

Minutes

Airport Commission Meeting

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

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

Also Present: Larry Wenning, Steve Krueger, Bobby Kulp

(1) Call to Order: Gary Schwartz called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

(2) Approval of the June 25, 2014 Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes by Chris Malm. The motion was seconded by Lyle Banser. The motion passed.

(3) Approval of Vouchers: The vouchers were reviewed and signed by all. Lyle Banser made a motion to approve the vouchers. The motion was seconded by Chris Malm. The motion passed.

(4) Terminal Project Status: Gary Schwartz said that the scheduled start date for the terminal building is August 4th. Gary said there will be a pre-construction meeting on July 28th. Gary said the Mayor has signed the Contractor Performance and Payment Bond and sent it back to the Bureau of Aeronautics (BOA). Gary said the finished date for the terminal is 120 calendar days from the start.

(5) Update on 2006 Project: John Miller said that he and Steve Opatik, from Becher-Hoppe, have toured the site and were satisfied with Merrill Sand and Gravel's removal of the rocks and the top soil that was put in place. John said the grass is growing. John also said the drainage problems were fixed.

John said that the Fire Department tested the siren function on the new gate and it did not open. John said Steve Opatik said that he would have Fortess Fence look into that.

John Miller said Steve Opatik said that the roof problem on the vault will be fixed before winter.

(6) Update Fixed Base Operator/Airport Manager Search Process: Gary Schwartz said Dave Koch was in Merrill to meet with him and Dave Johnson this week to discuss his plans for the airport. John Miller said that he will meet with Dave Koch on Thursday to discuss the sale of John Miller Aviation.

John said that he has spoken to Johan Backlund from California, who has showed an interest in John Miller Aviation and the Airport Manager position. John said Johan runs a flight school with a partner in Riverside, California. John said that Johan was going to be in Wisconsin for Oshkosh and was planning to come to Merrill one day during that week.

(7) Airport Day 2014: John Miller said that the Lions will be doing lunch and the juggler is booked. John said he has spoken to both the Police Chief and Fire Chief and they have committed to bringing some equipment and personnel to Airport Day. John said we were unable to get Dream Flight or the Flight Simulator. John said they have both booked a three day event in Osceola. John said John Lumley will give the airplane rides and AGRA has agreed to the use of the hanger for the Flea Market.

Joe Malsack said that the flyers for the Flea Market have been mailed out and the spots are about half gone with some already outside. Joe also said he has gotten the Bounce House's and the Boy Scouts to run them. He also suggested that we should put the new tractor out for display.

Joe Malsack said he has spoken to both Heinz and Mary Roth regarding using their airplane for that day. He was told the plane was for sale but if it was not sold, we could use it.

John Miller said that John Miller Aviation would pay for the insurance for the sky divers. John said he would get in touch with Joe Hayden to get the chute repacked.

Joe Malsack said that Larry Wenning will be in charge of aircraft traffic control. Joe said he will handle the ground traffic. Joe said Steve Krueger and Larry Wenning will be doing the announcing.

(8) Discussion/Decision on a Terminal Ground Breaking Ceremony: Gary Schwartz said he has spoken with the Mayor and he agreed it would be a good idea to have a ceremony. Gary said it will be held on Monday, August 4th at 9:00 A.M. A motion was made by Chris Malm and seconded by Joe Malsack to have a ground breaking ceremony. The motion passed.

(9) Manager Report: John Miller said that top soil has been spread in some of the big holes on the infield where aircraft are parked on Airport Day.

John said that he purchased a new Stihl Weed Whacker for \$399.00. John said he bought the same one we had because it was here when he came ten years ago and gave us good service during that time. John said we are still working on catching up on the grass mowing.

John said that the Kubota has an oil leak and Rich will be working on it next week. John also said he will be pricing the broken plastic.

Gary Schwartz asked about the lights on Runway 16/34 and John said that he is burning them all the time right now.

John said that he has seen the two quotes for security cameras and the security system and the camera system. John said he was told by the BOA that the FAA will not pay for this expense. John said he will meet with Ron Turner about these expenses.

John Miller said that NTC would like to have an Open House this year during Airport Day. John said he would call over there and find out more details.

(10) Chairman's Report: Gary Schwartz said they are starting the Taylor Street project Monday, July 28th and said we should get rid of the water that stands on the corner of our property at the corner of Taylor Street and Airport Road.

Gary Schwartz asked about the phone lines on Champagne Street. John Miller said he spoke with Ron Turner and was told that one phone line will be charter but the other has to be Frontier because it is a 911 line. John said the Charter lines go out with power failures.

(11) Aviation Happenings: Gary Schulz said he had nothing to report at this time.

(12) Public Comment: Gary Schulz said that the current wind sock is so faded that it is hard to see. John said he has a new one that he keeps on hand and will get it replaced. Gary also said that the wind turbine on Roth's T-hanger needs to be replaced. John said he has one on order from Trantow's and will have it replaced in a couple of days.

Bobby Kulp said that in regard to the 3rd Class Medical issue he read that the AOPA will make an announcement at AirVenture.

Gary Schwartz said he did not have time to look into the cost of getting Mogas on the Airport but would look into it soon.

(13) Agenda Items for Next Meeting: Gary Schulz suggested we may need a closed meeting to discuss the contract with anyone applying for the FBO Operator/Airport Manager position.

(14) Adjournment: Joe Malsack made a motion to adjourn. Lyle Banser seconded. Motion carried.

These Minutes were recorded by John Miller, the Airport Manager and were ratified at the August 20, 2014 Airport Commission Meeting.