

**CITY OF MERRILL
AIRPORT COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026 MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING MERRILL AIRPORT TERMINAL 6:00 PM**

- I. **Call to Order** Chair Schwartz called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
Present: Lyle Banser, Joe Malsack, Gary Schulz (remote), Gary Schwartz, D7 Alderperson Mark Weix Jr.
Present Not Voting: Rich McCullough (Airport Manager), Larry Wenning
- II. **Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting**
 1. **Minutes from the February 18th meeting** - Gary Schulz made a motion to approve the February minutes with 4 corrections. Agenda VI. 1. Joe Malsack spelled wrong. Minutes V. e. 5. Should be Tom Oneal not Tiffany. Under Merrill Municipal Airport 2026 Goals established a. Joe Malsack spelled incorrectly, d. should be Tom Oneal, not Tiffany. Seconded by Joe Malsack. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of Vouchers - Budget Discussion**
 1. **Consider the vouchers and reports.** - Reviewed and signed vouchers to get paid. Joe Malsack made a motion to pay vouchers. Seconded by Mark Weix. Motion passed. Reviewed financial reports and discussed.
- IV. **General Agenda Items for Consideration**
 1. **Discussion Runway 16/34 Project** - ALP is signed at BOA and Becker/Hoppe has been approved as contractor. Becker/Hoppe should have all the paperwork done by the end of March. It then has to go back to BOA for approval. Then they will be sent to the FAA, and they will have 45 days to approve. Hopefully we have final approval in June, and we will still fall under the 2.5% money our cost. Otherwise, we have to pay 5% if not approved this year. Possible construction in 2028.
 2. **Maintenance Hangar Project status** - Estimating completion date June 13th, 2026. The heated pad in front of the hangar will be extended to the walk in entrance of the terminal building due to being damaged while working next to.
 3. **Follow-up on T-Hangar damage** - Waiting until spring for work to be done. Vent covers were measured and Rich will be ordered; interior lights were replaced on the west side of t-hangars. Some of the east side we cannot access due to airplanes cannot be moved to access. We will be working with the renters to move their planes so we may access. Water leaking in around overhead lights found and was sealed during the warm weather.
 4. **Update on Current FBO Maintenance Hangar - discussion/decision** - Joe has been working with John at the city getting a quote to replace the north door. The quote came in at over \$5300. Consensus is not to replace it at this time.

5. **Airport Standards (policy and operations)** - Gary has been updating and still working on. FBO and Airport Manager Contract he separated and sent to city attorney for review.
 6. **Update F-84 Monument** - No report. Are we going to return or keep and repair? USAF Museum Rich is in contact with now via email.
 7. **Discussion/Decision - Airport General Maintenance** - Joe is working on: Remote receivers for gates on east end installed. North gate is working but need to check programming on south gate and waiting for better weather. Nienow has the light to replace by Kaiser's hangar, just waiting on truck availability and good weather. Temporary fix on 100LL door and reel for ground broken. Parts between the 2 over \$600. Approval was given for Joe to order parts.
 - a. **Lightning Damages update** - Final bill was received and was sent to insurance to get paid.
 - b. **Status of Deer Ramps** - The city will come out when they have time and weather permitting. There are deer inside the fence currently.
 - c. **Trees growing through the security fence - update** - No trees on the fence were cut, but trees in the bog on approach to 16 were cut. Finished off the trees on approach and submitted to the FAA. Brush cutting still progressing along runway 07. Approach to 07 end of the runway all cleared except for 3 trees by fence.
 - d. **Flag pole - status** - Waiting on the city for installation in the spring.
 8. **Cory Krasslet to lease T-Hangar #2 - discussion/update** - Joe Malsack made a motion for Cory to lease unit 9. Lyle Banser seconded. Motion passed.
 9. **Consider bathrooms on east side** - No discussion at this time.
 10. **Consider enforcement of our current hangar policy - each hangar at RRL must contain at least one currently registered and operable airplane. -**
- V. **Chairman's Report Fuel Budget:** Gary is working on a spread sheet for profit and loss.
- VI. **Airport Department Manager Reports & 2026 Issues/Goals Discussion**
1. **Event Coordinator - Joe Mulsack** - No report.
 2. **ASO - Aviation Safety Officer - Steve Krueger** - Not present today but did hold to safety seminars at the Terminal building in March.
 3. **RAF type functions - turf runway, support and ops - Lyle Banser** - He has been in contact with the Wisconsin representative and will have a meeting at Merrill to look over. Bike availability was discussed, along with a campsite and a possible bunkhouse. List of things to do after landing in Merrill.
 4. **RRL Website - Tom O'Neal** - No report.

5. 2026 Issues/Goals discussion/update -

- VII. Aviation Happenings** Gary Schulz ask when was the 1st in flight movie shown? 1925 Lost World on a flight from London to Paris on Imperial Airlines. Silent film and would later have an orchestra and broadcast the sound by radio for the people to hear. This was not the earliest, 1921 Aero Marine Airways in Chicago, showing Howdy Chicago film to promote Chicago while flying around the city. What was the cause of the 2 military C135 accident? Rich had a group come thru from ODC to tour the shop. 1st group since covid.
- VIII. Public Comment** Need 45,000 airplane mechanics in next 20 years. Fox Valley states they are only getting 40 students per year. Rich has one student from Merrill High School working as an youth apprentice. Payton Hagenbucher starting in June for the next school year. Molly graduated and is currently attending Wyoming State University. Fuel prices we had to raise due to cost.
- IX. Agenda Items for Next Meeting**
- X. Date and Time of Next Meeting - Wednesday, April 15th at 6:00 pm**
- XI. Adjournment** Lyle Banser made a motion to adjourn, Mark Weix seconded, 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.