



TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING - HYBRID
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOARD MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Robert Reed, John Picard, Linda Hennessey, Serena Neal-Sanjurjo, Carlos Eyzaguirre, Mark Sklarz, Ken Dagliere, David White, Richard Jacob, Michael Fimiani, Mark Scussel, Kevin Rocco, and Judy Mison.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Ray Pompano and Jesse Phillips.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tom Rafter, Jeremy Nielson, Felipe Suriel, Malena Zanjani, Brian Courtney, Bryan Hoffman, Diane Proto, Gloria Bellacicco, Jeremiah Wilhite, Joe Giordano, Kayla Reasco, Melissa Ranalli, Sandra Reiners, NBC News Connecticut, Eliot Jameson, Peter Leonardi, Salvatore DeCola, William Clifford, Tim Sullivan, Kaity Arango, Jorge Roberts, John Montopoli, Toni Lorenti, and Eliot Jameson.

BOARD MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2025

Chairman Robert Reed opened the meeting at approximately 4:02 PM.

1. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2024

Mr. Reed moved to approve the minutes from the regular Board Meeting held on December 18, 2024. His motion was supported by Mr. White and seconded by Ms. Hennessey. With no further questions or comments, the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Robert Reed opened the Tweed New Haven Airport Authority Board meeting welcoming attendees and acknowledging returning Board member Ken Dagliere, who expressed gratitude for the Board's support during his recovery. Mr. Reed also introduced Judy Mison, appointed by East Haven to replace Joe Ginnetti.

Mr. Reed provided an update on a January 14 meeting with the Governor's Office, ConnDOT, and other stakeholders to address traffic concerns raised by East Haven. A detailed analysis by consultants, WSP, was presented. Mr. Reed confirmed that meeting materials would be shared with the Board.

→ **Action Item: Ms. Zanjani to provide Board Members with materials from the January 14, 2025, meeting with the Governor's Office.**

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3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Rafter provided the Executive Director's report, covering several key updates. The airport experienced challenges during the holiday season due to increased demand, with current monthly passenger volumes surpassing previous annual totals. Further details will be addressed in Mr. Nielson's report.

A resolution is on the agenda to approve an agreement with Jones Payne Group, Inc. for the next phase of the Residential Sound Insulation Program (RSIP). The draft agreement is under review to ensure compliance with FAA contract requirements. The FAA will fund 90% of the program.

Mr. Rafter and Mr. Reed have a scheduled meeting with Kevin Dillon, outgoing Executive Director of the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA), and his successor.

Tweed was awarded over \$1M for the expansion of its Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) building, enhancing safety operations. Mr. Rafter acknowledged the legislative delegation's support in securing this funding.

BTS data from October 2024 indicates a 30% year-over-year increase in enplanements and a 15% increase year-to-date. Over the past 12 months, enplanements totaled 554,351.

In response to Mr. Scussel's questions, Mr. Rafter clarified the funding sources for the ARFF building and the noise program, explaining that they involve separate categories, including FAA grants, Passenger Facility Charges (PFC), and other funding sources. Mr. Rafter committed to providing a detailed Source and Use report to clarify the funding allocations.

- ➔ **Action Item: Mr. Rafter to confirm whether the noise program funding is included in the existing Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) application and provide clarification to Mr. Scussel.**
- ➔ **Action Item: Mr. Nielson to provide Mr. Scussel with a Source and Use Report outlining the funding allocations for the ARFF building expansion, noise program, and other projects.**

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2024 FINANCIALS

Prior to the meeting, Ms. Neal-Sanjurjo asked Mr. Rafter to present the Finance Committee Report for the period ending November 30, 2024.

Airfield: November revenues, excluding the Lessee subsidy of \$238,193.67, were \$26,784.48 above budget, and the subsidy was \$55,264.66 under budget. Year-to-date (YTD) revenues, excluding the \$746,302.78 subsidy, were \$304,456.71, exceeding budget by \$154,106.07. November expenses were \$28,480.18 under budget, with YTD expenses of \$1,237,505.67 below budget by \$86,678.29.

Administration: November revenues were \$21,488.09 below budget, and YTD revenues of \$282,751.96 were \$149,448.04 below budget. Administrative expenses for November were \$29,291.22 under budget, with YTD expenses \$222,069.30 below budget. The Administrative Fund had a net positive result of \$5,417.13 in November and a YTD positive balance of \$18,889.26, compared to a budgeted negative \$53,732.00.

Balance Sheet: The fund balance as of November 30, 2024, was \$401,090.00, with total liabilities and fund balances of \$1,235,868.00.

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5. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

AIRFIELD OPERATIONS

Mr. Nielson provided the Airside Operations report, highlighting the following updates. Minor winter weather events over the past month required limited mechanical effort, such as runway sweeping and de-icing. Despite minor delays due to aircraft de-icing, operations continued without runway closures, offering the team valuable preparation for potential larger winter events.

Routine runway inspections have revealed accelerated wear on the 17-year-old runway as it approaches the end of its useful life. Maintenance efforts are underway to preserve the runway until reconstruction and lengthening can proceed in the near future.

On December 29, a fuel spill of approximately 30-50 gallons occurred due to an overfilled fuel truck valve. The spill was contained without environmental impact, and New Haven Fire Hazmat, DEEP, and Laden Industries provided cleanup support. Robinson Aviation has implemented procedural changes to prevent similar incidents.

The temporary fuel tanks are ready for delivery and installation. Perimeter fencing for the fuel farm is being installed, and Robinson Aviation is coordinating necessary steps to move the project forward. Previous administrative confusion related to applications has been resolved, and the project has received the necessary approvals.

6. LESSEE'S REPORT – THE NEW HVN LLC

THE NEW HVN LLC

Mr. Nielson presented the Lessee's Report, summarizing key updates and operational responses during the record-breaking December holiday travel season. Passenger volumes reached unprecedented levels, with monthly traffic equaling prior annual totals. This highlighted the need for expanded terminal and landside capacity. Despite challenges such as weather delays, 97% of scheduled flights were completed, with under 3% cancellations.

TSA experienced brief equipment downtime but restored operations quickly. Peak wait times reached 102 minutes during high demand, comparable to national averages during the holiday season. TSA partnered with the airport to open checkpoints earlier, now starting at 4:00 AM.

Single entrance/exit constraints caused traffic challenges. Collaborations with New Haven Police and adjustments in parking allocation, including opening 200 additional spaces, helped mitigate congestion. Partnerships with Hotel Marcel provided remote parking and waiting options during peak periods.

Daily calls with airlines and TSA, enhanced communication through SMS and emails, and coordination with local law enforcement supported improved traffic flow and passenger experience. A newly formed Terminal Operations Ramp Control team was created to manage ramp operations and deicing efficiently during delays.

Mr. Nielson then covered some future initiatives:

- A roundtable discussion with TSA executives, airline representatives, and other stakeholders is scheduled to address capacity, security, and passenger experience improvements.
- Planned road restriping and traffic flow updates will be implemented in the spring.

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- Discussions with New Haven PD are ongoing to increase law enforcement presence across landside areas and checkpoints.

Mr. Reed concluded by commending airport operations for their proactive planning and coordination during TSA's busiest travel season on record. He highlighted the significance of upcoming collaborative efforts involving federal and local stakeholders. Board members acknowledged the team's responsiveness and ongoing improvements in addressing challenges and lessons learned.

- **Action Item: Ms. Zanjani to share handout summarizing the December holiday travel season and operational updates with the Board.**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Mr. Cavaliere highlighted several productive meetings and discussions over the past month. A partnership with East Haven's Hagaman Memorial Library was announced, where the airport will sponsor their monthly film nights and join the Friends of the Library as a Corporate Member to support its vital community programs.

Mr. Cavaliere shared updates on efforts to monitor and address noise concerns. These include the launch of WebTrak and the Airport Noise and Operations Monitoring System (ANOMS), which provide real-time data on local aircraft activity and noise levels. Portable noise monitors have been deployed to collect baseline data, essential for understanding community noise exposure. The data will inform the creation of an FAA Community Roundtable, where residents, leaders, and airport representatives will discuss noise-related issues.

A new "Noise" page on the airport's website includes links to the WebTrak dashboard, a new noise concern form, and a registration form for residents interested in hosting a noise monitor. Residents were asked to report noise issues through WebTrak rather than Veoci going forward.

In response to a question about permanent noise monitoring, Mr. Cavaliere confirmed that this is under consideration for a future phase, with the current focus on understanding noise concerns through the data being gathered. He also confirmed that the noise mitigation issue in relation to FEMA restrictions has not progressed.

The airport is working on a program for distributing HEPA filters to residents, with more information expected at the next board meeting. Mr. Cavaliere also noted that a table outlining the community concerns raised at last year's meetings and the actions taken in response is available on the website.

- **Action Item: Mr. Cavaliere will provide a more detailed update on the HEPA filter distribution program at the next board meeting.**

Mr. Scussel inquired about a full report of items collected through Veoci and their resolution, to which Mr. Cavaliere confirmed that this data would be shared more regularly at future Board meetings.

- **Action Item: Mr. Cavaliere will work on ways to best share data from Veoci.**

7. REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION #618: APPROVAL OF MULTI-YEAR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE JONES PAYNE GROUP, INC. FOR THE RESIDENTIAL SOUND INSULATION PROGRAM

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Mr. Reed read Resolution #618 in its entirety and called for a motion. Mr. Picard moved to approve the resolution, and Ms. Neal-Sanjurjo seconded the motion. Mr. Reed opened the floor for comments or questions. Mr. Jacob inquired about the number of homes the program would cover. Mr. Nielson clarified that the original scope for this phase was up to 12 homes, although the final number would depend on the cost per home. Mr. Jacob requested a report on the total number of homes that will be soundproofed once the program is completed. Mr. Rafter agreed to provide the report.

→ **Action Item: Mr. Rafter will provide a report on the total number of homes that will be soundproofed.**

Mr. Rocco asked if homeowners are required to sign any agreements related to the airport or the program. Mr. Rafter explained there is a general agreement since the program involves FAA funding. Mr. Scussel requested a copy of the agreement.

→ **Action Item: Mr. Rafter will investigate providing a copy of the general agreement that homeowners sign for the RSIP, as requested by Mr. Scussel.**

The discussion then shifted to a question from Mr. Scussel regarding the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) for noise in the original resolution. Mr. Rafter confirmed that it was likely included in the original resolution, not the amendment. With no further questions, Mr. Reed called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved, and the resolution carried.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Fimiani inquired about the protocol for Board members giving statements to the media. Mr. Reed suggested that all media contacts should be directed to him for Authority matters or to Andrew King, who represents Avports. He requested that Board members continue following this protocol in the future.

Mr. Picard shared positive feedback about the staff working during the busy holiday period, noting that his friends were impressed with the efficiency and politeness of the workers, despite the cold weather. Mr. Reed acknowledged the feedback and expressed appreciation for the staff's efforts, particularly during peak travel times.

Mr. Scussel raised a question regarding the Economic Impact Analysis. Mr. Reed apologized for the delay, clarifying that the initial draft did not meet expectations, and the consultants would start from scratch to ensure a more suitable outline for review.

Ms. Mison added she would arrange a meeting at the airport to better understand the airport's designs and plans.

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 Tweed New Haven Airport Authority or Avports.

GLORIA BELLACICCO – NEW HAVEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Ms. Bellacicco expressed appreciation for Tom Cavaliere's tour of the airport, highlighting positive communication between him, neighbors, and Andrew King. She added that the airport management could have anticipated potential issues during the holidays. Ms. Bellacicco noted the neighborhood experienced significant disruptions

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due to poor traffic management. She mentioned that while questions about airport capacity and noise monitoring were addressed, the handling of traffic and road management by Avports was inadequate. Additionally, Ms. Bellacicco expressed concerns over the addition of new destinations by Avelo and their criticisms of Breeze's arrival at Tweed. She proposed considering limitations on future arrivals until improvements are made.

MICHAEL GIORDANO – JUNO BEACH, FL [VIRTUAL]

Mr. Giordano, a long-time supporter of the airport, expressed disappointment regarding recent developments. He acknowledged the success of passenger growth, profits, but voiced concern over the condition of the terminal, which he described as inadequate for handling increased traffic. He claimed that the scheduling changes made by Avelo have led to delays and congestion, especially during the busy morning hours. Mr. Giordano reported personal experiences of long wait times and stated that many people he knows are reconsidering flying out of Tweed due to these issues. He urged the Board to address these problems quickly.

TONI LORENTI – MERIDEN, CT [IN-PERSON]

Captain Toni Lorenti, representing the Airline Pilots Association, shared their perspective on the challenges faced by Tweed New Haven Airport during the recent holiday season. They acknowledged the issues raised by Mr. Giordano and agreed that improvements were necessary, particularly considering the need for a new terminal, which they believe should be prioritized rather than opposed. Captain Toni shared personal experiences from their 16 days at the airport during the busy season, emphasizing that while there were challenges, such as delays and difficult weather conditions, the situation was not unique to Tweed and was part of the aviation industry's normal operations. They expressed appreciation for the efforts of airport staff, and noted the resilience of passengers, many of whom remained positive despite the circumstances. Captain Toni concluded by thanking the airport team for their work during trying conditions and reiterated the importance of advancing plans for improvement.

Mr. White also praised Captain Toni for their professionalism, recounting a recent flight where Toni safely brought them to their destination while maintaining a positive and cordial demeanor with passengers.

JOE GIORDANO – EAST HAVEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Mr. Giordano, a long-time supporter of Tweed, shared his recent firsthand experiences as both a frequent traveler and a neighbor living close to the airport. He described a stressful situation during his flight on Avelo, citing long lines, confusion, and delays, which he believes were exacerbated by the airport's growing passenger volume. He claimed that the airport's current facilities, including TSA and the terminal, are struggling to accommodate the expanding service from Avelo and the addition of Breeze. Mr. Giordano suggested this increase is causing significant congestion both inside the terminal and in the surrounding neighborhood. He alleged that passengers are facing increased frustration, with some considering alternative airports due to the difficulties at Tweed. He argued that the current Avelo flight schedules are too tightly packed and are contributing to potential problems. Mr. Giordano emphasized that these issues need to be addressed promptly to avoid further dissatisfaction among passengers and the potential for greater opposition to the airport.

JUDY MISON – EAST HAVEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Ms. Mison, a new Board Member for East Haven, shared her personal experience with travel challenges, including a delay at JFK. She acknowledged that delays and issues can happen at any airport, suggesting that such problems should be expected by travelers. Ms. Mison also mentioned her daughter's frequent travel from Tweed, noting a recent experience. Ms. Mison expressed her intention to continue learning about Tweed from a different perspective and emphasized her interest in listening to others' views.

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10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Reed called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Fimiani proposed the motion, and Mr. White seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:29 PM. The next meeting will be held on February 19, 2025 at 4:00 PM.

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

- **Action Item: Ms. Zanjani to provide Board Members with materials from the January 14, 2025, meeting with the Governor's Office.**
- **Action Item: Mr. Rafter to confirm whether the noise program funding is included in the existing Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) application and provide clarification to Mr. Scussel.**
- **Action Item: Mr. Nielson to provide Mr. Scussel with a Source and Use Report outlining the funding allocations for the ARFF building expansion, noise program, and other projects.**
- **Action Item: Ms. Zanjani to share handout summarizing the December holiday travel season and operational updates with the Board.**
- **Action Item: Mr. Cavaliere will provide a more detailed update on the HEPA filter distribution program at the next board meeting.**
- **Action Item: Mr. Cavaliere will work on ways to best share data from Veoci.**
- **Action Item: Mr. Rafter will provide a report on the total number of homes that will be soundproofed.**
- **Action Item: Mr. Rafter will investigate providing a copy of the general agreement that homeowners sign for the RSIP, as requested by Mr. Scussel.**

MINUTES PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY

Malena Zanjani

1/21/25