



TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING - HYBRID
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOARD MINUTES OF JULY 17, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Matthew Hoey, Robert Reed, Linda Hennessey, Serena Neal-Sanjurjo, Carlos Eyzaguirre, Joseph Ginnetti, Ken Dagliere, David White, Michael Fimiani, Mark Scussel, and Kevin Rocco.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mark Sklarz, Ray Pompano, Jesse Phillips, and Richard Jacob.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tom Rafter, Jeremy Nielson, Tom Cavaliere, Malena Zanjani, Andrew King, Bill Wade, Brett Simon, Dana Walker, David Reger, Gloria Bellacicco, Jean Perry Phillips, Kevin Arnold, Lorena Venegas, Mark Zaretsky, Mary Cannata, Michael Giordano, Salvatore DeCola, Michael Jones, Tim Sullivan, Steven Wight, Lew Langella, Lynne Bonnett, James Connor, David Salvo, Melissa Ranalli, Aaron Goode, Peter Leonardi, Jeremiah Wilhite, Joe Giordano, Petrina Yoxall, and Eliot Jameson.

Toni Lorenti was also present for in person public comments.

BOARD MINUTES OF JULY 17, 2024

Chairman Matthew Hoey opened the meeting at approximately 4:04 PM

1. MINUTES OF JUNE 12, 2024

Mr. Hoey moved to approve the minutes from the regular Board Meeting held on June 12, 2024. His motion was supported by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Scussel. With no further questions or comments the minutes were unanimously approved by all in attendance.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Hoey welcomed the newest board member, Kevin Rocco, who was appointed by Mayor Elicker in early June.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Rafter reported that a scheduled meeting with the public and the Air Traffic Control manager had been postponed due to unforeseen circumstances, with rescheduling efforts underway. He mentioned that the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) application process is progressing, with a draft completed and a user consultation

THNAA BOARD MINUTES

meeting set for August 2, 2024. Additionally, a grant application for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Airport Terminal Program (BIL ATP) funding for terminal design has been submitted. A kickoff meeting for the compliance audit was held on July 9th. He reminded Board members of the upcoming election of officers and the executive committee next month.

→ **Action Item: Reschedule ATC Meeting**

Mr. Rafter presented two resolutions on the agenda for awarding contracts for accounting services and aviation advisory services, recommending BJSJ and TM BYXBEE, who are incumbents.

He also shared BTS statistics for April 2024, indicating a 13% increase in passenger enplanements at HVN over the previous April. Year-to-date enplanements are up by 7%, totaling 491,115, excluding the nine new cities that began service in May, June, and July, suggesting further increases.

Mr. Hoey opened the floor for comments or questions. Mr. Scussel requested evidence of the updated budget note and Economic Impact Analysis agreement from the last meeting. Mr. Rafter confirmed that the changes had been made and would follow up with him.

→ **Action Item: Provide evidence of updated budget note and economic impact analysis to Mr. Scussel.**

Mr. Dagliere raised concerns about temporary building permits, citing information from the East Haven Building Inspector and town attorney that the permits, used for ticketing, were denied by the state. He expressed frustration over the lack of transparency and questioned why the Board was not informed about the expiring permits and the application to continue them. Mr. Hoey responded that Avports was aware and working with the city of New Haven and the state of Connecticut to resolve the issue. Mr. Ginnetti asked for the reasons behind the permit denial. Mr. Nielson clarified that the permits were not denied but were still in process. Mr. Ginnetti inquired about potential roadblocks where the Board could assist. Mr. Hoey emphasized the importance of following proper procedures with local zoning agencies and the state. Mr. Scussel sought clarification on the permit process. Mr. Nielson explained that the process was ongoing, with Avports in communication through the appropriate channels. Mr. Hoey elaborated on the appeal process, stating that it involves addressing the sunset of the facility's use. Mr. Eyzaguirre explained the building department's adherence to state building codes and the ongoing efforts to address the temporary permit issue by September. He acknowledged the public nature of the information and the need for a solution. Mr. Dagliere reiterated that the Board should have been informed before the information became public and demanded clear communication about the status of the temporary permits. He suggested having an expert at the next board meeting to explain the situation comprehensively.

→ **Action Item: Work to secure an expert to explain the permit situation at the next Board meeting.**

Mr. Hoey concluded the discussion and moved on to the next agenda item.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 2024 FINANCIALS

Ms. Neal-Sanjurjo gave Mr. Rafter the floor to present the financial report for the period ending May 31, 2024.

For the airfield, revenues for May, excluding the lessee subsidy of \$208,309.56, totaled \$17,459.06 over budget. The actual subsidy was \$98,698.58 below budget for the month. Year-to-date (YTD) revenues, excluding the \$2,063,283.21 subsidy, were \$479,914.40, which is \$122,734.38 better than the budgeted amount of \$357,180.02.

THNAA BOARD MINUTES

Actual expenses for May came in under budget by \$81,239.52, with YTD expenses being \$1,191,071.90 below budget.

In the admin category, revenues for May were above budget by \$2,435.50, and YTD revenues are \$30,177.08 better than budgeted. Admin expenses for the month were \$9,385.08 under budget, and YTD expenses are \$86,064.29 below budget. The actual net result for the Admin Fund for May was a positive \$9,151.35.

The fund balance at the end of this period is \$226,655. Overall, liabilities and fund balances total \$1,024,720.00.

5. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

AIRFIELD OPERATIONS

Mr. Nielson began his report by introducing Tom Cavaliere, the newly hired Director of Community Engagement with Avports. Mr. Cavaliere will work closely with Michael Jones, the CEO of The New HVN, and Mr. Nielson, serving as a conduit to the local community through personal interactions and community meetings. Mr. Cavaliere briefly introduced himself, expressing his eagerness to work with everyone and emphasizing his role in community engagement, communications, and marketing.

Mr. Nielson then provided updates on airside activities. He reported that airfield painting was recently completed, resulting in fresh, clean markings on the runway. He noted that despite the improvements, rubber buildup on the runway remains a constant issue due to high activity levels. The team continues to make daily improvements to the airfield. Additionally, preparations are underway for a rehabilitation project for the West ramp, set to begin in mid-September and extend over a four-week period. This project will address asphalt settling due to heavy aircraft and include resurfacing and reconfiguration. Communications about the project's timing and impact will be sent to the local community.

Mr. Nielson mentioned that the transition to F3 foam is on schedule. The replacement foam has been purchased, and the team plans to clean out trucks and install the new inventory by the end of September. He also discussed the expansion of Robinson Aviation's fuel farm capacity, noting that a recent meeting with the FAA focused on expediting the necessary construction review process.

Mr. Hoey asked if there were any questions. Mr. Dagliere inquired about the runway work, recalling a previous discussion where it was mentioned that no extensive work would be done until court decisions were made. He asked whether the current runway would be resurfaced due to heavy traffic. Mr. Nielson clarified that the current project is focused on the ramp, not the runway. Mr. Rafter added that the runway project includes both rehabilitation and extensions, with rehabilitation necessary due to time and heavy aircraft use. The timing and phasing of the rehabilitation will be determined as part of the runway design process with the FAA. Mr. Scussel asked about the cost and budget for the West ramp resurfacing. Mr. Nielson explained that it involves a mill and overlay on some portions and reinforcement, and it is included in the capital plan.

6. LESSEE'S REPORT – THE NEW HVN LLC

THE NEW HVN LLC

Mr. Nielson provided an update for The New HVN, LLC. Mr. Nielson highlighted ongoing initiatives, including the implementation of the Hidden Disability Sunflower program. A planning meeting with representatives from Avelo, TSA, Avports, and the Authority is scheduled to ensure a comprehensive partnership. He also mentioned his

THNAA BOARD MINUTES

involvement in Avelo's partnership with Make-A-Wish, interacting with families flying out and providing tours for those with special needs to familiarize them with the airport environment. These experiences underline the need for the Hidden Disabilities program.

On the topic of sound monitoring, Mr. Nielson noted the development of a new website in review and the engagement of a third-party expert to explain the science behind sound and its relation to the airport. This partnership will complement the work of the Jones Payne Group, focusing on sound insulation and providing detailed explanations to residents.

Mr. Nielson reported that the new Grazing Goat concession at Gate One is now open, receiving positive feedback and providing a welcoming atmosphere. Additionally, minor construction modifications are planned for the arrival terminal, including building closets and rearranging offices to enhance operational efficiency.

Electric vehicle (EV) chargers will be installed within the next week or two, provided by Avis Budget for their fleet and benefiting the airport's growing electric fleet, which currently includes three vehicles.

Andrew King provided further clarification on Mr. Cavaliere's role, emphasizing his responsibility for day-to-day community engagement and maintaining relationships. He and Mr. Cavaliere are jointly updating the action list from community meetings and ensuring regular updates.

Mr. Hoey asked Mr. King to comment on his involvement in the permit process following up on Mr. Dagliere's earlier concerns. Mr. King apologized for not updating new Board members more frequently about the permits, explaining that they have been working with the city and state since 2020, and committed to providing more regular updates.

No further questions were raised for Mr. Nielson or Mr. King.

7. REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Hoey introduced discussions around the two resolution items on the agenda.

RESOLUTION #614: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT - ADVISORY SERVICES

Mr. Hoey introduced Resolution #614, which seeks approval for an agreement with BJS Aviation Inc for advisory consulting services. Mr. Fimiani motioned for approval, and Ms. Hennessey seconded.

Mr. Hoey read the resolution in its entirety. With no questions, Mr. Hoey called for a vote, asking all in favor to signify their approval. The motion was carried unanimously, marking the resolution's approval by the Board.

RESOLUTION #615: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT - ACCOUNTING SERVICES

Mr. Hoey introduced Resolution #615, which seeks approval for an agreement with T.M. Byxbee Company, P.C. for accounting consulting services. Mr. White motioned for approval, and Mr. Fimiani seconded.

Mr. Hoey read the resolution in its entirety. With no questions, Mr. Hoey called for a vote, asking all in favor to signify their approval. The motion was carried unanimously, marking the resolution's approval by the Board.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

THNAA BOARD MINUTES

Mr. Fimiani commended the traffic personnel for their outstanding service on the busy night of July 5th, when multiple flights arrived from Tampa. He specifically praised Bryan, who exemplified excellent customer service by managing traffic, answering questions, and keeping things moving smoothly. Mr. Fimiani suggested implementing a monthly recognition program for employees who go above and beyond.

Mr. Nielson acknowledged Mr. Fimiani's suggestion, noting that Avports already recognizes exceptional employees. He confirmed that Bryan, the Manager of Operations, would receive the positive feedback. Mr. Nielson highlighted that Bryan's leadership significantly contributes to the team's overall performance.

Mr. White added that, in his experience as a frequent flyer, New Haven is the only airport where passengers are warmly welcomed, praising the staff for their exceptional service.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

LORENA VENEGAS – EAST HAVEN, CT

**Note: There was no audio for this call, Ms. Venegas was asked to try connecting again but she did not.*

MICHAEL GIORDANO – JUNO BEACH, FL

Mr. Giordano, a frequent traveler to New Haven via Avelo Airlines, addressed the board. He noted that the late fall and early winter schedules for Avelo Airlines were recently publicized and showed little drop-off in the number of flights compared to the September and October schedules. This indicates the strong performance of the airport and airline. Mr. Giordano highlighted that flights to Atlanta and Charlotte remain robust, with passenger loads reportedly being quite full. He expressed gratitude for the continued availability of these flights from New Haven. However, he mentioned that flights to Destin, Florida, and St. Louis, among a few other destinations, would be temporarily unavailable, likely due to seasonal adjustments. These cities are expected to have flights around the holiday period. He also pointed out that many other cities would continue to have strong service, with additional flights during peak times such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. On certain days, there could be 18 or 19 flights in and out of New Haven. Mr. Giordano concluded by expressing optimism about the increased passenger numbers and the current summer schedule, encouraging everyone to support Tweed New Haven Airport and Avelo Airlines.

GLORIA BELLACICCO – NEW HAVEN, CT

Ms. Bellacicco inquired about the rescheduling of the control tower meeting and requested information on when it would take place. She referred to a previous Nathan Hale meeting where it was promised that traffic, parking, and enforcement would ensure Burr Street remained clear of cars during arrivals and departures. Ms. Bellacicco alleged that this promise has not been fulfilled. Additionally, she expressed frustration with the progress on the noise mitigation efforts, urging the board to expedite their actions. She concluded her comments by asking for improvement and thanking the board.

TONI LORENTI – MERIDEN, CT

Captain Toni Lorenti introduced themselves as a captain for an undisclosed airline with 25 years of professional flying experience. They expressed their appreciation for the airport operations staff, praising those who maintain the runway paint, lights, and overall functionality. In Captain Toni's opinion, Tweed New Haven ranks highly among airports in terms of compliance and excellence, particularly highlighting the reliable ILS system at night. Captain Toni acknowledged that while no airport is perfect, Tweed New Haven compares favorably against its peers. They stressed the importance of understanding the complexities of aviation, noting that it may appear different to those

THNAA BOARD MINUTES

not directly involved. They expressed regret that the airport often receives questions beyond its technical purview, emphasizing the distinct responsibilities of pilots, who must prioritize passenger safety and regulatory compliance. Captain Toni found it frustrating when community members ask questions with presumed answers, urging for questions to be asked without assumptions. They emphasized their willingness to explain aviation details thoroughly but stressed the need for respectful and informed inquiries. They underscored their primary responsibility to passengers and their families, and the importance of recognizing Tweed New Haven as an airport meant for aircraft use. Captain Toni conveyed the message that there is no need to apologize for the airport's operations, advocating for a clear understanding of its purpose. They concluded by acknowledging the challenging nature of the task and reiterating that the airport should be used by aircraft.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Hoey called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Fimiani proposed the motion, and Mr. White seconded it. The Board members unanimously agreed, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:54 PM. The next meeting will be held on August 21 at 4:00 PM.

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

- **Action Item: Reschedule ATC Meeting.**
- **Action Item: Provide evidence of updated budget note and economic impact analysis to Mr. Scussel.**
- **Action Item: Work to secure an expert to explain the permit situation at the next Board meeting.**

MINUTES PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY

Malena Zanjani

July 23, 2024