

City of Merrill  
Commission Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 15, 2019  
Merrill Airport Terminal

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

Public Present: Anthony Kromire (Cameraman)

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Chairman Schwartz at 7:00PM.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 17, 2019 –Motion for approval by Malsack; second by Osness. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Approval of Vouchers – Vouchers reviewed and initialed. Motion by Banser to pay vouchers; second by Malsack. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Runway 16/34 Project Status – FAA appears to be rewriting the rules and holding project up. FAA has ignored existing written guidelines.
5. FAA Petition for 16/34 – Nothing until we get the project approved.
6. Airport Day 2019 – Malsack reported that Jody Malsack has the hangar about halfway booked up with vendors. Reserving bounce house. Simulator is booked. He is contacting Dream Flight. He is also working on the sound system. McCullough ordering portable toilets for Airport Day and one to be placed by North hangars.
7. Ground Lease Rates – McCullough will survey surrounding airports for ground lease rates and report next meeting.
8. New Hangar Incentives – Schwartz asked members to consider a possible incentive to hangar builders interested in new site; possibly two years no ground lease charge. Potential advantage is greater tax base.
9. Entitlement Grant Projects – BOA agrees that Tomahawk entitlement has been paid back; but Tomahawk would like us to take the entitlement back to Merrill to utilize before it expires. Using the Tomahawk entitlement may allow us to complete more projects; AWOS, SRE, ramp extension, plane tie down area, possible rehab of runway surfaces, truck port.

10. Airport Vehicular Traffic/Airport Regulations – Had discussion on who and what vehicles will be allowed to use taxiway between old and new FBO areas. All agreed we need some rules to reduce chance of conflict on runways/taxiways with the intention of only airport vehicles and designated airport personnel allowed to operate on all runways/taxiways; with exception being the short portion of taxiway between the NE hangars and old FBO area. We will be establishing rules for operating around Airport facilities. Motion by Malsack to purchase three portable radios and needed strobe lights to equip airport vehicles; second by Banser. All ayes. Motion carried.

11. Manager's Report –

Manager McCullough reported stump removal will be done soon on the old Bennis property.

West gate was not working due to a bad receiver; but gate is now operating. Fiber optic for gates is still in the works for construction.

City has an F150 we will be using at the Airport.

City Garage did the maintenance on the tractor and trucks. Thanks to Rich and City Garage.

McCullough will get costs for porta potty to be used during summer months.

Wausau Airport does not have a maintenance shop at this time; and a lot of that work is coming to Merrill.

Discussed lighting on the ramps. Schwartz reported the City lift truck will be beeded to help with the ramp lighting so should happen in next couple of weeks.

12. Swift Fuel vs 100 LL – Discussed advantages/disadvantages, if any. We will continue to build experience with the new 94 swift fuel into the future.

13. Airport General Maintenance –

T-Hangar Door Issues – McCullough will be working on them soon.

Lightning Suppression Project Status/Fiber Optic – Project is done. We haven't had lightning yet this season to test it. This topic will be removed from the Agenda.

FBO Roof Repairs – Nothing new.

Garage at Airport House – Nothing new.

14. Chairman's Report –

Schwartz asked to schedule a Public Notice Meeting for proposed projects using Airport entitlement money, starting at 6:30PM prior to June meeting.

Reported on a new product/method to fill cracks [that may be more durable] in runways/taxiways. We would like to get a price on the new product.

Commented on three ponds on Airport. They were not draining properly. McCullough will check into it.

Talked about the WiFi that is becoming available all around the Airport.

15. Aviation Happenings – Schulz reported on the significant shortage of pilots. He also reported on Space X, the private company launching 60 satellites at one time which, when deployed, will provide internet coverage.

16. Public Comment – None.

17. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – Discuss incentives for new hangars.

18. Adjournment – Motion by Malsack to adjourn; second by Osness. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Lyle Banser

**Note:** Minutes are not official until acceptance at the next Airport Commission meeting.