



TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 20, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Robert Reed, John Picard, Linda Hennessey, Serena Neal-Sanjurjo, Carlos Eyzaguirre, Mark Sklarz, Ray Pompano, Ken Dagliere, David White, Jesse Phillips, Michael Fimiani, Mark Scussel, Kevin Rocco and Dean Johnson.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Judy Mison

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tom Rafter, Malena Zanjani, Felipe Suriel, Marc Ricks, Kaity Arango, Lisa Brandes, Sandra Reiners, Tim Sullivan, Brett Simon, Lorena Venegas, Andrew King, Brian Courtney, Jeremiah Wilhite, Michael Giordano, Sarah Smith, Hugh Manke, Dan Adams, Peter Leonardi, Jean Perry Phillips, Matt Hoey, Lisa Waring, Bill Wade, David Salvo, Lewis Langella, and Vincent Perrelli.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Reed officially called the August 20, 2025, TNHAA Regular Board of Directors meeting to order at approximately 4:01 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Reed moved to approve the minutes from the regular Board Meeting held on July 16, 2025. The motion was supported by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Fimiani. With no further questions or comments, the Board unanimously approved the minutes.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Reed noted that he had no formal updates to report for the month. He welcomed new Board member Dean Johnson, who was attending his first meeting. A formal introduction was deferred to the "Other Business" portion of the agenda.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Rafter provided updates on the following matters:

Action Items from Previous Board Meeting:

THNAA BOARD MINUTES

- Mr. Cavaliere will present a comparative analysis and methodology of the Washington Post Airport Ranking later in this Board meeting.
- A recurring events schedule has been created and distributed to Board members. This includes routine items and has been incorporated into the Board onboarding packet.

Resolutions:

- Mr. Rafter summarized to the Board the Inducement Resolution, an early step in a potential tax-exempt bond issuance. This resolution allows costs associated with the issuance to be reimbursed and included in future financing. He explained approval of the resolution does not commit the Authority to proceed with the issuance; additional reviews and approvals are required. All Authority costs related to the issuance are covered by reimbursement agreements with Avports, which has already reimbursed costs incurred to date.

RFP Updates:

- Legal Services: Selection is complete; engagement letters are anticipated for the next meeting.
- Audit Services: Three proposals were received and reviewed. Notification to selected firm is forthcoming.

Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC):

- The ESC met the previous day and discussed electric vehicle grant funding and noise monitoring program updates.

Grants & Funding:

- A \$3.7 million grant application has been submitted for runway design and permitting.
- The Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) application has been submitted to the FAA and deemed substantially complete.

Passenger Statistics:

- HVN continues to see strong growth. May 2025 enplanements increased 33% year-over-year, totaling 14,727 passengers.
- Year-to-date enplanements are up 36%, with 179,776 passengers boarded. For the 12-month period ending in May, HVN enplaned 680,034 passengers, which is approximately five times the population of New Haven.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 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 June 30, 2025. Mr. Rafter provided an overview of the report.

Airfield Operations:

- Revenues: Excluding the lessee subsidy of \$361,152, actual revenues for June totaled \$105,838. The subsidy required was over budget by \$67,693. Year-to-date (YTD) revenues, excluding the \$2.33 million subsidy, totaled \$1,038,804, exceeding budget projections by \$625,340.

THNAA BOARD MINUTES

- Expenses: June expenses were \$466,989.71, exceeding the budget by \$135,944 due to paving maintenance. YTD expenses were \$3,368,120, under budget by \$273,386.

Administrative Operations:

- Revenues: June revenues were \$219,729, surpassing budget expectations by \$159,229. YTD revenues stood at \$908,600, falling short of budget by \$26,200.
- Expenses: Administrative expenses for June totaled \$138,629. YTD expenses were under budget by \$28,031.
- Net Result: June saw a net profit of \$81,100 for the Admin Fund. YTD, the fund reflects a net loss of \$20,445, which is still \$1,830.64 better than budgeted.

Balance Sheet Highlights:

- The Fund Balance at the end of June 2025 was \$361,912.
- Total liabilities and fund balances stood at \$1,669,589.

6. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

AIRFIELD OPERATIONS

Mr. Nielsen provided the Airport Manager's Report with the following updates:

- The FAA annual inspection closeout process was successfully completed. Mr. Nielsen commended the operations team for their ongoing commitment to safety and emphasized the positive, ongoing relationship with the FAA, including regular communication throughout the year.
- The runway pavement continues to be actively monitored due to its approaching end-of-life cycle. Repairs have been made in recent months, and a request for bid proposals is being developed for emergency service repairs, should they be needed.
- Design work continues for both the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) facility and the Snow Removal Equipment (SRE) building. Final designs are still in development and are being refined based on available funding and collaboration with the Executive Director.
- On August 7, the airport held its annual Runway Safety Action Team (RSAT) meeting. Mr. Nielsen reported zero safety incidents and no new action items identified for the coming year. He attributed that outcome to strong communication and collaboration among tenants, air traffic control, and airport staff.

Mr. Nielsen concluded by expressing appreciation for the entire Tweed airport community's ongoing teamwork and dedication to safe and efficient operations.

7. LESSEE'S REPORT – THE NEW HVN LLC

THE NEW HVN LLC

Mr. Nielsen provided the Lessee's Report with the following updates:

- The airport successfully completed its annual TSA compliance audit with no material findings. Mr. Nielsen noted this as a significant achievement, underscoring the strong collaboration among all airport stakeholders, including airlines, ground handlers, and terminal operators, and their shared commitment to safety and security.

THNAA BOARD MINUTES

- Checkpoint Expansion – Phase 2 remains in the design stage. The team is awaiting final specifications for the baggage handling system to ensure the design balances passenger efficiency with operational functionality. Completion is still targeted for the November 2025 holiday travel season.
- Ongoing facility improvements were highlighted, including exterior painting of the arrivals building, new curbside seating at both arrivals and departures, pavement repairs in the parking lots, and aesthetic enhancements at the airport entrance signage.

Mr. Nielsen concluded by noting these improvements are part of the airport's continuous efforts to enhance the passenger experience and operational efficiency.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Mr. Cavaliere reported several updates in recognition, environmental programs, and community outreach:

Awards and Recognition:

- Tweed received the 2025 Inclusion in Aviation Award from the Northeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives, recognizing its commitment to inclusive workplaces, career access, and traveler experience. This follows two other accolades:
 - Newsweek Readers' Choice – Top 10 Best Small Airports
 - Washington Post – Ranked #40 among Best Airports in America

The Washington Post ranking was based on reviews of 450+ airports with over 1,000 enplanements, incorporating reader feedback, accessibility, navigation, food and retail quality, on-time performance, and unique amenities.

Air Quality Program:

- The Residential Indoor Air Program launched in early August, with 838 eligible homes notified. About 100 applications have been received. Residents may apply online via hvnsound.com or by mail. Approved applicants receive a code to order a free Alen Flex HEPA-grade air purifier.

Noise Monitoring Program:

- Portable monitors will transitioned from fixed sites to residential deployment. Updated readings and a new noise report will be shared at the next meeting.

Public Information Sessions - CT DEEP:

- Community sessions are being scheduled to coincide with the public comment period for the new terminal and runway extension environmental permit. These sessions, though not required, will increase transparency and outline mitigation efforts.

Vegetation Management:

- Tree trimming at runway ends begins August 28 and will run weekdays through September 3, to maintain FAA-compliant airspace. CT DEEP recently confirmed the airport's mowing practices comply with all environmental regulations.

Lawn Signs:

THNAA BOARD MINUTES

- “No Airport Parking/Idling” signs are being distributed free to residents in response to neighborhood concerns.

Community Engagement:

- Tweed participated in the St. Clare Celebration hosted by St. Bernadette’s Church, continuing efforts to connect with local communities.

In response to a question from Mr. Picard, Mr. Cavaliere confirmed that over 500 individuals are employed across the airport campus. Mr. Picard requested pre-2021 employment figures for comparison, which Mr. Cavaliere will provide at a future meeting.

- *Action Item: Mr. Cavaliere to provide a comparative employment figure for the airport campus from pre-2021 (prior to the arrival of Avelo and Breeze).*

8. REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION #623: INDUCEMENT RESOLUTION

Chairman Reed introduced Resolution #623, the Inducement Resolution, previously summarized by Executive Director Rafter. He noted the presence of Sarah Smith from McCarter & English, the Authority’s counsel in this area, who was available to answer questions. Ms. Smith endorsed Mr. Rafter’s summary.

With no further discussion, the Board proceeded to vote. Motion to approve Resolution #623 was made by Mr. Fimiani and seconded by Ms. Hennessey. The resolution was unanimously approved.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Reed formally welcomed Mr. Dean Johnson, the newest Board appointee representing the City of New Haven. Mr. Johnson briefly introduced himself, highlighting his prior experience on the Charlottesville Airport Authority, his background as a general aviation pilot, and his commitment to supporting economic development in New Haven through his service on the Board.

Chairman Reed also acknowledged the upcoming retirement of Executive Director Tom Rafter, expected sometime in 2026. In response to a question from Mr. Picard, Mr. Reed confirmed that a formal executive search process will be undertaken. A preliminary group will begin discussions after Labor Day, and a search committee composed of members from both East Haven and New Haven will be formed in collaboration with the Chair and Vice Chair.

Mr. Rafter introduced Mr. Marc Ricks, the new CEO of Avports, who shared remarks with the Board. Mr. Ricks, who joined Avports approximately 10 weeks ago, emphasized his strong commitment to the Tweed project, frequent visits to the airport, and ongoing engagement with airport leadership and the broader community. He expressed enthusiasm for the airport’s current progress and future development, encouraging open communication with the Board and stakeholders.

10. 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.

THNAA BOARD MINUTES

MICHAEL GIORDANO – JUNO BEACH, FL [VIRTUAL]

Commenter praised Executive Director Rafter's leadership and professionalism. Commenter claimed that despite recent improvements to airport traffic flow, many drivers do not follow signage directing them to turn left toward I-95, potentially due to GPS instructions. Commenter suggested that the airport consider deploying staff during peak times to assist with directing traffic.

TONI LORENTI – MERIDEN, CT [IN-PERSON]

Commenter acknowledged steps taken by the airport and its partners to address community concerns, citing efforts such as noise monitoring, air quality programs, and residential soundproofing. However, commenter claimed that these measures have not satisfied all residents and argued that the needs of passengers remain underrepresented. Commenter presented a list of suggested operational and safety upgrades, including expanded airspace classification, lighting improvements, and upgraded air traffic control systems. Comment concluded with appreciation for Executive Director Rafter's service and clarified that the statement was intended as a constructive appeal rather than a critique.

SANDRA REINERS – BRANFORD, CT [VIRTUAL]

Commenter raised multiple points related to airport operations and financial transparency. Commenter suggested including a footnote in the financial reports to clarify that the Authority's revenue share from the Lessee is based on 1% of gross revenues, as outlined in the contract, and inquired how often the Authority verifies these figures. Commenter also noted concerns with the WebTrak noise monitoring system, claiming only one monitor had been operational for several weeks and referencing a recurring unexplained 6AM noise event. The principal focus of the comment was on Resolution #623 (Inducement Resolution). Drawing from experience as a bond analyst, the commenter questioned aspects of the resolution's language and potential risks, including the timing of reimbursable expenses and the stated maximum issuance amount. Commenter expressed concern over limited discussion of the resolution during the meeting and indicated intent to submit further questions in writing.

LISA BRANDES – NEW HAVEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Commenter identifying as a longtime user of Tweed Airport and a student at Southern Connecticut State University expressed support for the airport's growth and planning efforts. Commenter encouraged the Authority to explore improved intermodal transit access, citing New Haven's Union Station as a major transportation hub located nearby. Commenter advocated for enhanced public transit options (such as a dedicated "Tweed Flyer" shuttle bus) to better serve airport passengers, especially students and employees with transit passes. Commenter noted that improved transit access could help manage traffic demand and support sustainable tourism growth.

VINCENT PERELLI – WILMINGTON, DE [VIRTUAL]

Commenter expressed interest in preserving Tweed's original administration building, suggesting it could be repurposed as an aviation museum to showcase the airport's history. Commenter also noted personal concern with pilot announcements referencing the runway's short length, suggesting such messages may affect passenger confidence and recommending alternative language be used when describing braking procedures.

11. ADJOURNMENT

THNAA BOARD MINUTES

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Reed called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Picard proposed the motion, and Mr. White seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:53 PM. The next meeting will be held on September 17, 2025, at 4:00 PM.

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

- ➔ *Action Item: Mr. Cavaliere to provide a comparative employment figure for the airport campus from pre-2021 (prior to the arrival of Avelo and Breeze).*

MINUTES PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY

Malena Zanjani

8/26/25

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