



TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

John Picard, Linda Hennessey, Serena Neal-Sanjurjo, Carlos Eyzaguirre, Mark Sklarz, Ray Pompano, David White, Michael Fimiani, Mark Scussel, and Charles Page.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Reed, Ken Dagliere, Jessee Phillips, Kevin Rocco, and Dean Johnson.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tom Rafter, Malena Zanjani, Jeremy Nielson, Felipe Suriel, Gloria Bellacicco, Mark Zaretsky, Andrew King, Katherine Bennett, Michael Giordano, Salvatore, Sarah Smith, Susan Campion, Tim Sullivan, Hugh Manke, Petrina Yoxall, Steve Wight, and Sandra Reiners.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Tweed New Haven Airport Authority Board was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Vice Chairman John Picard. A quorum was confirmed to be present. Vice Chairman Picard presided over the meeting in the absence of Chairman Robert Reed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 2026 Board Meeting was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Fimiani. There were no corrections or amendments. Motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Robert Reed was unavailable for the meeting. Vice Chairman John Picard presided in his absence. There was no Chairman's Report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Rafter provided updates on the following matters:

- **McCarter & English Agreement Amendment:** One resolution was presented to the Board to amend the agreement with McCarter & English to continue legal and related work necessary for the bond issuance, with additional funding authorized up to \$75,000 before returning to the Board for further approval.

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- **DHS / TSA Funding Impacts:** Executive Director Rafter noted the ongoing federal funding lapse and its potential impact on TSA screening operations. He expressed appreciation for TSA personnel for continuing to perform their duties during the disruption despite funding uncertainty.
- **Airport Activity Statistics:** HVN passenger growth appears to be leveling off. December enplanements increased 4% compared with the prior year, while year-to-date enplanements remained up 25%. For the twelve-month period ending in December, total enplanements were reported at 737,681.

Board members briefly discussed TSA staffing levels and joined in expressing appreciation for TSA employees' continued service during the federal funding disruption.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

JANUARY 2026 FINANCIALS

Ms. Neal-Sanjurjo requested that Mr. Rafter present the Finance Committee Report for the period ending January 31, 2026. Mr. Rafter provided an overview of the report.

- **Airfield Fund**
 - Revenues: January revenues, excluding subsidy, totaled \$43,993.53. Year-to-date revenues, excluding subsidy, totaled \$618,190.44, which was \$57,474.62 below budget. The required monthly subsidy was \$597,699.36, or \$277,590.20 over budget.
 - Expenses: January expenses totaled \$641,692.89, which was \$225,060.15 over budget, primarily due to \$274,170 in airfield paving maintenance and \$52,950 in de-icing supplies. Year-to-date expenses totaled \$2,556,487.50, which was \$359,941.68 below budget.
- **Administration Fund**
 - Revenues: January revenues totaled \$58,818, which was \$24,036 below budget. Year-to-date revenues totaled \$492,218, which was \$56,239 below budget.
 - Expenses: January administrative expenses totaled \$91,038. Year-to-date administrative expenses totaled \$485,036, which was \$131,413 below budget.
- **Net Results:**
 - The Administration Fund reported a negative net result of (\$32,220) for January and a positive year-to-date net result of \$7,182.
- **Balance Sheet**
 - The fund balance at the end of the period was \$521,938. Total liabilities and fund balances were \$2,948,353.

AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

AIRFIELD OPERATIONS

Mr. Nielson presented the Airport Manager's Report and provided updates on the following:

- **Winter Operations / Spring Maintenance:** Following a heavy winter season, airport staff have begun spring airfield maintenance and cleanup activities.
- **Pavement Repairs:** A comprehensive inspection of the runway, taxiways, and ramp areas identified several locations showing signs of deterioration. Permanent repairs are planned for the area that received emergency runway repairs last fall, along with additional pavement maintenance prioritized by condition.

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- **FAA Certification Inspection:** The airport's annual Federal Aviation Administration certification inspection is scheduled for April 7–9. Staff are preparing through review of safety areas, signage, lighting, and other operational requirements.
- **ARFF Vehicle Delivery:** Delivery of the new aircraft rescue and firefighting truck remains on schedule for July 2026. The vehicle will support fleet replacement efforts and staff training once received.

LESSEE'S REPORT – THE NEW HVN LLC

THE NEW HVN LLC

Mr. Nielson presented an update on behalf of The New HVN LLC:

- **Weather Events and Operations:** Recent weather conditions transitioned from snow to fog and heavy rain, resulting in delays and cancellations, particularly during a heavy fog event earlier in the week. Airport staff managed passenger flow within limited indoor space while maintaining fire code and public safety requirements.
- **Flood Response:** Heavy rainfall combined with high tide created near-flood conditions. The airport deployed its flood barrier system as a precaution. Normal operations resumed the following morning.
- **Spring Break Activity:** Passenger traffic has begun increasing with the start of spring break travel. Additional staffing is being added to support the anticipated increase in flight activity in the coming weeks.
- **Interagency Support:** Mr. Nielson expressed appreciation for the continued support of TSA personnel, as well as the New Haven Police Department and New Haven Fire Department, particularly during periods requiring additional traffic and crowd management assistance.
- **Facility Maintenance:** Spring maintenance activities are underway, including roadway seal coating and restriping, along with terminal improvements such as paint touch-ups and carpet replacement.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Mr. Cavaliere provided the following updates:

- **Public Information Session:** On February 25, an informal virtual public information session was held regarding HVN's proposed expansion and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection environmental review process. Representatives from CT DEEP and the project's environmental engineering team participated and responded to questions from community members.
- **Upcoming Public Meeting:** A follow-up in-person public meeting originally scheduled for March 25 has been postponed to allow staff to focus on responding to CT DEEP comments during the technical review phase. A new meeting date is anticipated no earlier than May.
- **Residential Indoor Air Program:** The Residential Indoor Air Program closed on March 15 following an extension from the original December 31 deadline. Mr. Cavaliere reported strong participation, with approximately 500 codes distributed and nearly 600 air purifiers provided to eligible residents. A full metrics report will be presented at the next meeting.
- **Air Service Update:** Avelo Airlines announced two new nonstop routes from HVN: service to Indianapolis beginning June 18 (Thursdays and Sundays) and service to Cleveland beginning June 19 (Mondays and Fridays).
- **TSA and Community Support:** Mr. Cavaliere expressed appreciation for TSA personnel and community members supporting airport staff during the federal funding disruption, including assistance coordinated through St. Bernadette Church food pantry services.

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- **G Café Partnership:** Through a partnership with G Café, TSA staff now receive a 75% discount on terminal café purchases as part of an initiative to support frontline employees.

REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION #633: EXTENSION OF MCCARTER ENGLISH ENGAGEMENT AS ISSUER'S COUNSEL

Vice Chairman Picard introduced Resolution #633. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. White and seconded by Ms. Hennessey. Following brief discussion regarding the timing of reimbursement, the resolution was unanimously approved by the Board.

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 Ayports.

Gloria Bellacicco – New Haven, CT: A commenter reported a large pothole near the airport exit and expressed concern that prior requests for repair submitted through the City's reporting system had not been addressed. The commenter also expressed a negative personal opinion regarding community assistance previously attributed to a local individual.

Katherine Bennett – East Haven, CT: A commenter expressed concern about the use of herbicides for vegetation management and encouraged consideration of alternative methods, including steam treatment, particularly given the airport's proximity to wetland areas. The commenter stated that such alternatives may be more environmentally friendly and protective of water quality.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Fimiani and seconded by Ms. Neal-Sanjurjo. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:25 PM. The next meeting will be held on April 15, at 4:00 PM.

MINUTES PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY

Malena Zanjani

March 20, 2026