

AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING  
Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.  
Merrill Municipal Airport Terminal

MINUTES

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

Members Absent:

Also Present: Carl Kemper (representative from Becher and Hoppe), Camera Man Anthony Kromire, Alderwoman Mary Bell, Larry Wenning

1. Meeting Called to Order – Chairman Schwartz called the meeting to order at 19:00 hours.
2. Approve minutes of September 20, 2017 Meeting. Motion by Banser, second by Malsack. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Vouchers - Vouchers were reviewed and initialed by all. Motion by Malsack, second by Schwartzman to approve vouchers. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Discussion Mowing Equipment –Manager McCullough discussed the new mower and said he was initially disappointed with the ability to chop up saplings; but after discussion with the dealer and others, he found that the pull speed was too fast. After slowing the pull vehicle down, the new DR cutter was performing well.
5. Runway 16/34 Project Status – Runway 16/34 is past due for resurfacing maintenance. It is the Commission members' intention to extend 16/34 from 3000' to 3400' to allow planes with higher landing speeds, which are often commercial/business type planes, the option to land in Merrill when landing winds favor 16/34. To that end, Schwartz invited Becher Hoppe Project Engineer Karl Kemper to the October meeting to explain to the members of the Commission, Alderman, Alderwoman and public present the reason we have not been able to get approval from FAA officials. FAA uses IFA (Instrument Flight Rules) operation which are a very small portion of total landings taking place at Merrill Municipal Airport. Also, the FAA used a very old plane count based at Merrill which has since increased to 30+ planes. We agreed the plan moving forward should be in the form of letters from pilots that have either used 16/34 and feel it would be safer at 3400' or could not use the runway because it was too short at 3000'. Users of Runway 16/34 will be needed to justify the 3400' length especially commercial and student pilots. Please forward letters to Merrill Airport Commission and we will forward to FFA.

6. Lightning Suppression Project – McCullough met with the contractor on October 18 to survey equipment and grounding that is currently installed and recommended additional grounding to be done. He will keep us informed on any additional charges involved. PAPI Systems aren't working properly. East or 25 will be turned in to insurance because of lightning damage. The West or 07 will be airport maintenance.
7. Discussion/Decision T Hanger Rents – We discussed rents at the last meeting and Manger McCullough got some rent numbers from surrounding airports. Malsack made a motion to raise rents from \$125 per month to \$130 for small hangers and \$135 for medium end hangers and \$140 for large end hangers starting January 1. Schwartzman seconded the motion. We will revisit the hanger rents annually.
8. Discussion Planning New T-Hanger – Chairman Schwartz commented on the need for all present to start to think about developing hanger space at the new location. Currently, all hangers are rented and we have a waiting list. Possibly a T-hanger condo unit which could be added onto as needed.
9. Modification of Existing T-Hanger Units by Renters – the group discussed the possibility of allowing the building of a dropped ceiling in the individual T-hangers. The group decided to have McCullough supervise any building of or modifying of T-hangers to maintain a proper level of quality building materials and develop a standard for the ceilings. Additional lighting, at renters' expense, will be allowed with approval.
10. Flight Instruction Status – We currently have 5 students; 2 students working on IFR rating and 3-4 people are checked out to rent the plane. Schulz reported that 2 more new students signed up today, October 18.
11. Discussion/Decision City Dump Truck – City has a dump truck with a plow but no snowplowing wing. The question is, do we keep and maintain old truck which has an approximate 20' plow swath or go with the new truck with an 11' swath. McCullough will get an estimate to install a wing on the newer city truck. City also has a car that can be used to replace the older airport car.
12. Manager's Report –
  - McCullough reported flag pole is installed and will have a light on it.
  - RTL Electric contractor will be working with McCullough to replace T-hanger lights with LEDs and repair various lights around the airport. Schulz suggested a yard light at the North entrance to mark the entrance and light the key pad.
13. Airport General Maintenance –
  - McCullough will ask RTL for suggestion on entrance lights.
  - Have received quotes from 4 different sign makers. Should be able to report at next meeting.

McCullough reported on brush cutting and clearing of fences on North side of airport.

14. Chairman's Report – Chairman Schwartz reported provider for AWOS may change in 2018. He asked that rock piles and other obstructions be put on the airport map for future cleanup.
15. Aviation Happenings – Nothing new this month.
16. Public Comment – Wenning offered his tractor, a 35 h.p. with brush hog and loader, if necessary to help with fall brush cutting.
17. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – None.
18. Adjournment – Motion by Malsack, second by Banser. All ayes. Motion Carried.

Minutes prepared by Lyle Banser