



TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mark Sklarz and Ken Dagliere.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tom Rafter, Jeremy Nielson, Malena Zanjani, Felipe Suriel, Tom Cavaliere, Garrett Kimball, Lisa Brandes, Scott Luzzi, Steve Wight, Michael Giordano, Tim Sullivan, Toni Lorenti, Hugh Manke, Joe Giordano, Mary Caruso, Jean Phillips, Matt Hoey, Lorena Venegas, Jack Wescott, Mark Zaretsky, Petrina Yoxall, Sal DeCola, and Jeff E.

• CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM by the Chairman. A quorum was confirmed as present.

• APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 2025 Board Meeting was made by Mr. Fimiani and seconded Ms. Hennessey. There were no corrections or amendments. Motion carried unanimously.

• CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Reed reported on the following items:

- **Executive Director Transition:** The Board had previously approved a transition agreement at the expiration of Tom Rafter's contract for January 23. Mr. Rafter has since agreed to remain through the completion of the airport development project. Effective January 26, 2026, he will transition to a 30-hour work week while remaining available as needed to ensure leadership continuity. Ms. Zanjani will continue her 40-hour schedule and remain accessible.
- **Executive Director Search:** Considering Mr. Rafter's continued role, the Executive Search Committee, in consultation with ADK, have agreed to pause the search. The ADK contract remains open for future consideration.

There were no questions or comments. The Board expressed appreciation for Mr. Rafter's continued service.

• EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

THNAA BOARD MINUTES

Executive Director Rafter provided updates on several key areas:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO): The Authority has submitted a \$30 million funding request under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to support the terminal project.
- Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Board members were reminded to complete and return their Conflict of Interest forms to Ms. Zanjani by the end of the month.
- Passenger Statistics: HVN experienced continued growth in October, with enplanements increasing by 11% compared to October of the previous year. Year-to-date enplanements are up 31%. For the twelve-month period ending in October, the airport recorded a total of 727,154 enplanements.

• FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

NOVEMBER 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 November 30, 2025. Mr. Rafter provided an overview of the report.

- Airfield Fund
 - Total revenues for November, excluding the Lessee subsidy of \$221,044, were \$84,147.
 - The subsidy required was under budget by \$99,066 for the month.
 - Year-to-date (YTD) actual revenues, excluding the \$1,149,108 subsidy, totaled \$480,084, exceeding budget by \$2,534.
 - November expenses were \$305,191, under budget by \$111,442.
 - YTD expenses totaled \$1,629,192, which is \$453,972 below budget.
- Administration Fund
 - Total revenues for November were \$61,113, which is under budget by \$24,741.
 - YTD revenues totaled \$326,749, under budget by \$51,251.
 - Administrative expenses for November were \$77,662.
 - YTD expenses totaled \$316,984, which is \$107,254 under budget.
- Net Results:
 - The net result for November was a negative (\$16,549).
 - The YTD net result remains positive at \$9,764.
- Balance Sheet
 - Fund Balance as of November 30, 2025: \$380,777.
 - Total liabilities and fund balances: \$2,106,731.

Mr. Scussel inquired about the status of funds allocated for the ADK executive search. It was clarified that an invoice will be received for work completed to date, which will be settled. The remaining budgeted funds will be held for future use, should the search resume. No further questions were raised by Board members regarding the financial report.

• AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

AIRFIELD OPERATIONS

Mr. Nielson provided the Airfield Operations update:

THNAA BOARD MINUTES

- **Holiday Travel:** The holiday season concluded smoothly, with no significant delays or neighborhood impacts. Coordination among TSA, airlines, and local law enforcement contributed to improved operations over the prior year.
- **Winter Weather:** A recent storm brought 3–4 inches of snow and icing, causing minor Monday morning delays. Staff managed conditions effectively, and preparations are underway for a more severe storm expected this weekend, with potential cancellations anticipated.
- **FAA Certification Inspection:** The annual FAA inspection is scheduled for April 17.
- **Fleet Updates:** The airport continues to upgrade its fleet, including snow removal equipment. Plans are in motion to replace a 1995 backup ARFF truck to ensure compliance and reduce costly emergency rentals.

This concluded the Airfield Operations report.

• LESSEE’S REPORT – THE NEW HVN LLC

THE NEW HVN LLC

Mr. Nielson provided the Lessee’s Report with the following updates:

- **Avelo Network Changes:** Avelo is consolidating its network, closing some stations, but Tweed is not expected to be negatively impacted. The airline continues to focus on Tweed, its largest hub.
- **Route Adjustments:** Avelo announced the discontinuation of service to Detroit and New Orleans. Full schedule updates are forthcoming.
- **TSA Visit:** TSA’s Chief of Staff recently visited and expressed support for continued growth at Tweed.
- **New Office Space:** Due to staff growth, The New HVN LLC will open new administrative offices in East Haven in February. Operational staff will remain at the airport.
- **Job Growth:** Since 2021, staff has grown from ~20 to ~60. An additional 5–10 positions may be added this year. Consulting and contractor teams are also expanding.
- **Job Opportunities:** Positions are regularly posted on Avports.com and FlyTweed.com. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply.
- **Construction Update:** The CMAR (Construction Manager at Risk) agreement is with Consigli and The New HVN LLC, supported by Avports and STV as program manager. The Authority plays a supportive role, primarily around financing. Work continues on permitting and project planning.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Mr. Cavaliere provided updates across several areas of recognition, outreach, and environmental programs:

- **Holiday Travel Period:** From Dec. 18–Jan. 5, approximately 104,000 passengers traveled through HVN, with Dec. 28 being the busiest day (~7,000 passengers). Improvements contributing to smooth operations included: third TSA scanner, increased police presence, revised airline scheduling, and a completed roundabout project.
- **Offsite Parking:** A new offsite option at Long Wharf Garage was successfully soft-launched during the holidays, replacing Temple Street Garage. The garage was fully booked without promotion. Reservations are required via parkhvn.com. Shuttle service is continuous and responsive to flight schedules. Signage, including emergency contact info, is in place.
- **Public Information Session:** A non-required informational session on the CT DEEP application process is scheduled for January 27 at East Haven High School at 6 PM. The session will cover the permitting process and

THNAA BOARD MINUTES

how the public can engage. A decision on postponement due to weather will be made by Friday EOD. The session will be recorded.

- Community Outreach & Education:
 - Welcomed Yale School of Architecture students for a terminal tour and discussion on airport planning.
 - Hosted Shoreline Chamber of Commerce president to strengthen ties with the regional business community.
 - Continued partnerships with area chambers and CBIA.
- Environmental Programs:
 - Residential Air Purifier Program extended through March; additional outreach to eligible residents forthcoming.
 - A portable noise monitor was re-deployed at a residential location for continued seasonal data collection.
- Public Engagement Campaign: Strong community response reported from outreach efforts encouraging residents and businesses to support the airport's development. More detailed engagement data to be provided at a future meeting.

➔ *Action Item: Mr. Cavaliere to provide engagement statistics related to the public outreach campaign supporting the airport development project at the next board meeting.*

• REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

There were no resolutions.

• OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

• 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.

- Commenter Petrina Yoxall (New Haven, CT) expressed concern about traffic congestion and unauthorized parking near the airport, claiming that unknown vehicles frequently linger on residential streets and driveways, creating safety and access issues. The commenter advocated for improved signage at the intersection of Burr and Fort Hale to prevent vehicles from blocking the intersection and said the roundabout has not fully resolved traffic challenges. The commenter also reported negative interactions with drivers violating parking rules and made a brief remark regarding meeting decorum.
- Commenter Mary Caruso (North Branford, CT) raised questions regarding the availability of an ADA-compliant passenger pickup area at the airport's new arrivals section and whether the Long Wharf parking shuttle meets ADA requirements. The commenter stated that information on these topics was not readily found on the airport's website and noted that prior inquiries had been submitted. A commitment was made during the meeting to follow up directly with the commenter to provide clarification.
- Commenter Lorena Venegas (East Haven, CT) expressed concern about transparency and completeness of the board agenda. The commenter claimed required DEEP materials were not submitted on time and that the

THNAA BOARD MINUTES

application is now inaccessible. Additional concerns included a lack of air and noise monitoring in East Haven, board member absences, local flooding risks, and disputed reports of smooth holiday travel operations.

- Commenter Lisa Brandes (New Haven, CT) expressed appreciation for Avelo's recent decisions to reduce political contention, stating this may help promote the airport and its airline partnerships. The commenter also supported the success of the Long Wharf off-site parking and its shuttle service, and encouraged consideration of a shuttle connection to Union Station to improve transit access. Suggestions were made to review and update transit listings and consider future infrastructure enhancements like solar-covered parking.
- Commenter Michael Giordano (Juno Beach, FL) shared observations on recent updates to Avelo's fleet, referencing the transition to Boeing 800-series aircraft and anticipated scheduling changes. The commenter noted previous mentions of interest from major carriers and encouraged the airport to remain proactive in pursuing potential partnerships with airlines such as United or Delta. The commenter emphasized that now is a critical time to explore growth opportunities and expressed support for continued expansion.
- Commenter Toni Lorenti (Meriden, CT), Airline Pilots Association liaison for Tweed, highlighted the airport's efficient operations despite a reduced 394-acre footprint, noting high passenger volumes managed with limited infrastructure. The commenter suggested "Don't Block the Box" signage to ease neighborhood traffic and advocated support for the East Side Terminal project. Lorenti emphasized the need to clarify jurisdictional responsibilities, noting that issues like deicing and customer service fall under airline, not airport, control. A recommendation was made for airport staff to more assertively communicate these distinctions to the public.

• ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Fimiani and seconded by Mr. White. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:04 PM. The next meeting will be held on February 18, 2025, at 4:00 PM.

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

- ➔ *Action Item: Mr. Cavaliere to provide engagement statistics related to the public outreach campaign supporting the airport development project at the next board meeting.*

MINUTES PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY

Malena Zanjani

1/27/26