

AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Merrill Municipal Airport

MINUTES

Members Present: Chairman Gary Schwartz, Lyle Banser, Joe Malsack, Airport Manager Rich McCullough, Gary Schulz

Also Present: Steve Krueger, Larry Wenning, Luke Lazare, Dale Hubert

1. Meeting Called to Order - Chairman Schwartz called the meeting to order at 19:00 hours. He reported that Ryan Schwartzman was appointed from City Counsel to replace Chris Malm on the Airport Commission.
2. Approve updated minutes of March 2016 Meeting. Motion by Schulz, second by Malsack. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Vouchers - Vouchers were reviewed and initialed by all. Motion by Malsack, second by Banser to approve vouchers. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Terminal Project Status - Chairman Schwartz showed all present a sample of counter top granite to be used. Restroom door will be changed soon. Steve Krueger talked about choice of couch for Pilot's Lounge and will be working on window coverings, then wall coverings. Gary Schulz had talked to Courtside Furniture to stage wall coverings/plans and other furnishings and also put pricing on the staged items. There would be no obligation to buy and the Airport would be in control of items used. Steve and Karen Krueger and Gary Schulz will move forward.
5. Property Purchase Status - No change.
6. Runway 16/34 Project Status - Protection Zone Study isn't started yet because engineering for South Ramp will be done first. Chairman Schwartz talked with Bureau of Aeronautics (BOA) about Rebuild or Rehabilitation Project. Rehab is good for 10 years and Rebuild is good for 20 years. We will peel off black top, do all drainage projects, and see what the sub-soil and ramp bed look like as part of the Rehabilitation Project; and if the soil isn't suitable, the project turns into a Rebuild Project.
7. Obstruction Ordinance - Chairman Schwartz showed maps to all present of the approaches to Airport, with runway protection zones.

8. Grand Piano at the Terminal Long-Term Loan from Gary and Bev Schulz - Gary Schulz explained idea of grand piano being brought into the Terminal to bring a unique look and experience to the Airport. Motion by Malsack and second by Banser to accept loan of grand piano from Gary and Bev Schulz. The Schulzes agreed to purchase, maintain and insure the piano. This would allow people to play the piano, take lessons, and promote Arts and Music.
9. Manager's Report - Manager McCullough reported that he will be doing Rotax Service Center work.

Grass on 25 has had rock picked and tilled and some grading will be done after it dries a little more. Seed will be broadcast with a highway mix. Thanks to Larry Wenning for the donation of his tiller/equipment for working on the grass.

After grass is in good shape, Schulz suggested advertising/hosting Type Club events in Merrill, Warbirds, STOL (short take-off and landing) and formation flying to utilize our Northern Wisconsin location and promote the Airport/Community.

10. Airport General Maintenance - Discussed lightning suppression. Manager McCullough showed an estimate from Pieper Power, the contractor for work grounding and bonding, AWOS, fence and gate equipment, which should help to alleviate lightning damage. McCullough will call some other airports that have had similar work done to see if they had positive results.

Steve Krueger suggested we replace gate batteries. The batteries are six years old. All agreed it is time to replace them.

11. Chairman's Report - Chairman Schwartz reported and distributed a fuel report which listed prices of fuel for competitors around RRL. We are competing well with other airports and this report will allow us to continuously monitor prices. Also, will have a profit/loss spreadsheet. Schwartz proposed to have the two reports available for each month's meeting.

Schwartz is working on cameras to be paid for out of Entitlement Grant. The City paid for the security system initially and the BOA has agreed to reimburse 50/50 on that project.

Talked about the runway repair Mastic we paid approximate \$11,000 for that project and are trying to get the State to do a 50/50 or 80/20 for new maintenance of the new type of Mastic System.

Talked about land rentals. The renter is going to do some tree cutting in the agreement to rent.

Talked about drainage for field by Airport Road and Taylor Street.

Will be installing a cabinet/container by gas pumps to store gloves/funnels, etc. and, also, a waste can by the gas pumps.

12. Airport Days - Malsack reported on the Flea Market that Jody Malsack was working on. Joe is also working on new attractions/activities, to have radio-controlled airplane demonstration. Suggested the timing would be the day after Airport Day (Sunday) or separate weekend. Malsack and Dale Hubert will investigate for future action.
13. Aviation Happenings - Senate passed the Pilot Bill of Rights (PBOR2), which will now move to the House of Representatives. Working on a replacement of 100LL (low level) and several other issues are in the Bill.

Schulz explained changes in transponders.

Chairman Schwartz reported Mike Busch, a renowned mechanic, is formulating a business similar to AAA for aircraft, for an annual charge of \$120 to \$180 a year. He would cover aircraft with mechanical problems and offer advice and authorized mechanics. Will follow through to ensure reasonable charges and good repairs.

Rotax introduced a new 135 h.p. fuel-injected/turbo-charged engine.

14. Public Comment - Introduced other guests - Dale Hubert and Luke Lazare.
15. Agenda Items for Next Meeting - None
16. Adjournment - Motion by Malsack, second by Banser. All ayes. Motion Carried.

Minutes prepared by Lyle Banser