TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 16, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Ray Pompano, Judy Mison, and Dean Johnson.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tom Rafter, Jeremy Nielson, Malena Zanjani, Felipe Suriel, Hugh Manke, Kaity Arango, Jeremiah Wilhite, Gloria Bellacicco, Michael Giordano, Kayla Reasco, Lorena Venegas, Matt Hoey, Jean Perry Phillips, Toni Lorenti, Katherine Bennett, Vincent Perrelli, Peter Leonardi, Tim Sullivan, David Salvo, and Sukh Grewal.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Reed officially called the July 16, 2025, TNHAA Regular Board of Directors meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Reed requested a motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-200(6)(E), Section 1-210(b)(4) and Section 1-210(b)(10) to discuss pending litigation strategy and other related issues subject to attorney client privilege. A motion was made by Mr. Fimiani and seconded by Mr. White. The motion passed with more than a two-thirds majority vote.

Eligible members and invited participants transitioned to a separate meeting link for the Executive Session, which commenced at 4:10 PM.

In attendance: Board Members Robert Reed, John Picard, Linda Hennessey, Serena Neal-Sanjurjo, Michael Fimiani, Ken Dagliere, David White, Mark Scussel, Jesse Phillips, Carlos Eyzaguirre, Mark Sklarz, and Kevin Rocco.

Also present were TNHAA staff Tom Rafter and Malena Zanjani; TNHAA Legal Counsel Hugh Manke; and Avports staff Tom Cavaliere.

During Executive Session, the Board discussed pending litigation strategy and other legal matters protected by attorney-client privilege. The Executive Session concluded at 4:27 PM, and the Board reconvened via the original meeting link. No votes or formal actions were taken during the Executive Session.

Upon return to public session, Mr. Reed requested a Motion to authorize the Executive Director to accept the proposed work order to continue the representation by Updike, Kelly & Spellacy and Kaplan, Kirsch & Rockwell and responsibly resolve any open issues with regards to fees incurred to date including those related to claims for reimbursement by Avports. Ms. Hennessey moved the motion, seconded by Mr. White. The motion passed unanimously.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Picard nominated Mr. Reed for Chair; the nomination was seconded by Mr. Dagliere. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Reed opened nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Dagliere nominated Mr. Scussel, and Mr. White nominated Mr. Picard. A vote was conducted: Mr. Picard received 7 votes and Mr. Scussel received 5 votes. The motion carried, and Mr. Picard was reelected as Vice Chair.

Mr. Reed nominated Ms. Hennessey to continue serving as Secretary. The nomination was motioned by Mr. Eyzaguirre and seconded by Mr. Dagliere. The motion carried.

Mr. Picard nominated Ms. Neal-Sanjurjo for Treasurer. The nomination was motioned by Mr. Dagliere and seconded by Mr. Fimiani. The motion carried.

2025 TNHAA Officers:

- Chair: Robert Reed
- Vice Chair: John Picard
- Secretary: Linda Hennessey
- Treasurer: Serena Neal-Sanjurjo

4. MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2025

Mr. Reed moved to approve the minutes from the regular Board Meeting held on June 18, 2025. The motion was supported by Mr. Picard and seconded by Ms. Neal-Sanjurjo. With no further questions or comments, the Board unanimously approved the minutes.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Reed commented on recent public announcements regarding Avelo Airlines' decision to close its West Coast operations at Hollywood Burbank Airport. In response, the Authority issued the following statement:

Since the beginning of expansion efforts in 2021, HVN has grown to serve more than 40 nonstop destinations. Southern Connecticut travelers clearly value the convenience and affordability offered by HVN, which is why we have become one of the fastest-growing airports in the country in recent years. This growth has exceeded all initial expectations, and our carriers continue to invest and grow their presence at HVN.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Rafter provided the following updates to the Board:

PFC Application: No public or stakeholder comments were received. The application is being finalized and is expected to be submitted to the FAA by Friday, July 18, 2025.

Audit/Legal Services RFP Status: Legal service proposals have been received and are under review. Audit service proposals are due by 5:00 PM today.

Terminal Design: The Board previously held an Executive Session on April 15, 2025, to review the 60% design documents for the new terminal. Following the last Board meeting, updated design information was posted on the Authority's website. The Executive Director requested and received Board concurrence, without objection, to proceed with the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) delivery method for the terminal project. Comments will be addressed in the next design iteration.

Airport Statistics: Bureau of Transportation Statistics data for April 2025 show a 46% increase in passenger enplanements over April 2024, totaling 21,620 enplaned passengers. Year-to-date, HVN has seen a 35% increase, with 174,029 enplaned passengers. This growth approaches three times the Airport's former annual enplanement figures. Over the twelve-month period ending in April, HVN recorded 665,307 total enplanements. The Authority extends its appreciation to the passengers supporting this growth.

Action Items from Previous Meeting: Mr. Scussel was provided Pavement Condition Index (PCI) results. A correction was made to Resolution 622, amending the vendor name from MB Companies to Oshkosh.

7. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 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 May 31, 2025. Mr. Rafter provided an overview of the report.

Airfield Operations:

- Actual revenues for May, excluding the lessee subsidy of $187,028, totaled $134,080. Year-to-date (YTD) revenues excluding subsidies stand at $932,966, which is $519,502 over budget.
- May expenses totaled $321,109, coming in under budget by $9,937. YTD expenses are $2,901,131, or $740,375 below budget.
- The actual subsidy required for May was under budget by $106,430.

Administrative Operations:

- Administrative revenues for May were $58,158, which is $2,342 under budget. YTD administrative revenues are $688,871, falling short of budget by $188,429.
- May administrative expenses amounted to $65,513. YTD administrative expenses are under budget by $114,774.
- The Administrative Fund reported a net loss of $7,355 for May and a YTD net loss of $101,546.

The Fund Balance as of May 31, 2025, is $280,785, with total liabilities and fund balances amounting to $1,842,639.

8. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

AIRFIELD OPERATIONS

Mr. Nielson provided an update on airfield operations:

Runway Maintenance: The rubber removal on the runway has been completed. Final airfield paint touch-ups are underway and expected to conclude within the next day or two, marking the near completion of the project.

Wildlife Management: The Airport continues to collaborate closely with the USDA to manage increased wildlife activity, with a strong emphasis on ensuring ongoing airfield safety.

RSAT Meeting: The annual Runway Safety Action Team (RSAT) meeting is scheduled for August 7. The meeting, coordinated with the Air Traffic Control Tower, will include participants from both the Eastern Region and other FAA regions. The agenda will include a review of airfield operations, past incidents, trends, and identification of hotspots, with the goal of improving runway safety and mitigating hazards. The Airport is encouraged by the attention and support received from external agencies.

Mr. Nielson concluded his report by affirming continued commitment to safe airfield operations.

9. LESSEE'S REPORT – THE NEW HVN LLC

THE NEW HVN LLC

Mr. Nielson reported on recent operational and facility improvements:

Landside Traffic Pattern Improvements: Following the completion of revised landside traffic patterns and new striping, a noticeable improvement in driver behavior has been observed. Motorists are adjusting to the new layout, aided by continued support from the New Haven Police Department. Signage enhancements have contributed to directing traffic toward Townsend Avenue via Burr Street. The signage strategy is designed to accommodate future school-year traffic with adaptable messaging.

TSA Checkpoint Enhancements: Installation of a third TSA checkpoint lane has been completed. The additional lane has effectively reduced wait times and improved passenger flow during peak periods.

Connector Project: Final design work is underway on a passenger connector that will allow for direct baggage drop-off into a screening trailer, eliminating the need for passengers to bring luggage through the terminal entrance. The project is expected to be completed in advance of the holiday travel season.

Trash Compactor: The new trash compactor has been successfully installed and operational for several weeks. The enhanced system has significantly reduced the frequency of trash pickups, lowering them from nearly daily to approximately once every other week, thereby minimizing large vehicle traffic in front of the terminal and improving safety and operational efficiency.

Mr. Nielson concluded the report by noting that these changes are producing visible, positive impacts on airport operations and passenger experience.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Mr. Cavaliere shared the following updates:

East Haven Chamber of Commerce: Mr. Cavaliere recapped his recent election to the Board of Directors of the East Haven Chamber of Commerce. He looks forward to strengthening collaboration between the Airport and the business community, aligning airport activities with the Chamber's goals and priorities.

Residential Indoor Air Quality Program: The Airport has launched a residential air purifier distribution program for 815 homes in New Haven and East Haven. This initiative responds to resident concerns raised during the 2023 Annual Community Meeting. Outreach to eligible residents will begin in early August, with additional updates and engagement channels available via a dedicated program website.

TSA PreCheck Enrollment Drive: TSA is currently hosting an in-airport enrollment event at HVN through Friday, excluding the 12–1 PM hour. Passengers can enroll on-site with a passport and driver's license, or pre-enroll online to expedite the process. This initiative aims to make TSA PreCheck more accessible and reduce checkpoint wait times.

National Recognition: Tweed-New Haven Airport was ranked #40 in the Washington Post's list of Best Airports in the United States, based on reader input and data analysis. This recognition highlights HVN's charm and exceptional passenger experience. The Airport was also recently ranked among the top 10 best small airports in the U.S. by Newsweek's Readers Choice Awards. Mr. Cavaliere thanked the over 500 staff across the airport campus for their contributions to this success. He will share more details and comparative analysis of peer airports from the ranking at the next meeting.

Mr. Nielson added that HVN was recently awarded a grant exceeding $1 million for sustainability-focused equipment, including an electric street sweeper, two electric zero-turn mowers, and a high-speed electric vehicle charging station. These upgrades align with the Airport's green initiatives and will be visible in daily operations around the airport and surrounding areas. Further updates will be provided as the project progresses.

Chairman Reed noted the importance of this investment to the Airport's zero-emissions goals and requested that the project be included in future updates.

- *Action Item: Mr. Cavaliere to present comparative analysis and methodology of the Washington Post Airport Ranking at next Board meeting.*

10. REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

There were no resolutions this month.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Reed opened the floor for other business. He then announced the appointment of Dean Johnson to the Board of Directors, as designated by Mayor Elicker. Mr. Johnson was unable to attend this meeting but is expected to join and introduce himself at the next scheduled meeting.

Chairman Reed also informed the Board that Marc Ricks, the newly appointed CEO of Avports, has been making introductory visits. Although invited to this meeting, Mr. Ricks was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict but has committed to participating in the next meeting, either in person or virtually. He is also open to one-on-one meetings with Board members and can be contacted directly for those interested.

Mr. Scussel suggested the creation of a recurring event calendar to help Board members stay informed of annual or regular activities, such as the RSAT meeting or other operational milestones. Mr. Rafter acknowledged the recommendation and indicated the team would explore the idea further.

- *Action Item: Mr. Rafter & Ms. Zanjani to consider identifying recurring events and developing a Board-facing calendar.*

12. 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.

VINCENT PERRELLI– WILMINGTON, DE [VIRTUAL]

Commenter referenced historical use of louder aircraft at Tweed and claimed that modern aircraft are quieter and more efficient. Suggested inviting a Pratt & Whitney representative to speak on jet engine advancements or arranging a facility tour. Expressed concern about safety at public meetings, alleging that rhetoric from some airport opponents could incite harmful actions. Recommended increased security presence at future meetings.

KATHERINE BENNETT – EAST HAVEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Commenter raised concerns regarding the DEEP permit applications related to the airport expansion. Alleged that the rerouting of Dodge Avenue was not included in earlier application materials or environmental assessments. Claimed that proposed runway expansion over Tuttle Brook would require substantial fill and structural reinforcement, potentially causing significant wetland impacts. Cited prior environmental studies warning of risks associated with waterways near runways. Urged rigorous soil and water testing, similar to testing at Sikorsky Airport, before any permits are granted.

LORENA VENEGAS – EAST HAVEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Commenter alleged lack of response to Freedom of Information requests concerning WebTrak data, low-flying aircraft, and a pending noise study. Expressed concern over download access to the DEEP application and absence of timely notifications for public forums, describing this as an environmental injustice. Criticized the audio and video quality of the June 10 meeting recording, stating it hindered public access. Expressed frustration over delays in communicating details about the residential air purifier program. Alleged insufficient community engagement by airport leadership, the Board, and local officials.

GLORIA BELLACICCO – NEW HAVEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Commenter referenced recent late-night aircraft arrivals due to severe weather in Florida and acknowledged that such delays are beyond airport control. Emphasized the importance of continuing the community email notification system to explain unexpected flight activity. Stated that timely emails improve transparency and help residents stay informed, noting reliance on social media in the absence of official updates.

TONI LORENTI – MERIDEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Commenter expressed appreciation for the Airport Authority’s public outreach efforts and acknowledged the complexity of aviation topics. Stated that while some residents raise recurring concerns, the airport has made a good faith effort to provide information on a range of issues, including air traffic, air purifiers, and environmental monitoring. Suggested that some concerns could be addressed through individual initiative and online research. Also questioned the focus on regulated air traffic compared to unregulated local issues such as street racing and loud vehicles.

13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Reed called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Fimiani proposed the motion, and Ms. Hennessey seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:23 PM. The next meeting will be held on August 20, 2025, at 4:00 PM.

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

- *Action Item: Mr. Cavaliere to present comparative analysis and methodology of the Washington Post Airport Ranking at next Board meeting.*
- *Action Item: Mr. Rafter & Ms. Zanjani to consider identifying recurring events and developing a Board-facing calendar.*

MINUTES PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY

Malena Zanjani

7/21/25