

City of Merrill

Airport Commission Meeting at Merrill Airport Terminal

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Voting Members present: Joe Malsack, Gary Schwartz, Mark Wiex Jr (Alderman), Lyle Banser via phone, Gary Schulz via phone.

Public Present: Larry Wenning, Steve Krueger.

1. Gary Schwartz called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. Approval of Minutes: No meeting in October due to not enough voting members present. No minutes to approve.
3. Approval of Vouchers: Reviewed, and Joe Malsack made a motion to pay vouchers. Mark Wiex seconded. Motion passed.
4. Runway 16/34 Project status: Gary Schwartz had a meeting with FAA and BOA in Appleton at the WAMA Convention. FAA working on justification process for crosswind runways. FAA is thinking of using operations counts on runways by using ADSB. Gary asked how many aircraft have ADSB, only 50% FAA responded. So how can they justify usage of a runway with only 50% data. They are changing regulations as they are going along. Fifteen airports in Wisconsin are on the list of losing funding on crosswind runways.
5. Update Entitlement Projects 2022/23: Grass planting did not get done and will be finished in spring. Final payment will be made after work completed in spring.
6. Discussion/Decision Acquisition Fuel Farm Maintenance, issues/parts: Gary talked with Shannon from M&M and they will rebid repairs. Waiting on estimate.
7. Discussion/Decision Airport Manager/FBO Contract Update: Not sure if anyone signed the contract yet.
8. Discussion/Decision Jet A fuel truck: Rich not present to discuss.
9. Update Airport Signage: Joe M. no report, been sick and did not work on.
10. Update F-84 Monument: No update due to Rich's absence. Allen Haus has been deployed for 3 months. Coming home soon, possibly next meeting will have more information.

11. Airport General Maintenance: Quote for garage doors and openers. Rich is looking into. Moving the garage cost is approx. \$8000, concrete work approx. \$7000. We were reimbursed \$15000 for the use of the terminal as an office for the entitlement projects this summer. This will help offset the cost of the garage. Garage doors cost installed rough estimate \$2500. We sold rock to Interstate Landscaping for the hangar project and estimated refund to us is approximately \$4000-6000 to help with that expense. Garage will need some repair work next year so we will need to budget for it. AWOS not working. White light on beacon not working.

12. Chairman's Report: BOA asked Gary to be a part of the selection process for the engineering firm for the new t hangar and maintenance building. Becher Hoppe was awarded the contract. If everything works, we may have the foundations in place by fall of next year. We have another aircraft coming to Merrill from Minn. Rep. Callahan met with Mayor Hass along with City and airport representatives at the Terminal. Rep. Callahan may attempt to get a 1-time State Economic Grant for improvements to the Merrill Airport. Coffman Associates are working on the Master Plan, and the second meeting will be held in January. BOA is conducting an economic impact study of the airport, which is what Rep. Callahan needs for the grant. This project is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 24.

13. Aviation Happenings: We have a new FAA administrator finally. New aircraft company from New Zealand coming to US and manufacturing here due to larger market. Similar aircraft to Icon and with better safety.

14. Public Comment: WIFI north end not working, talking with Dustin at the city.

15. Agenda Items for Next Meeting: WIFI on south side of airport. T-Hangar Use Policy.

16. Adjournment: Joe M. made a motion to adjourn, Mark W. seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes prepared by Joe Malsack