



TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2022  
VIA TELECONFERENCE

**Members in attendance:** Ken Dagliere, David White, Matt Hoey, Linda Hennessey, Rich Jacob, Joseph Bertolino, Serena Neal-Sanjurjo, Carlos Eyzaguirre, Robert Ellis, Ray Pompano, Vincent Petrini, Mark Sklarz and John Picard (portion of meeting)

**Members absent:** Kevin Coyle, Joe Ginnetti

**Others in attendance:** Sean Scanlon, Jeremy Nielson, Hugh Manke, Felipe Suriel, Kevin Arnold, Jeremiah Wilhite, NBC News Connecticut, Jean Perry Phillips, Brett Simon, Kaydeen Maitland, Joan Delenick, Arturo Garcia, Kim Zolvik, Lorena Venegas, Eliot Jameson, Andrew King, Jorge Roberts, Toni Lorenti, Bryan Hoffman, Edward Fitzgerald, Mark Zaretsky, Peter Leonardi, Tim Sullivan, Wanda Bubriski, Kathryn Gallichio, Susan Bryson, Vivien Hinnicutt, Shirley McCarthy, Sophia Muce, Joe Giodarno, David Reger, Lianne Audette, Alana Haroskewicz, Susan Champion, Matthew Lieber, Dallas Dodge, Paul Champion, Gabriela Campos, Brian D.,

Vice Chairman Hoey opened the meeting at 4:03.

Mr. Hoey noted that Chairman John Picard was unable to attend the entire meeting so he will be hosting the meeting in his place.

Mr. Hoey entertained a motion to table approval of the Minutes for the September 21, 2022, regular meeting until November 2022 in order to address an omission. The motion was made and seconded and unanimously approved.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**— Mr. Sean Scanlon presented the following items:

Avelo hit a milestone of 500,000 passengers served in a year compared with 89,000 in 2019. Chicago service is being suspended for about two months. Nashville, Raleigh and BWI will drop one flight per week as Avelo adjusts for seasonal demand and high fuel prices. Avelo is committed to HVN and is currently discussing additional routes in 2023.

The Authority hopes to submit the Environmental Assessment (EA) in draft form by Friday or on Monday. The Authority will then wait for FAA comments and the greenlight to release it to the public and hold a public comment session as required and publish a comment response period.



The Authority will hold a Project Advisory Committee meeting next week. It will involve technical discussions and serve as an update on the status of the Environmental Assessment. Board members are welcomed to that meeting.

The Authority has received some correspondence from Mayor Carfora and Town Attorney Luzzi which include extensive FOI requests. The Authority has reached out to their IT firm, Janus Systems, for a quote on the cost of conducting the search of documents requested by the Town. On September 29th Town Attorney Luzzi sent an additional letter with 27 questions. The Authority has responded. Mr. Scanlon shared the letter with the Board. The Mayor responded yesterday objecting to some of the things said in that letter. Mr. Scanlon responded this morning in writing and suggested that the Mayor provide a date that the Mayor and Town Attorney could meet with the Authority and discuss the letter exchanges.

Mr. Scanlon also suggested to Mayor Carfora that he invite the Authority to a Town Council Meeting on December 6th to make a formal presentation and answer questions.

Mr. Scanlon asks for questions from Board members.

Linda Hennesey questions why the Authority states the Mayor was once favorable toward the expansion and now is not. She urges looking forward, not back and states that East Haven questions are more of a “yield sign” as opposed to a “stop sign” in regard to the airport. Ms. Hennesey asks that answers be provided to open questions.

Mr. Scanlon responds that there was much information provided before May 2021 when the project was endorsed and much information after, including the \$5MM community benefit package.

Ray Pompano agrees that having a meeting is important and believes everyone is on the same team. Mr. Pompano expresses his concern about questions from police and fire chiefs that haven’t been answered by the Authority. Mr. Pompano expresses concern that New Haven has a say in matters, such as cargo, but East Haven does not.

Mr. Scanlon responds that he has always returned calls to the chiefs. Mr. Scanlon notes he takes that FOI requests very seriously but sorting through emails on many subjects takes time.

Mr. Hoey asks for further comment.

Kenneth Dagliere states that he would prefer answers in writing to avoid “he says she says.” Mr. Dagliere also mentions that the Board members have a fiduciary duty to the Town as well as the Authority and supports the need for the chiefs for information.

Mr. Scanlon responds that in the June 21, 2022 “last offer” the Authority addressed public safety based on the available information and additional information will come during the EA process when plans are clarified, and that the Town is not going to be left on the hook for solutions to public safety concerns.



Mr. Hoey expresses that it is important to continue to talk about the past because not talking about the past would do a disservice to the future. There is something to be learned from where we were and where we are going, from offers, tentative agreements and rejections.

Mr. Hoey turns it back over to Mr. Scanlon.

Mr. Scanlon notes that they had to make some parking adjustments for staff temporarily last weekend due to unexpected passenger demands. Staff were moved to the vacant lot on Burr Street across from the airport. It was made clear to the neighbors that it is not permanent.

He also reports a security breach that recently occurred in which a rideshare driver drove on an access road on the east side following another vehicle with authorized access. This was treated as a serious incident and properly reported to the FAA. The driver was directed offsite and the Authority is examining ways to ensure future incidents do not occur in the future.

Following the conclusion of the Executive Director's comments, Mr. Hoey noted that Breeze Airlines is making the same kind of adjustments to service as Avelo.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** - Mr. Picard mentions the upcoming vote on the Advisory Committee which he strongly supports because each proposed member has significant knowledge about the airport and past history.

Mr. Scanlon reminds the Board that he and the Chair are open to any suggestions for additional nominees to the Committee. Mr. Dagliere asks if there are any nominees from East Haven. Mr. Hoey replies that Mr. Leonardi and Mr. Adams are from East Haven

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT-** Serena Neal-Sanjurjo turns it over to Brett Simon.

The August report reflected the change in the financial structure of the Authority, which is carried forward into subsequent reports. There was a P&L through August 19th showing a \$566,000 transaction cost paid by Avports and \$588,000 net income. After August 19th the P&L includes two new accounts: Airfield Account and Authority Administration Account. The former account shows a loss which is subsidized by Avports (Lessee), and the latter shows a small negative balance created by the timing of legal and accounting billing cycles. The Authority currently has enough cash to meet its liabilities.

**AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT**—Mr. Nielson's report is divided into two parts--the air side (airfield operations) and land side. (Terminal operations)

#### *Air Side Operations*

We are working on the FY23 airport capital improvement plan. We had a meeting with FAA on October 4, 2022 to discuss the ACIP. Next fiscal year is focused on runway extension and East Terminal design.



The taxiway realignment project is ongoing on the east side of the airfield. We are on phase III and anticipate phase IV to be completed in mid-November.

We have completed airfield painting with the exception of the terminal ramp. We are reorienting the striping to provide a better arrangement for Avelo aircraft.

Our new ARFF truck has arrived, and we are awaiting training on this new equipment.

Winter preparations are a priority. We have a meeting with Avelo and other tenants next week to discuss plans.

### Land Side Operations

We have chosen G Café to continue providing food and beverage service with an expanded menu. The agreement should be finalized next week.

The Authority will be issuing an extension of current car rental agreements through the holidays and then issue an RFP for possible new companies and extension of current companies.

A new flight information display system should be ready in mid-November.

We are installing concrete foundation around terminal to be used by temporary structures to protect against flooding.

Parking – we experienced an uptick in passengers recently. Some employees were required to park in the lot next to the airport, which was safely executed this weekend. The uptick seemed to be due to rescheduled flights to Florida after the hurricane and deep discounts offered by Avelo. On October 26, 2022, there will be a special meeting of the City Plan Commission to consider our request for an additional 248 parking spaces, most of which will be on the south side of the terminal. We would like to have some of those spaces available in December. We are also preparing to expand shuttle service to the State Street Garage for the holidays.

Mr. Nielson reports on efforts to reduce the carbon footprint by purchasing electric vehicles and fuel cells at the airport.

Mr. Nielson asks for questions.

Mr. Jacob asks for clarification of the location of the new parking spaces and Mr. Nielson points them out on a map presented to the Board. Mr. Scanlon adds that there have been a lot of negotiations with the City about a larger number of spaces and the 248 is expected to be a compromise that we can live with.

Mr. Pompano asks what FAA and environmental review was required for the parking application. Mr. Nielson responds by stating the FAA concern was about possible obstruction of the airspace (there is none) and the utilization of the old Runway 14/32 for parking (no



problem), and the TSA has approved the moving of the fence on the north end to add parking spaces and the environmental issues are being addressed as part of the application.

**ACTION ITEMS, RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Hoey entertains a motion to waive the full reading of the resolutions as part of the motion to make the meeting move a little more quickly. The motion was made and seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor of waiving the full reading.

**RESOLUTION #576: ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT OFFER FROM THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION FOR THE ACQUISITION OF SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT**

Mr. Nielson explains that this resolution is for acceptance of the FAA grant for two pieces of equipment needed for snow removal: a sweeper and a plow. FAA funding will cover 90% and PFC funding will cover the remaining 10%. This equipment will enhance service during the winter months.

Mr. Hoey remarks that the Board should note that there is no state or City funding required for this equipment, which is a change from equipment purchases in the past.

Mr. Hoey entertains a motion to approve. A motion is made and seconded. The voice vote by those in attendance is unanimously in favor of the motion.

**RESOLUTION #577: APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH J.A. LARUE FOR PURCHASE OF A SNOWPLOW**

Mr. Suriel points out the name of the vendor should be MB Companies, Inc.

Mr. Hoey asks for a motion to amend the resolution to make the vendor name change. The motion is made and seconded and the voice vote is unanimous in favor of the amendment.

Mr. Hoey entertains a motion to approve the amended resolution. A motion is made and seconded. The voice vote by those in attendance is unanimously in favor of the motion.

**RESOLUTION #578: APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH MB COMPANIES, INC FOR PURCHASE OF A RUNWAY SWEEPER**

Mr. Hoey entertains a motion to approve. A motion is made and seconded. The voice vote is unanimously in favor of the motion.



## **RESOLUTION #579: APPROVAL OF MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Hoey reads the names of the five nominees: Eliot Jameson, Gerald Weiner, Peter Leonardi, Dan Adams and Kevin Arnold. The terms of service are as stated in the previously approved resolution and the current resolution.

Mr. Hoey entertains a motion to approve. A motion is made and seconded. The voice vote by those in attendance is unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Scanlon notes that the last item 9 is a letter annual report to the Governor from Mr. Scanlon as required by statute. It outlines what has been accomplished in the past year and what is planned for the coming year. He urges Board members to review the document and Mr. Hoey suggests that questions will be entertained on the letter report next month.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

***Susan Campion, 82 Morris Cove Road, New Haven.*** Ms. Campion commends Mr. Hoey on his reference to history. Ms. Campion expresses the deepest appreciation of the letter that the Mayor of East Haven has submitted to the FAA requesting an EIS and her appreciation for residents expressing concerns about environmental impact.

***Kathryn Gallicchio, 97 Hyde Street, New Haven.*** Ms. Gallicchio expresses that the Authority's carbon efforts are nothing compared to the Authority's damage to the environment and asks that the EA public comment period occur after the holidays.

***Lorena Venegas.*** No address provided. Ms. Venegas states that she has attended every meeting and read every document. She states that the Authority should update the Master Plan to address the increase in projected enplanements and the community benefits plan and consider wetlands, noise, pollution and pesticide usage. Ms. Venegas suggests that the public comment period should be made in January and requests that Avports personnel be brought to any meeting with East Haven, including Jonathan Hunt,

***K Zolvik, 21 Forest Street, Branford.*** Ms. Zolvik states she is holding up an asthma pump and that her daughter has asthma and that the people of East Haven do not want the expansion of the airport. Ms. Zolvik states that Branford supports East Haven, and she supports the petition for the EIS and suggest that \$100MM is better spent on access to Bradley than at Tweed, which should remain a small airport.

***Margaret Wheeler, Branford, Short Beach, also Home in Morris Cove.*** Ms. Wheeler references Ms. Venegas position that the Master Plan Update should be further updated and asks why there is no air quality monitoring near the airport. Ms. Wheeler requests an environmental study on run-off to Morris Creek. Ms. Wheeler questions the adequacy of notice of meetings regarding the Master Plan.



**Lianne Audette, 166 Beach Avenue, East Haven.** Ms. Audette requests an answer regarding dump trucks in the early morning. Ms. Audette states DEEP will be looking into Morris Creek impacts and is concerned about future eminent domain needed to make Tweed into LaGuardia Jr. Ms. Audette indicates that she hopes that the Board feels guilty for their work.

Ms. Scanlon reminds that public comment is not for questioning, but he is always willing to speak via his cell phone to answer any questions.

**Matthew Lieber, 18 Hampton Road, East Haven.** Mr. Lieber applauds the Mayor's letter to the FAA pushing for the EIS and requests information as to the amount of private money versus public funding that will be involved in the proposed expansion.

**Vivien Hunnicutt, 44 Girard Avenue, New Haven.** Ms. Hunnicutt expresses thanks for engagement on the public comment and she states that she believes that the Board and those in charge are not "doing their homework." Ms. Hunnicutt requests that an EIS be done and learn from the past when an EIS was required for the runway safety project. Ms. Hunnicutt expresses concern about health quality near the airport.

**Toni Lorenti, Unknown Address, Meriden.** Mr. Lorenti is a professional pilot and instructor. who understands the workings airports. He says the FAA will decide the EA/EIS issue in accordance with its standard procedures, procedures applied with regards to several thousand airports throughout the country. He says that the Authority is following the required procedures.

**Paul Campion, 82 Morris Cove Road, New Haven.** Mr. Campion says that he does not feel the Board is representing the people and does not feel the Board cares about the people but only corporations.

**Gloria Bellacicco Lighthouse Road, New Haven.** Ms. Bellacicco asks whether the neighborhood complaint forms are still valid because her concerns have not been addressed. Ms. Bellacicco states that the smell is terrible. She asserts that she is for Tweed, just against the expansion.

**Gabriela De La Tierra, Steward Street, New Haven.** Ms. De La Tierra alleges that Tweed has not followed requirements for the Creek and trees in the taxiway project and indicates that other kinds of plants should be in place that comply with DEEP. She added, if a small project cannot be handled correctly it is a bad sign for a larger project.

**Shirley McCarthy, Branford.** Dr. McCarthy, a doctor and a professor at Yale University, refers to several studies regarding the health hazards of individuals living within ten miles of an airport. Dr. McCarthy expresses concern that the area is densely populated and there will be health consequences including premature mortality.

**Susan Bryson, Short Beach, Branford.** Ms. Bryson wants to know if there has been a face-to-face meeting between the Authority and the neighbors. Ms. Bryson indicates that she feels it is a lot to put 600 pages of information before the public. She proposes that Mr. Scanlon has a public forum and let people talk freely and requests a summary of the 600 pages.



*Wanda Bubriski, Branford.* Ms. Bubriski requests that the public comment on the draft EA be extended until January 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hoey made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 5:51.

Respectfully submitted,

Hugh Manke, Counsel to the Authority