



TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING - HYBRID  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
BOARD MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Robert Reed, John Picard, Linda Hennessey, Serena Neal-Sanjurjo, Mark Sklarz, Ray Pompano, David White, Richard Jacob, Michael Fimiani, Mark Scussel, and Kevin Rocco.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Carlos Eyzaguirre, Joseph Ginnetti, Ken Dagliere, and Jesse Phillips.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tom Rafter, Malena Zanjani, Hugh Manke, Jeremy Nielson, Matt Hoey, Felipe Suriel, Michael Giordano, Toni Lorenti, Kayla Reasco, Andrew King, Chase Lindenmann, Jeremiah Wilhite, Sal DeCola, Steven Wight, Gloria Bellacicco, Melissa Ranalli, Joe Giordano, Kaity Arango, Anthony Camposano, Lew Langella, Toniann Simiola, and Jean Perry Phillips.

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Chairman Robert Reed opened the meeting at approximately 4:05 PM.

1. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2024

Mr. Reed moved to approve the minutes from the regular Board Meeting held on November 20, 2024. His motion was supported by Mr. Scussel and seconded by Ms. Neal-Sanjurjo. Mr. Scussel mentioned minor grammatical errors in the minutes. With no further questions or comments, the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Reed presented the Chairman's Report and addressed the survey regarding the 2025 meeting schedule that Ms. Zanjani had distributed. He noted that 9 out of 15 board members participated in the survey. He summarized the survey results and opened the floor for further discussion.

Mr. Sklarz emphasized that the Board has a duty to both themselves and the airport to maintain a monthly meeting schedule and strongly advocated for retaining the monthly cadence.

Mr. Reed acknowledged Mr. Sklarz's perspective and proposed a vote on the matter. With no further discussion, Mr. Scussel moved to maintain the current monthly meeting schedule for 2025, and Ms. Hennessey seconded the

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motion. The motion passed unanimously. As a result, the Board will continue to meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 4:00 PM in 2025, following the existing schedule.

## 3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Rafter provided an update on action items from the November meeting. He reported the following:

- Ms. Zanjani sent Board Members copies of the PFC Amendment and Approval, CIP Presentation, and the Completed and Upcoming Projects Presentation. All tasks were marked as completed.
- Mr. Rafter investigated a Gantt Chart for the CIP project schedule, which was also completed.
- Mr. Cavaliere will address noise mitigation and FEMA restrictions during his remarks.
- Attorney Hugh Manke provided an update on the EA Appeal, outlining the process and timeline. He explained that the petitioners filed their brief last month, and the Department of Justice is expected to submit its reply brief by late January or early February. The case will then proceed with additional filings in March and is anticipated to conclude by next summer. Oral arguments will follow, after which the judges will issue their decision. Mr. Manke expressed optimism about the outcome, highlighting the thorough environmental analysis and comprehensive responses to community concerns. However, he noted that a final decision is unlikely to be reached for another year.

Mr. Rafter concluded the action items and moved on to his Executive Director's Report:

- A resolution on tonight's agenda involves initiating Phase One services with McCarter & English for conduit financing.
- The Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) meeting was held and addressed updates on the noise website, sound insulation phase, Envirosuite meeting, traffic calming measures, the REVO hydrogen charging station project, and the VALE Grant Application for electric shuttle buses.
- The economic impact analysis remains ongoing, with consultants working to obtain missing data.
- Regarding the DEEP application, the town of East Haven has disputed DEEP's determination of sole jurisdiction over wetlands. The Authority is monitoring the matter but supports DEEP's initial decision.
- September 2024 statistics showed a 19% increase in passenger enplanements compared to last September, with year-to-date enplanements up by 13%. Over the past 12 months, enplanements totaled 542,441.

Mr. Jacob inquired about the jurisdiction of the EA Appeal, to which Mr. Manke clarified that it is being heard by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. He noted the possibility of an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court but deemed it unlikely given the administrative nature of the issue.

## 4. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

### OCTOBER 2024 FINANCIALS

Ms. Neal-Sanjurjo gave Mr. Rafter the floor to present the Finance Committee Report for the period ending October 31, 2024.

Airfield revenues for October, excluding the Lessee subsidy of \$186,746.18, came in \$3,074.31 better than budget. The actual subsidy was under budget by \$106,712.15 for the month. Year-to-date (YTD) revenues, excluding the

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\$694,855.29 subsidy, totaled \$240,084.57, which is \$89,733.93 better than budgeted. Airfield expenses for October came in under budget by \$97,637.84. YTD expenses of \$934,939.86 are below budget by \$389,244.10.

Admin revenues for October were below budget by \$33,099.27. YTD actual revenues of \$226,540.05 are below budget by \$127,959.95. Admin expenses for the month were \$49,312.65 under budget. YTD actual expenses were under budget by \$192,778.08. The actual net results for the Admin Fund for October were a positive \$1,327.38, and YTD net results are up by \$13,472.13.

Regarding the balance sheet, the fund balance at the end of this period is \$442,314.00. Overall, liabilities and fund balances total \$990,369.00.

## 5. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

### AIRFIELD OPERATIONS

Mr. Nielson provided the Airside Report, highlighting a few key items. While recent winter weather has required some aircraft deicing in the mornings, there has been no significant impact on operations, and the team is prepared for snow when it arrives. On the capital side, progress continues on the ARFF station expansion project and the snow removal equipment storage building, with consultants and design teams diligently working to advance these initiatives.

Mr. Nielson also addressed the topic of drones, which remains a regular focus for the airport team. He emphasized their close collaboration with a task force of federal, state, and local agencies that assist in drone detection. These agencies deploy mobile detection systems at the airport and make contact with drone operators when possible, often using these interactions as educational opportunities to clarify regulations. The airport team recently conducted a group meeting to review training and response protocols related to drone activity, reaffirming their commitment to ongoing monitoring and collaboration on this issue.

## 6. LESSEE'S REPORT – THE NEW HVN LLC

### THE NEW HVN LLC

Mr. Nielson continued with an update on several key items for his Lessee's Report, beginning with a recap of the operational readiness exercise (ORAT) held on December 4th in preparation for Breeze Airways' startup. The exercise involved strong support from Breeze's corporate leadership, training teams, and various airport stakeholders, including TSA, Air Traffic Control, G Cafe, LAZ Parking, and the Avports team. The focus was on ensuring operational readiness and addressing any technical issues, which proved successful with Breeze's first flight on December 10th. Mr. Nielson highlighted the positive outcomes, including strengthened relationships with partners and lessons learned for continuous improvement.

On air service updates, Mr. Nielson shared recent announcements, including new routes from Avelo Airlines and Breeze Airways. Avelo introduced destinations such as Jacksonville, Dallas, Detroit, and Portland, while Breeze launched its largest opening on record with routes to Fort Myers, Orlando, West Palm Beach, Charleston, and others. These additions reflect the strong commitment of air carriers to Tweed and its growth potential. Additionally, on December 1st, Tweed set a new record with over 3,000 enplanements in a single day, and passenger traffic for the Christmas holiday week is forecasted to increase by 60% compared to 2023. Mr. Nielson advised passengers to make parking reservations due to expected capacity limits during the holiday period.

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Regarding ongoing projects, Mr. Nielson reported progress on several initiatives to enhance the passenger experience. These include installing an awning at the ticketing trailer, adding automatic sliding doors, completing a mother's room at Gate 2, and planning an awning for the arrivals curb to accommodate checkpoint queue lines extending outdoors. Additionally, the airport has completed a significant update of digital signage throughout the terminal to improve wayfinding and advertising opportunities.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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Mr. Cavaliere provided a comprehensive update on community engagement activities for the past month, highlighting significant partnerships, outreach efforts, and updates on key initiatives.

On community partnerships, he noted that the Avports team collaborated with Connecticut Foodshare at the Community Soup Kitchen of New Haven for their annual holiday partnership, serving meals and raising awareness about food insecurity. They also sponsored CitySeed's Farmers Market program, connecting residents with over 50 vendors and supporting sustainable agriculture and food entrepreneurship. Additional community events included participation in Hockey Night in New Haven, which supported the New Haven Police Athletic League and youth hockey programming, as well as attending tree lighting ceremonies in East Haven and New Haven. Furthermore, Michael Jones delivered a keynote address at the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce's Regional Economic Outlook Breakfast, sharing updates on airport investments and expansion plans. The Avports team also hosted two East Haven High School interns, expressing gratitude for their contributions.

On community meetings and outreach, Mr. Cavaliere announced the launch of the WebTrak dashboard on December 16, providing real-time information on aircraft activity and, with future noise monitors, greater transparency on noise levels. The team continues to engage in group and individual conversations with community members and the East Shore Community Management Team to address concerns and discuss projects.

In response to a question from Mr. Scussel, Mr. Cavaliere addressed the FEMA-related issue concerning residents disqualified from the sound insulation program due to flood zone home improvements. He explained the complexities of this federal program and the ongoing efforts to determine where decision-making authority lies and explore options to requalify affected residents.

## 7. REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

### RESOLUTION #617: APPROVAL OF ENGAGEMENT OF MCCARTER & ENGLISH AS ISSUER'S COUNSEL

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Mr. Reed read Resolution #617 in its entirety and subsequently opened the floor for comments or questions. Mr. Sklarz inquired about the lead partner from McCarter & English, to which Mr. Manke confirmed that Rolan Young, based in Connecticut, would serve in that role. The Board agreed this was a positive development. Mr. Jacob then asked for clarification regarding the outcome of the analysis, specifically whether the plan was for the Airport Authority to issue tax-exempt bonds and for Avports to repay the debt service under that agreement. Mr. Reed confirmed that this was his understanding.

Mr. Reed then asked if there were any final comments or questions. Hearing none, he called for a motion. Mr. White moved to approve the resolution, and Ms. Neal-Sanjurjo seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved, and the resolution carried.

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## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

## 9. PUBLIC COMMENT

*\*Please note that the following comments reflect the speaker's personal opinions and concerns, not established facts. Public Comment is intended for remarks from the public, not for a question-and-answer session. For inquiries, members of the public are encouraged to reach out directly to The TNHAA Authority or Avports.*

### TONI LORENTI – MERIDEN, CT [IN-PERSON]

Captain Toni shared their experience and gratitude for the opportunity to fly as a pilot out of New Haven. They expressed how meaningful it was, describing it as a personal culmination and a realization of something they never imagined possible. Captain Toni highlighted their deep connection to the community, sharing that Tweed New Haven Airport and the Tweed New Haven Air Fest were instrumental in their aviation journey, including earning a private pilot's license through a scholarship 30 years ago. They emphasized their appreciation for aviation and the vital role the airport plays, noting their commitment to being a collaborative partner in information sharing to enhance safety, efficiency, and enjoyment for all. Captain Toni expressed their desire to involve resources from the Airline Pilots Association and their company to further these goals. Reflecting on their passion for aviation, they encouraged others to find joy in their work and thanked the Board and the airport community for the opportunities they and their colleagues have experienced. Captain Toni concluded with optimism for the future and extended gratitude to everyone who contributes to the airport's success.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Reed called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Fimiani proposed the motion, and Ms. Neal-Sanjurjo seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:50 PM. The next meeting will be held on January 15, 2025 at 4:00 PM.

### MINUTES PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY

Malena Zanjani

December 23, 2024