



**Airport Authority Board of Directors  
Minutes of April 15, 2020**

**Via Teleconference: John Picard, Kevin Arnold, Gerald Weiner, Anthony Verderame, Peter Leonardi, David White, Vin Petrini, Sean Scanlon, Jim Yeske, Rich Jacob, Matthew Hoey III, Peter Wilson, Daniel Adams**

**Directors Absent: Karen O'Connell, Mark Sklarz**

**Others in Attendance: Jorge Roberts, Jeremy Nielson, Felipe Suriel, Jeff Wood, Evan Warren, Karen Wait, Mark Zaretsky, Alicia Seremet, Ilona Cambron, David Reger**

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The meeting was called to order at 1604L by Chairman, John Picard.

There was a Motion to approve meeting minutes from February 19<sup>th</sup>. Motion approved.

**1. Executive Director's Report**

- Mr. Scanlon reported that the airport had a really significant win in the courts – a victory many years in the making. The court let the appeal stand, however this news has not gotten the attention needed due to the coronavirus situation. He thanked Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, and specifically Hugh Manke, for their efforts.
- Mr. Scanlon provided a brief report on the recent airline activity. There is still a lot of going on despite the slowdown in aircraft traffic. Mr. Scanlon thanked Mr. Nielson and Mr. Suriel for their hard work and commitment to sustaining the airport during these uncertain times.
- Mr. Scanlon reported to the Board that American Airlines approached the airport submitted a request for their rent and fees to be deferred for a period of time. Deferred payments will be due by December. Rental car agencies approached the airport seeking a similar arrangement, which has also been granted.
- Mr. Scanlon reported that the congressional delegation informed him that the airport will be receiving \$1.16 million dollars from the CARES Act. Mr. Scanlon thanked Ms. DeLauro and Mr. Blumenthal. These funds will go a long way keeping airport staff employed and keeping airport facilities operational.



- Mr. Scanlon discussed the FY2021 budgeting process and reported he would be meeting with the finance committee to review a draft for the Authority to consider.
- Marketing efforts have been paused due to the coronavirus impact on the economy. Approximately \$200K has been committed by several community Tweed supporters. Once the economy begins to show signs of sustained rebound, AvPORTS will enter into agreement with Digital Surgeons, a New Haven-based firm.
- The Airport continues to make progress with the master plan update and we remain focused on meeting the project timelines so that we do not lose momentum. Interest in airport development continues to be high and we want to make sure we are primed for growth. Mr. Scanlon reported he has had conversations with community leaders for enhanced community packages.

## **2. Chairman's Report**

Mr. Picard stated that we should keep our momentum in the Master Plan efforts.

## **3. Audit and Finance**

- Mr. Arnold reported that operating expenses were high in the month of January. February expenses were similar as well due to the court case cost of \$24,000, however we remain in the black year-to-date.

## **4. Report and Action Items**

Resolution 498: Acceptance of Grant Offer from Federal Aviation Administration for the Threshold Relocation of Runway 20 Agreement. Motion was called and unanimously approved.

Resolution 499: Acceptance of Grant Offer from the Federal Aviation Administration for the PAPI Installation Reimbursable Agreement. Motion was called and unanimously approved.

Resolution 500: Approval of Award of Construction Contract for Kobo Utility Construction Corporation on Threshold Relocation and PAPI Installation on Runway 20. Motion was called and unanimously approved.



Resolution 501: Acceptance of Funds from the FAA through the Coronavirus Aid and Relief Economic Security (CARES) Act. Motion was called and unanimously approved with amendment to the resolution to include the \$1.1 million dollars in funding.

### **Airport Manager's Report**

Mr. Nielson invited Mr. Jorge Roberts and Ms. Ilona Cambron to discuss the current perspectives on the airline and airport industry.

- Ms. Cambron informed the board that a large portion of the CARES Act funding will be allocated to the airlines. There are some people that are saying this situation is similar to September 11<sup>th</sup>. However, industry experts agree that this cannot be compared to anything in history. American Airlines will have at least 3 flights a week through October. There have been a lot of cancellations and we are monitoring the situation. Tweed air carrier enplanements have been down consistent with what is being experienced throughout the country.
- Jeff Woods reported that the FAA is taking a hard look at airports that have taken a hard hit. We want to avoid a situation of people feeling left out on Master Plan meetings due to technology. There might be some pushback from the FAA on how Covid-19 may impact the forecasts.

### **5. Other Business:**

None.

### **6. Public Comment:**

No public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 1658 by Mr. Picard.

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Respectfully submitted -

**Felipe Suriel, Assistant Airport Manager**