

City of Merrill  
Airport Commission Meeting Minutes  
March 20, 2019  
Merrill Airport Terminal

Members Present: Gary Schwartz (Chairman), Lyle Banser, Joe Malsack, Steve Osness (Alderman), Gary Schulz (via conference call), Rich McCullough (Airport Manager)

Public Present: Karl Kemper (Becker, Hoppe and Associates), Steve Krueger, Anthony Kromire (Cameraman)

1. Call to Order-Meeting called to order at 1900 hours by Chairman Schwartz
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 20, 2019-February Minutes read and approved. Motion by Banser; second by Malsack. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Vouchers-Vouchers presented, received and initialed. Motion to pay vouchers by Malsack; second by Banser. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Runway 16/34 Project Status- Chairman Schwartz and Planning and Engineering Consultant Karl Kemper of Becker, Hoppe and Associates (BHA) flew to a meeting with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials on March 6, at the Great Lakes Regional Office in Des Plaines, IL. Discussed the requirement of 500 operations on 16/34 to justify a crosswind or alternate runway. We provided numbers of operations in March of 2018. Some FAA representatives are questioning the type and approach speeds of planes that were included in our original report; and were those operations needed or could some or all of them be done on 07/25 runways. Some FAA officials are asking for new information that is not as written in FAA regulations regarding justification of crosswind runways. We are dealing with a moving target from some FAA representatives and have asked them if we are to use the criteria that is documented in writing or other unwritten opinion. All at the meeting agreed to honor the written rules for runway justification. We are now waiting on FAA to recognize the existing written FAA documentation or to solidify their need for data that is not written into FAA regulations for qualifying reconstruction of crosswind runways.
5. FAA Petition for 16/34-Is in need of approval and signature of city official.
6. Airport Day 2019-Malsack reported he was waiting for this month's meeting to determine if reconstruction of 16/34 would be underway for summer of 2019 , since it is not likely we will begin planning for Airport Day.
7. Manager's Report-AWOS System will be moved from old FBO to new FBO by next month. McCullough reported a runway light was hit and that he reported it to insurance. He removed snow and ice from roof of FBO to avoid water problems and has a temporary sump line run at the house until the normal line thaws.
8. Airport General Maintenance-
  - T-Hangar Issues-Nothing new.
  - Lightening Suppression Project Status-Is completed and will be tested during Spring/Summer lightening season.
  - Fuel System Update- Fuel system is working well.

Chairman's Report (not on Agenda)- ALP was done in 2010 and a supplement was added in 2016. Copies will be available from the Bureau of Aeronautics.

9. Aviation Happenings- Schulz reported there has been a nomination to head the FAA, an ex-employee, senior vice-president of operations at Delta Airlines. Will have a good background for the job.

Schulz also reported that Ballistic Recovery Parachutes are working when needed. They have a good safety record when deployed and have saved lives.

Schulz reported 737 Max 8 and 9 are under scrutiny since two crashes claimed the lives of all on board. They are trying to determine all related causes. The planes have been grounded almost everywhere until causes are addressed.

10. Public Comment-None.
11. Agenda Items for Next Meeting- Use of entitlement funds; A WOS System; Airport Day.
12. Adjournment-Motion by Malsack; second by Osness to adjourn. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Lyle Banser