

City of Merrill  
Airport Commission Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 19, 2022  
Merrill Airport Terminal

Members Present: Gary Schwartz (Chairman), Joe Malsack, Lyle Banser, Gary Schulz (via phone), Mark Weix Jr. (Alderman), Rich McCullough (Manager)

Public Present: Larry Wenning, Steve Krueger, Draco Finch (cameraman)

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Chairman Schwartz at 18:00.
2. Approval of September 21, 2022 Minutes – Motion by Malsack; second by Weix, with correction of last name in No. 14, to approve minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Vouchers – Vouchers reviewed. Motion by Banser to pay vouchers; second by Malsack. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Runway 16/34 Project Status – Wind analysis data was turned over to the Bureau of Aeronautics (BOA) to be forwarded to FAA ADO. Schwartz contacted Andy Trimble, who is our engineer to check the status of the submittal. Nothing was happening after four weeks, so Schwartz contacted Trimble again by email; and was then notified that the Wind Analysis is now approved by BOA. Schwartz then was in contact with the Bureau Director of BOA who agreed to send the data on to FAA ADPO.
5. Update Entitlement Projects 2022 – Crack filling should be completed today, October 19. A post-job meeting will be October 20 at 10:30 am. to review the job. Ramp construction has been approved and will proceed in the Spring. The top coat process, called GEE, will proceed in the Spring. Paint marking will happen Tuesday, October 25.
6. Discussion/Decision Airport Signage – Malsack displayed a sample of signage and locations of signs for taxiways. He is reviewing the regulations for signage and will be working with Beecher Hoppe to make sure they are within specifications. Also showed signs and discussed signs for 'Welcome to Merrill Airport' for drive ins, estimated cost at next meeting.
7. Repairs to Runway 16/34 – Center lines and lateral runway cracks will be done.
8. Discussion/Decision T Hangar 4 Lease to Craig Hanig – Malsack motioned to rent to Hanig; Schulz second. All ayes. Motion carried.
9. F-84 Monument – No report.
10. Airport General Maintenance McCullough reported the equipment is in good shape and

getting Winter equipment ready. Discussed the closure of Airport runway intersection. McCullough will be or will have someone on site for closure. Hangar door and lighting are on hold for contractor to have time.

11. Chairman's Report – Schwartz reported that National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) was at the Airport on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup>, as well as a representative from Lycoming Engines to investigate the cause of off airport landing of 93 Yankee (the training plane) and to determine the cause of engine failure. The engine was removed and dismantled in Schwartz's hangar. The engine was full of broken metal fragments. Preliminary findings are that the hydraulic valve lifters were at fault and will be investigated to determine the origin of the defective lifter.
12. Aviation Happenings – Schulz reported on light sport aircraft changes in Brazil. Gross weight moved from 1320 pounds to approximately 3000 pounds. Fixed pitch props to constant speed props. Speed allowed is 130 mph to 212 mph. We are anticipating that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will consider the move by Brazil in changes being considered in the US light sport regulations. Many more planes could be qualified into light sport if limits are raised.
13. Nomination/Vote Merrill Municipal Airport Commission Chair – Schulz made a motion to nominate Schwartz for Chair; second by Weix. All ayes. Motion Carried.
14. Public Comment – Krueger congratulated McCullough for completing his Certificate for Sport Pilot.
15. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – All carried forward.
16. Adjournment – Schulz motioned to adjourn; second by Weix. All ayes; motioned carried.

Minutes prepared by Lyle Banser