 Alderperson Weix Jr.  
Present Not Voting: Rich McCollough - Airport Manager, Larry Wennig, Kirk Zastrow, Kraig Hanig
- II. **Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting**
  1. **June 18th meeting minutes** - (Banser/Malsack) motion/second place minutes on file. The motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Vouchers**
  1. **June Revenue and Expense Report** - (Banser/D7 Alderperson Weix Jr.) motion/second approve. The motion passed.
- IV. **General Agenda Items for Consideration**
  1. **Discussion Runway 16/34 Project** - No new reports. Still waiting on FAA to approve.
  2. **Maintenance Hangar Status - discussion** - All the contracts have been signed and we will now start building. Currently, BOA will be giving us \$850,000 towards this project with no pay back. Gift to Merrill Airport. It has to be spent by August 19<sup>th</sup>.
  3. **Follow-up T Hangar damage** - Rich still working on quotes. Still trying to figure out caps for vents. Furnace vents discussed.
  4. **Follow-up Movies at the Airport** - On track for August 1. Power being set up by Todd Nienow.
  5. **Update F-84 Monument** - The two gentlemen did not show. Rich has not been able to contact him. Not sure if deployed. Rich will try to keep reaching out.
  6. **Discussion/Decision - T Hangar Rental Rates** - Discussion on raising rents has been over 5 years since the last increase. Discussion followed with Rich showing pricing of other airports. Joe Malsack made a motion to raise rents by \$10.00 on T-hangars. Gary Schulz seconded. Motion passed. 22 people on the list were waiting for hangars. Rent will now be \$145, \$150, \$155. For the three sizes of T-hangars.
  7. **Discussion/Decision Airport General Maintenance** -
    - a. **Lightning Damage - update** - So far, over \$55,000 damage on claim to insurance, not including gate repair. Possible \$10,000 to \$15,000 for the gate

repair. Concern over insurance dropping coverage. We have done lightning mitigation in 2018 to reduce lightning strikes. Did help some. Ground rods in fence every 200 yards. Should we have someone come in again to check the system for lightning mitigation? Are there new technologies available?

- b. **Status of Deer Ramps** - City did not put a backing on the pile. We need to get in and correct.
- c. **Maintenance Hangar pass through door update** - No report.
- d. **Status of flag pole** - Gary and Bev Schulz have offered to purchase the flag pole and all we have to do is install. 125 mph capable. We will add to the next meeting for a decision.

## V. **Chairman's Report**

- 1. **RRL Fuels P&L** - Gary Schwartz is working on.

VI. **Aviation Happenings** 787 seems fuel was turned off on takeoff, causing the crash. Seems there are lots of engine problems on airliners returning to airports with fire coming out. UAV sprayed fields around Merrill due to wet ground. They stay at 10 ft to apply chemicals to crops. They did call notam's in to local airports. Drones were being used for search and rescue for missing people in Texas.

VII. **Public Comment** Kirk Zastrow asked who has control of the AGRA hangar. Discussion followed and Gary Schwartz told him who to contact.

VIII. **Agenda Items for Next Meeting** Lightning mitigation, golf cart failing-replacement with a multi-role utility vehicle.

IX. **Date and Time of Next Meeting - Wednesday, August 20th at 7:00 pm**

X. **Adjournment** (Banser/D7 Alderperson Weix Jr.) motion/second 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.*