



## **Airport Authority Board of Directors**

**Minutes of June 16, 2022**

**Via Teleconference:** John Picard, Kevin Arnold, Peter Leonardi, Serena Neal-Sanjurjo, Gerald Weiner, Dan Adams, David White, Matt Hoey, Joe Ginnetti, Vin Petrini, Rich Jacob,

**Directors Absent:** Anthony Verderame, Robert Ellis, Mark Sklarz,

**Others in Attendance:** Sean Scanlon, Rasmus Agerskov, Peter Kirsch, Jeremy Nielson, Felipe Suriel, Scott Luzzi, Matthew Lieber, Brett Simon, Suyash Raiborde, Mark Zaretsky, Eliot Jameson, Steven Wight, David Reger, Bryan Hoffman, Johnson Chang-Fong, Hugh Manke, Jeremiah Wilhite, Patrick Rowland, Lorena Venegas

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Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

### **1. Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 18<sup>th</sup>. Peter Leonardi made the motion which was seconded by Dan Adams. The Chairman declared the motion adopted unanimously.

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

Sean Scanlon discussed the following:

- We are now up to 13 arrivals and departures every day. We are seeing Avelo cut back a little bit as you all know the price of fuel lately. However, we are seeing robust growth in the service and ridership.
- You may have seen an article on the newspaper on parking and offsite options. We have taken a pause that: 1. We have found ways to work within our existing parking space for the time being with the help of the airport staff and Laz. 2. We launched a website, ParkHVN, to provide real time parking availability for the lots which helps passengers whether to park or take a ride. 3. We are continuing to look at other options possible in the future.



- We had the Special Olympians fly out of the airport and then return back into HVN on Sunday. We had Mayor Carfora here to send them off and Senator Blumenthal and Rosa DeLauro on the return. The New Haven Drum and Fife Corp attended the event as well in support of it.
- We continue to make great progress every month on the Environmental Assessment. We have an end of the month deadline which a draft will be submitted to the FAA for review. Once the FAA has reviewed it, it will be shared with the public via a public meeting, along with a public comment portion that has not been defined yet. There is a meeting to be held by the City of New Haven on the 28<sup>th</sup> in the Nathan Hale School.

Joe Ginnetti inquired about the noise abatement studies and the status. Sean informed Joe Ginnetti that the airport is required to conduct a noise study every year as required by the FAA. At the moment, there should be new noise study information that will be provided as part of the EA. We have already completed 160 homes for the sound insulation program based on the 2012 study. As part of the deal with Avports, there will be a \$5 million dollar community benefits package which \$3 million dollars will be used for noise mitigation.

### **3. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman stated that the Special Olympics event was exciting and thanked Sean for his efforts.

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

Kevin Arnold reported the following:

- We do not have the May numbers yet. As for the draft budget, it is prepared under the premise that we do not sign an agreement with Avports. When the contract does get signed, there will be a new budget made to be provided by the Authority. Expenses and revenues are just short of \$9 million. We are showing in the black \$20,000 and you will see a contingency for roughly \$249,000, which is something we have been unable to do for a long time.
- I would share a little caution on CARES Act money which was used to balance our budget, but we are also using \$1.2 million of other part American Rescue Plan money.



Rich Jacob inquired about whether the Authority's administrative expenses would be the only item not covered by the new lease agreement. Sean Scanlon informed the board that it is something that is part of the lease discussion. The budget we are passing for the fiscal year is essentially a budget that is independently without subsidy with the exception of a small amount (\$162,000) from the City of New Haven.

Motion to approve the FY 23 draft budget made by Vin Petrini and seconded by Dan Adams. Motion unanimously approved.

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

Jeremy Nielson reported on the following items:

- The Taxiway AFG Realignment project is ongoing and making progress.
- We have our FAA inspection coming up next week which includes 2 days of inspection, and a final day for review. We are prepping up for the visit with our local Ops team.
- We just received responses for airfield painting. We should be getting ready to work on moving that forward next week. However, it will not be done prior to our FAA inspection.
- We have created another baggage arrival on the curb next to the arrival building. This is to help with flights that arrive in close proximity.
- Laz Parking has been assisting with parking. They have personnel that greet customers that come in to guide them to correct areas and provide great customer service.
- We did some ORAT exercises and continue to do them today. This ensures that our operations goes unhindered and nothing is overlooked. We conduct daily calls with Avelo to make sure that we are ready for any potential impacts to the flight schedules.
- We will be making repairs to the terminal ramp soon. This will be in the areas where the overnight aircraft park.



- We have an RFP out for FIDS system due Friday. It will be a great enhancement for the public to get flight information.

Vin Petrini complimented Jeremy Nielson and the team during a visit to the airport in which one his family members traveled to Nashville. Vin Petrini stated that the process was smooth and well-orchestrated.

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

Resolution #559 – Approval of Change Order No. 2 for the Construction Contract for The Realignment of Taxiways A, F, and G & Ditch Maintenance. Motion to approve by Peter Leonardi seconded by Vin Petrini. Resolution was unanimously approved.

Dan Adams inquired about the cost of the project which were about \$175,000. Felipe Suriel stated that the larger portion of the increase was due to some areas that needed to be reengineered due to unforeseen issues. There were some minor items as part of the increase but overall

Resolution #560 – Approval of Airport Media, Advertising, and Branding. Motion to approve by Gerald Weiner seconded by Matt Hoey. Resolution was unanimously approved.

Dan Adams inquired about the length of the contract and concessions. Sean stated that they need more than a year to be adequately judged. The three-year contract gives the company time to grow the brand, however there is a termination in the agreement if their performance is lackluster.

## **7. Other Business**

None.

## **8. Public Comments:**

Lorena Venegas reported that there were some issues fencing on Thompson Avenue and requested to know what kind of hydroseeding will be used. She stated that in March Sean Scanlon had reported a federal application for marketing money in the amount of \$800,000. Lorena Venegas felt that federal money should not be used if there are private interests. She also made requests about the new terminal development as well other air quality and other studies.



Patrick Rowland stated asked what would be the total cost if the airport would to close tomorrow owed to the FAA in recapture, and would Avports \$70 million dollars plus the 10% come attached to the deal? Patrick also asked if the airport is committed to the community, why there has not an environmental impact study as suggested by Save the Sound organization.

Matthew Lieber had some complaints about the noise and the sudden increase in traffic. He also stated that when he moved into his house in 2020, he knew there was an airport but did not expect all the flights and the noise. He thanked Sean Scanlon for speaking to him about the noise from the aircraft.

**9. Adjournment:**

Chairman John Picard entertained a motion to adjourn. Peter Leonardi made the motion seconded by David White. 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**