

Minutes  
Airport Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, July 24, 2013

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

Also Present: Larry Wenning

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

(2) Approval of the June 19, 2013 Minutes: Chris Malm made a motion to ratify the minutes of the June 19, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Joe Malsack. The motion passed.

(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 Lyle Banser. The motion passed.

(4) Update on 2006 Project: Gary Schwartz said the ribbon cutting ceremony was held Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Gary said he was very happy with the turn out. Gary said that about 48 people attended including Mayor Bialecki, City Administrator David Johnson, City Attorney Tom Hayden and Council Person Kandy Peterson from the City. Also attending was Randy Van Natta, Steve Opatik and Nick Golla from Beecher Hoppe and Mark Arnold and Eric Johnson from the Bureau of Aeronautics. The ceremony was also attended by personnel from the Chamber of Commerce, Merrill Police and Fire Department, NTC, local news media and WSAW Channel 7 from Wausau. John Miller said the ceremony went well.

John Miller said there are still larger than allowed rocks in the landscaping dirt. John also said he showed Nick Golla areas where the landscaping is too high and rain water is collecting on the edge of the taxiways. John said there are still quite a few problems with the electric gate and delays from Per Mar, the contractor handling the security system connecting the new gate to the old system. John said the delay with the gate is not a big issue at this time but everything will need to be corrected before they get paid.

John Miller also said the test plugs in the blacktop are too high and the plow will catch them this winter. John also said the hand gates are too far apart and need to be redone.

John Miller said there will be a meeting in about two weeks for a final walk through with American Asphalt.

John said he spoke with the BOA to see if there was anything formal he would have to do to open the taxiway. He was told to just take the barricades down and open it up. John said that was done right before the ribbon cutting ceremony.

John Miller said the BOA is waiting to see if there is any money left over from the project before deciding what we can do with the beacon. John said Beecher Hoppe will have final numbers for the Project shortly.

(5) 2013 Terminal Project: Gary Schwartz said we have \$395,000.00 for this project and that should be enough for a 36 x 65' building. Gary then passed out floor plans he received from MTS (Marathon Technical Services) and a discussion was held regarding these plans. Gary Schwartz said he would like to get the architect from MTS to attend the next meeting to discuss the Terminal Plans.

(6) Discussion/Decision Tree and Property Issues around the Airport: John Miller said he has looked at the airport property that adjoins the Van Der Geest property. John said there are not enough big trees to be removed that no one would do it for the trees.

John said he spoke with Beecher Hoppe to inquire whether there was any money available to do a tree survey. John said he was told that the BOA put the \$6000.00 that was there two years ago back into this year's project.

John said that Fort Worth has not informed him about tree infringements on the approaches. John feels that the approach for Runway 25 and Runway 34 need the most attention. John said he would like to do a tree survey next year with some entitlement money. John said with the removal of the NDB approach we do need a survey before contacting any neighbors.

(7) Airport Day 2013: John Miller said the flyers to the airports and letter to pilots are ready to go. John said Jane will start August 1st contacting merchants for door prizes.

John said he decided to make a change on the "Free Fuel" for the pilots. Instead of being reimbursed for fuel purchased they will have a chance to win \$150.00, just for flying in. John said we are on track with the Sky Divers, Police and Fire Department, Lions Club and Jerry's Music. John said there are meetings with the Foto News and WMTJ Radio Station.

Joe Malsack reported that the Bounce Houses will be back. Joe said Relay for Life will have a dessert after the breakfast. Joe also said the Simulator will be here and the Flea market spots are filling up.

John Miller said NTC has changed their plans and will not be doing an open house on Airport Day for budget reasons.

John Miller said we will have another meeting of Friends of the Merrill Airport in August just to make sure everything is on track.

**(8) Manager's Report:** John Miller said the field across the road is still too wet to be cut but with dry weather coming we should be able to get to it soon. John said a lot of the Airport has been cut once and with all the new areas to be cut, it is affecting the budget. John said decisions will have to be made as to what gets cut more than once.

John said the engine on the Kubota will need to be worked on this winter. John said coolant is disappearing from the engine and being pushed out the exhaust.

John said the materials are here for the roof but Tim Chapel cannot give a date when he will be here. All agreed the roof needs to be done by Airport Day.

John Miller said that the person who takes care of the summer outside work dislocated his shoulder at home and has been out of work for about a month. John said he is going to have to find someone to replace him.

John Miller said the lights on 16/34 are working automatically now.

John is looking for something to block the Mutz property drive way. Lyle Banser said that laying wooden poles would work.

Gary Schulz said that the Monument needs works. Gary said the bushes are overgrown and the airplane needs to be cleaned before Airport Day.

(9) Chairman's Report: Gary had nothing to add at this time.

(10) Aviation Happenings: Continental Motors has acquired the bought diesel aircraft engine manufacturer Thielert from bankruptcy.

Gary also reported that Hamburger Night Fly-in that has been held at various airports around the area have been a big success with in excess of 20 aircraft flying in if the weather is good. Gary said they had just come from the one in Antigo and they had a real good turnout. Gary explained this is a good way of getting people out and flying again

(11) Public Comment: None

(12) Agenda Items for Next Meeting: Terminal Building

(13) Adjournment: Chris Malm made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Joe Malsack. The motion passed.

These Minutes were recorded by John Miller, the Airport Manager and were ratified at the August 27, 2013 Airport Commission Meeting.