

Minutes

Airport Commission Meeting

Wednesday, January 16, 2013

Present: Gary Schwartz, Joe Malsack, Gary Schulz, Lyle Banser and Airport Manager John Miller

Also Present: Steve Krueger & Brian Hough

(1) Call to Order: Gary Schwartz called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

(2) Approval of the December 12, 2012 Minutes: Lyle Banser stated that Chris Hartwig's name was misspelled in the minutes. He then made a motion to ratify the minutes of the December 12, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Joe Malsack. The motion passed. John Miller said he would correct the name in the December Minutes.

(3) Approval of Vouchers: The vouchers were reviewed and signed by all. Joe Malsack made a motion to approve the vouchers. The motion was seconded by Gary Schulz. The motion passed.

(4) Update on 2006 Project: Gary Schwartz said there was nothing new on the Project at this time.

(5) 2013 Terminal Project: Gary Schwartz said he has been in contact with Mary Strait from the Bureau of Aeronautics, and she is actively seeking money for us to borrow from other Airports who has not used their entitlement money. Until she gets this done the terminal project is stalled. Gary Schwartz brought everyone up to date regarding the lighting placements for the new terminal area. Gary Schwartz said he attended a meeting with the City Management team and the poles will be possibly purchased through the Street Dept and they will also likely install them. Gary said the Airport may have to hire an electrician to make the final connections. Gary said conduit for one of the new poles is not in the ground and we will need one more base. John Miller will speak to Van Ert regarding this. John was also asked to get a bid from Van Ert regarding the poles.

(6) Discussion/Decision Transfer of Hanger 26 Ground Lease: Rich Prange has purchased Hanger #26 from William Holman. Gary Schulz made a motion to approve the ground lease change for hanger 26 from William Holman to Rich Prange. Lyle Banser seconded. Motion carried.

(7) Discussion–Airport Name: No discussion this meeting but will be kept on the Agenda.

(8) Discussion of RRL Marketing Program: No discussion this meeting but will be kept on the Agenda.

(9) Manager's Report: John Miller reported that the new furnace has been installed in the Maintenance building and is working good.

John Miller said the brush cutting is underway and is coming along good. John said the only problem is that the machine that was rented cannot cut right to the ground. The cutter is held up by two skids. This and the terrain controls how close to the ground it will cut. John said there is a

wet land in the middle on the cutting area and the DRN would never let us change that area enough to make it an area we could mow. John said that the area that was cut through Wednesday was bid at \$10,000.00 by Landing Clearing. John Miller said the rental of the machine is \$3,300.00 and with fuel and wages the cost should be just over \$4,000.00.

John said that he would like to purchase a file cabinet to hold City Records. Gary Schwartz suggested he ask downtown to see if they have any old ones. The consensus if there are no file cabinets available John was given permission to purchase a new one for approximately \$250.00.

There is a sponsor workshop in Madison this March in which John Miller and Gary Schwartz attend. They will decide later if they will attend.

(10) Chairman's Report: Gary Schwartz said that he has been in contact with Lori Weir, President of NTC, regarding promotion they want to do to.

John Miller said that he has been in contact with Bryce Kolpack at NTC regarding the possibility of bringing military C130s into Merrill to do military training. John Miller said he has contacted Steve Opatic from Becher-Hoppe and was told that a C310 has a gross weight of 155,000 pounds and our runways are only rated for 60,000 pounds. Steve said that if a C130 landed 12 times a year it would cut our runway life in half.

John Miller said there are times when it could be done, like the dead of winter or in fall after a dry summer. John said they also would need to come in at a lesser weight than they would normally use. John said that runway, taxiway and ramp life are very important and would let Bryce know our limitations.

Gary Schwartz said he will continue having conversations in the future with Lori Weir.

(11) Aviation Happenings: Gary Schulz said that the APOA announced today with the new congress forming general aviation is going to have to form new alliances. The challenges that they will be facing in 2013 are the user fee issues, new pilot growth, the Avgas alternative and the continued development of the next gen landing aids.

The FAA has grounded the 787 because of the wiring battery problems.

Gary Schulz said we should expect to see an increase in Flight Training. This will be due to an act of congress that was passed in August 2010 to increase the experience time for airline pilots. Gary gave a rundown of FAA regulation parts and what they entailed.

Eighteen months after the successful landing on the Hudson and another crash that cost many lives in 2009, Congress mandated changes needed to be made. In August of this year there will be a tightening of the Captains and First Officers requirements.

Gary Schulz said with these changes there seems to be a big window of opportunity for flight training.

(12) Public Comment: None.

(13) Agenda Items for Next Meeting: None

Gary Schwartz read the following from the amended agenda:

The Commission may convene in closed session pursuant to Wis. State Statutes Sec. 19.85(1)(c) and (f) for the purpose of considering terms of a potential additional Fixed Base Operator Contract at the Merrill Airport.

Joe Malsack made a motion to go into closed session. Gary Schulz seconded. The motion passed. At this time the Merrill Municipal Airport Commission went into closed session

Joe Malsack made a motion to come out of closed session. Gary Schulz seconded. The motion passed.

Gary Schwartz reported that the Commission did not make any decisions in closed session but did express a consensus to continue to work on the stated subject.

(14) Adjournment: Joe Malsack made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Lyle Banser. The motion passed.

These Minutes were recorded by John Miller, the Airport Manager and were ratified at the February 20, 2013 Airport Commission Meeting.