



## TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2025

### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Robert Reed, Linda Hennessey, Mark Sklarz, Ray Pompano, Ken Dagliere, David White, Jesse Phillips, Richard Jacob, Michael Fimiani, Mark Scussel and Kevin Rocco.

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Serena Neal-Sanjurjo, Carlos Eyzaguirre, John Picard and Judy Mison.

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tom Rafter, Jeremy Nielson, Malena Zanjani, Felipe Suriel, Hugh Manke, Bill Wade, Brian Courtney, David Salvo, Gloria Bellacicco, Jean Perry Phillips, Jeremiah Wilhite, Joe Giordano, Kaity Arango, Katherine Bennett, Kayla Reasco, Lisa Waring, Lorena Venegas, Matt Hoey, Michael Giordano, Sandra Reiners, Tim Sullivan, Eliot Jameson, Andrew King, and Pastor Jack Davidson.

### BOARD MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2025

Chairman Robert Reed officially opened the meeting at approximately 4:13 PM.

#### 1. MINUTES OF MAY 21, 2025

Mr. Reed moved to approve the minutes from the regular Board Meeting held on May 21, 2025. The motion was supported by Mr. White and seconded by Ms. Hennessey. With no further questions or comments, the Board unanimously approved the minutes.

#### 2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Reed reported on two key outcomes from the recently concluded legislative session:

- **Capital Appropriation for Airport Improvements:** \$10 million allocated to Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for airport-related improvements; specific uses are pending clarification.
- **Noise Mitigation Funding:** \$1 million earmarked for noise mitigation at Tweed, to be distributed via the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) and sourced from fuel tax revenues.

Mr. Reed offered to provide further clarification on the legislative process (implementer details) upon request.

#### 3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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Executive Director Rafter provided an update to the Board.

- **Annual Alder Meeting:** The Annual Alder Meeting was held last Tuesday evening and was well attended by the public. Numerous residents shared comments, concerns, and suggestions. More details will be addressed by Mr. Cavaliere later in the meeting.
- **Board Membership Updates:** Reappointment notices were received for Linda Hennessy and Kevin Rocco. Mr. Dean Johnson has been appointed to the Board starting July 1, 2025, succeeding Mr. Rich Jacobs. Also, a new Onboarding/Welcome Packet for Board members has been developed and will be distributed to new appointees.
- **Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) Application:** A resolution is included on the meeting agenda to authorize execution of the PFC application following the required airline comment period. This timing is necessary to maintain the project schedule. A draft of the application has been shared with Board members.
- **Audit/Legal Services RFP:** Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for audit and legal services have been issued. Outreach has included communication with local chambers of commerce.
- **Terminal Design:** On April 15, 2025, the Board convened in Executive Session to review the 60% design documents for the new terminal. A draft design will soon be published on the Authority's website. At the next Board meeting, staff will seek formal concurrence to proceed with the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) process.
- **Environmental Stewardship Committee:** This month's Environmental Stewardship Committee meeting was replaced by the Annual Alder Meeting, given the significant overlap in discussion topics.
- **Passenger Statistics:** Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) data for March 2025 indicate a 36% year-over-year increase in enplanements, totaling 17,436 additional passengers. Year-to-date enplanements have risen by 32%, reaching 157,748 passengers. Over the 12-month period ending March 2025, the airport recorded 643,687 total enplanements.

In response to inquiries from Mr. Dagliere and Mr. Rocco, Mr. Rafter confirmed that their feedback regarding the terminal design is being addressed and will be reflected in forthcoming iterations of terminal plans.

## 4. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

### APRIL 2025 FINANCIALS

Prior to the meeting, Ms. Neal-Sanjurjo reviewed the financials and requested that Mr. Rafter present the Finance Committee Report for the period ending April 30, 2025. Mr. Rafter provided an overview of the report.

- **Airfield**
  - Revenues: April revenues, excluding the Lessee subsidy of \$152,095, totaled \$131,007. Year-to-date (YTD) revenues, excluding the \$1,781,136 subsidy, were \$798,886, exceeding budget expectations by \$423,009.
  - Expenses: April expenses were \$283,102, under budget by \$47,944. YTD expenses were \$2,580,022, also under budget by \$730,438.
  - The actual subsidy required for April was \$141,363 below budget.
- **Administration**
  - Revenues: April administrative revenues totaled \$112,023, exceeding budget by \$36,640. However, YTD revenues of \$630,713 are below budget by \$183,088.
  - Expenses: Administrative expenses for April were \$146,754. YTD expenses were under budget by \$128,401.

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- Net Result: The net result for the Administration Fund was a loss of \$34,750.98 for April and a YTD loss of \$94,190.
- **Balance Sheet**
  - Fund Balance as of April 30, 2025: \$288,119
  - Total liabilities and fund balances: \$1,522,384

## 5. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

### AIRFIELD OPERATIONS

Mr. Nielson reported that all findings from the 2025 FAA Safety Inspection have been resolved, except for the pending installation of two sign panels. Final closure documentation will be submitted upon their installation, with ongoing coordination maintained with the FAA.

Current airfield maintenance includes runway rubber removal, with pavement marking refresh scheduled next week. Crack sealing and repairs are ongoing, with continued monitoring planned through the summer and winter seasons.

Board Resolution 622, included in the meeting packet, seeks approval to accept a federal grant for the purchase of a new ARFF vehicle. Approval will allow the vendor to begin production.

In response to Mr. Scussel, Mr. Nielson confirmed a recent PCI evaluation was completed and will share the results with Mr. Scussel.

- ➔ *Action Item: Mr. Nielson to provide Mr. Scussel with the results of the recently completed Pavement Condition Index (PCI) assessment.*

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

### THE NEW HVN LLC

Mr. Nielson presented the Lessee Report, reporting on several recent infrastructure and operational improvements:

- **Terminal Traffic Pattern:** A new one-way traffic pattern has been implemented in front of the arrivals building following a seal coat and full restriping of the area. Coordination with customers is ongoing to support the transition.
- **Roadway Enhancements:** Updated striping has been completed at the roundabout and the Burr Street/Dean Street intersection. A new sign has been installed to redirect traffic away from the school zone during school hours.
- **TSA Checkpoint Expansion:** Preparatory construction for a third TSA lane is substantially complete. Installation is scheduled to begin on June 24, with the lane expected to be operational by June 25, ahead of the July 4th travel period.
- **Trash Compactor Installation:** Trash compactors will be installed next week, reducing daily waste pickups to approximately once per week. This is expected to decrease heavy truck traffic and ease congestion near the rental car lot and arrivals terminal.

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In response to Mr. Reed's inquiry, Mr. Cavaliere confirmed plans for public outreach regarding the new TSA lane and traffic changes. A TSA PreCheck enrollment drive will also be launched to promote use of the enhanced security screening.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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Mr. Cavaliere provided a summary of recent community engagement activities and initiatives:

- **Annual W18 Community Meeting:** The meeting was well attended and included productive dialogue with residents, Mayor Elicker, and city officials. Key topics included traffic and parking (notably the new roundabout and reconfigured traffic flow), noise mitigation efforts, and air quality concerns.
- **Residential Air Purifier Program:** In response to resident feedback, a new indoor air quality program is launching, to distribute high-efficiency air purifiers to approximately 800 - 815 homes in New Haven and East Haven. This initiative is not based on air quality data but is a direct response to community concerns. There are no FEMA-related eligibility restrictions. A new "Air Quality" page is now live on the airport website with details and future updates.
- **Public Art and Branding:** A new art installation by Michael Pollick and a "Welcome to New Haven - Pizza Capital of the U.S." sign were unveiled to enhance the passenger experience and celebrate local culture.
- **Business and Community Outreach:** Mr. Cavaliere attended the Yale Innovation Summit to connect with regional business leaders and investors, reinforcing the airport's role in economic development. He also participated in the East Haven Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours and the East Shore Community Management Team meeting.
- **East Haven Chamber Board Appointment:** Mr. Cavaliere announced his recent appointment to the Board of Directors of the East Haven Chamber of Commerce, reflecting the airport's commitment to local business engagement.

**Additional Clarifications:** The air purifier program is a proactive response to public input and not based on elevated air quality readings, which remain consistent across New Haven per the city's monitors. Public access to the City of New Haven's air quality data is available via the airport's website.

## 7. REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

### RESOLUTION #621: APPROVAL OF THE 2025 PASSENGER FACILITY CHARGES (PFC) APPLICATION #9

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Mr. Reed read Resolution #621 aloud and called for a motion. Mr. White moved to approve the resolution, with Mr. Fimiani seconding. Mr. Reed opened the floor for comments or questions. With no further questions, Mr. Reed called for a vote, and the motion was unanimously approved, carrying the resolution.

### RESOLUTION #622: APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH OSHKOSH AIRPORT PRODUCTS FOR AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF) VEHICLE

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Mr. Reed read Resolution #622 aloud and called for a motion. Mr. Dagliere moved to approve the resolution, with Ms. Hennessey seconding. Mr. Reed opened the floor for comments or questions. With no further questions, Mr. Reed called for a vote, and the motion was unanimously approved, carrying the resolution.

During discussion, a typographical error in the resolution text was noted and will be corrected.

In response to Mr. Scussel's inquiry regarding reimbursement through PFC charges, Mr. Rafter confirmed the cost is covered under an existing PFC application.

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Mr. Jacobs requested clarification on the total project cost and procurement process. Mr. Rafter confirmed the total cost of the vehicle is \$1,018,046 and explained that the initial bid process was voided due to the vendor's inability to meet FAA "Buy America" certification requirements within the 180-day window. A second bid process was completed, resulting in the current proposal.

With no further questions, Mr. Reed called for a vote, and the motion was unanimously approved, carrying the resolution.

### 8. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Reed opened the floor for other business. Mr. Jacobs expressed his gratitude to fellow Board members, staff, and leadership for the opportunity to serve across two terms. He reflected on the airport's progress and expressed optimism about its future as a key regional transportation hub. Mr. Hoey commended Mr. Jacobs for his contributions, especially his thoughtful questions, advocacy efforts, and regional commitment. He acknowledged Mr. Jacobs' role in supporting the airport's development and broader community interests.

Mr. Reed announced the recent leadership change at Avports, with Jorge Roberts stepping down and Marc Ricks assuming the role of Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Ricks, who resides in Westchester County, has indicated his intent to be regularly present at the airport and is open to meetings with Board members. Mr. Reed encouraged those interested to coordinate with Andrew King. In response to a suggestion from Mr. Dagliere, Mr. Reed agreed to invite Mr. Ricks to attend an upcoming Board meeting to formally introduce himself and engage with the Board.

### 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.*

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#### MICHAEL GIORDANO – JUNO BEACH, FL [VIRTUAL]

Commenter requested that the Board enforce a strict three-minute limit for public comments, noting a prior instance where a speaker exceeded the time without being cut off. Emphasized fairness and consistency, explaining that several commenters, including himself, rehearse to stay within the limit. Expressed frustration with extended and off-topic remarks and urged the Board to apply the rules equally to all speakers, regardless of viewpoint

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#### PASTOR JACK PERKINS DAVIDSON – HAMDEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Commenter challenged the framing of public opinion as pro- or anti-airport, emphasizing instead a shared commitment to the well-being of the New Haven area. Voiced concern that the Board did not address Avelo-related deportation flights during the meeting, despite growing community interest. Urged the Board to use its authority to hold Avelo accountable and to advocate for ethical practices. Quoted internal airline communication that criticized New Haven's performance, calling it a betrayal and urging the Authority to respond proactively and collaboratively.

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#### KATHERINE BENNETT – EAST HAVEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Commenter expressed appreciation for prior remarks on ethical concerns and raised issues regarding the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) application, noting she missed the public comment window and questioning its

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accessibility. Cited specific proposed uses of PFC funds, such as land acquisition and obstruction mitigation for Taxiway A extension, as indicative of an airport expansion. Claimed that while physical boundaries may not change initially, the projects constitute a clear expansion of infrastructure and operations.

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### SANDRA REINERS – BRANFORD, CT [VIRTUAL]

Commenter reiterated the ongoing community concern about airport noise. Cited recent data from publicly viewable noise monitors at the airport's west and east fences, showing early morning noise spikes. Questioned compliance with a prior commitment from Avelo representatives not to idle aircraft before 6:30 a.m. Criticized the discrepancy between real-world decibel levels and FAA-certified standards. Emphasized the health impacts of aircraft noise, referencing medical expert testimony on cardiovascular risks.

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### LORENA VENEGAS – EAST HAVEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Commenter summarized key concerns raised at a recent public meeting, including low-flying aircraft, traffic, parking, noise, air pollution, pesticide use, and deicing. Criticized the alleged misrepresentation of citizen-led scientific studies. Expressed frustration with the lack of public engagement in East Haven and pointed to long-standing community concerns about the health impacts of Avelo's aircraft. Claimed the environmental assessment excluded relevant aircraft data and criticized the economic viability of the airport's development plans.

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### JOE GIORDANO – EAST HAVEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Commenter reiterated the need to strictly enforce the three-minute time limit for public comments, citing a previous speaker who exceeded it. Suggested the Authority include experienced pilots in community meetings to address recurring operational concerns such as jet idling and late landings. Expressed skepticism about claims regarding low aircraft altitudes and urged the Board to respond with factual clarity rather than deferring. Questioned the credibility of some public health complaints, suggesting individuals truly affected by noise or pollution would relocate. Asserted that Tweed Airport is a permanent presence.

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### GLORIA BELLACICCO – NEW HAVEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Commenter thanked the City and Tweed representatives for attending a recent public meeting and staying beyond the scheduled time to answer questions, ensuring all attendees had the opportunity to speak. Expressed appreciation for Senator Looney's efforts in securing \$10 million for the area and requested that a portion of those funds be used to expand the airport's noise mitigation program to include more affected homes. Noted occasional jet fuel odors and affirmed that all community members, regardless of how often they speak or repeat concerns, deserve to be heard. Concluded with appreciation for staff responsiveness to specific questions.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Reed called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. White proposed the motion, and Mr. Fimiani seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:20 PM. The next meeting will be held on July 16, 2025, at 4:00 PM.

## ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

- ➔ *Action Item: Mr. Nielson to provide Mr. Scussel with the results of the recently completed Pavement Condition Index (PCI) assessment.*
- ➔ *Action Item: Mr. Surriel to amend the typo in Resolution 622 and repost.*

## THNAA BOARD MINUTES

### MINUTES PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY

Malena Zanjani

6/23/25

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