



## **Airport Authority Board of Directors**

### **Minutes of July 20, 2022**

**Via Teleconference:** John Picard, Kevin Arnold, Peter Leonardi, Serena Neal-Sanjurjo, Gerald Weiner, Kenneth Dagliere, David White, Matt Hoey, Joe Ginnetti, Vin Petrini, Rich Jacob, Linda Hennessey, Ray Pompano, Mark Sklarz

**Directors Absent:** Robert Ellis

**Others in Attendance:** Sean Scanlon, Peter Kirsch, Jeremy Nielson, Felipe Suriel, Brett Simon, Suyash Raiborde, Mark Zaretsky, Eliot Jameson, Steven Wight, David Reger, Bryan Hoffman, Johnson Chang-Fong, Hugh Manke, Jeremiah Wilhite, Lorena Venegas, Sal DeCola, Beverly Willis, Alana H., Shirley McCarthy

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Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

#### **1. Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 15<sup>th</sup>. David White made the motion which was seconded by Serena Neal-Sanjurjo. The Chairman declared the motion adopted unanimously.

A motion to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting on July 12, 2022. David White made the motion which was seconded by Serena Neal-Sanjurjo. The Chairman declared the motion adopted unanimously.

A motion to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting on July 13, 2022. David White made the motion which was seconded by Matt Hoey. The Chairman declared the motion adopted unanimously.

#### **2. Executive Director's Report**

Sean Scanlon discussed the following:

- The first lady, Jill Biden, landed today about 12:30PM and will be leaving shortly. As always, the team did a great job with the operation, even with a few days short notice. We worked very well with Avelo to make it all work. We appreciate everyone's cooperation and welcome the special guest.



- We want to thank Dan Adams, Anthony Verderame and Karen O’Connell who recently left the board. We welcome the new board members: Kenneth Dagliere, Linda Hennessey, and Ray Pompano. Kenneth and Linda currently serve on the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee. The new board members replace the previous East Haven members. Peter Leonardi’s term did expire on June 30<sup>th</sup> as were several others on the New Haven side. In compliance with the State law, New Haven and East Haven charters, board members will serve until replaced. Once the fourth new board member from East Haven has been appointed, he/she will replace Peter Leonardi. As soon as that is settled, we will do a new member orientation to get them up to speed.
- We had a meeting several weeks ago at Nathan Hale School pursuant to the lease agreement that was passed by the New Haven Board of Alders last fall granting the Authority a 43-year lease. One of the provisions of that lease is that we will have a meeting every June to update the community. From that meeting, Mayor Elicker and I forged an initiative working with Avelo on a voluntary basis to adjust flights into New Haven later and early arrivals. As a reminder, all of the Avelo planes comply with the New Haven noise ordinance. Andrew Levy deserves a lot of credit and has been responsive to the concerns of both Mayor Elicker and me.
- We expect to have a finalized draft version of the Environmental Assessment in the next couple of months. Once the FAA has reviewed it, it will be shared with the public via a public meeting, and there will be a 30-day public comment period.

David White commended Sean Scanlon on the parking option for the airport at Union Station. Sean informed the board of the ParkHVN website that allows passengers to see almost real-time availability of spaces. We have also put in permit application to New Haven City Plan Commission for an additional 507 spaces near the terminal. Adding spaces on site will help reduce traffic circling around the airport.

Kenneth Dagliere asked Sean Scanlon about the process of the EA. Sean explained that once the draft EA is submitted to the FAA, the FAA will then give us the green light to publicly disclose the document, which will then be followed by a 30-day public comment period.

### **3. Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman thanked Karen O’Connell, Anthony Verderame, and Dan Adams for serving on the board. He also welcomed the new members Linda Hennessey, Ray Pompano, and Kenneth Dagliere. Each member then introduced themselves to the board.



#### **4. Audit and Finance**

Kevin Arnold reported the following:

- Both May and June financials are included in the Board packets. In May, we ended in the black for the month, but for the year we are in the negative by just a little over \$1 million dollars. For the month of June, the net income increased by \$436,000 which dropped the year to date negative to just under \$594,000. We have a lot of costs associated with the new project especially with legal, audit, and engineering expenses. These amounts will be recouped once the facility lease is signed with Avports.
- The parking situation is a good problem to have. However, the offsite parking adds an extra cost to operate the passenger shuttle.
- Overall, revenues from parking have been beneficial to us. When the budget was put together a year ago, fuel flowage fees were budgeted to be higher, and unfortunately have been low. Concessions revenue has seen a big drop especially in car rentals.

Rich Jacob asked about the future of general aviation as it relates to fuel flowage fees. Jeremy Nielson stated that Avelo pays \$3 cents per gallon on fuel flowage fees but the general aviation generates substantially more. Fuel prices have been high which has contributed to the lower amounts of fuel sold.

#### **5. Airport Manager's Report:**

Jeremy Nielson reported on the following items:

- The Taxiway AFG Realignment project is ongoing and making progress. We are getting ready to put down pavement as part of phase two of the project.
- We had our FAA inspection last month. It went well with only a minor correction required and that was fixed on the spot.
- We will be repainting the airfield next month. The markings on the runway have been worn due to the higher activity of aircraft usage.



- On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, there are fewer flights which allows us to reduce the parking staff, saving money on our budget.
- We are currently working on legal, audit services and car rental RFPs and should be putting them out soon.
- Received proposals for the FIDS system and have a firm that we would like to continue conversations with.

Kenneth Dagliere had asked about the runway expansion and when it is expected to begin, whether it has gone out to bid. Sean Scanlon stated that none of that can occur until the EA process has been completed.

## **6. Report and Action Items**

Resolution #561 – Approval of Award of Contract to NENA Construction Inc. for the Residential Sound Insulation Program Phase 6. Motion to approve by David White seconded by Matt Hoey. Resolution was unanimously approved.

Resolution #562 – Approval of Agreement with Safety Marking Inc. for Airfield Painting. Motion to approve by Matt Hoey seconded by Mark Sklarz. Resolution was unanimously approved.

Jeremy Nielson informed the board that this agreement is to paint the airfield markings which is done typically every year. This project is normally covered out of City capital funds, but we are now paying it out of the operating budget. We are also looking into painting at least twice a year due to the level of activity, especially on the runway.

Kenneth Dagliere inquired about the east side terminal and runway projects and the process of moving forward with permitting, etc. Sean Scanlon explained that the EA is studying the recommendations of the Master Plan. The Master Plan recommended that the terminal should be built on the east side of the airport, as well as the runway expansion. Sean explained that as far as the permitting, it is something that has not being determined yet until the EA is fully completed, and if the projects are considered feasible.

## **7. Other Business**

None.



## **8. Public Comments:**

Lorena Venegas stated that she attended the special meetings on July 12 and 13 and did not have the correct meeting information. She also stated that the meeting packet was not posted within 48 hours on the website as part of the State Statute 267a. She also stated that several board members' terms had expired and that needed to be addressed. Lorena also felt that any freight amendment goes to the Board of Alders for a vote. Lorena had concerns about the runoff on the new parking space proposals and felt that it can affect drainage. Lorena felt that she deserved a seat on the Tweed New Haven Airport Authority board replacing Peter Leonardi.

Chairman John Picard stated that he wanted a Senior non-voting Advisory Committee of previous board members that can contribute to the board.

## **9. Adjournment:**

Chairman John Picard entertained a motion to adjourn. Matt Hoey made the motion seconded by Peter Leonardi. The Chairman declared the motion adopted and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:51 PM.

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Respectfully submitted-

**Felipe Suriel- Assistant Airport Manager**