



TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Robert Reed, Linda Hennessey, Serena Neal-Sanjurjo, Mark Sklarz, David White, Michael Fimiani, Kevin Rocco, Dean Johnson, and Charles Page.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Carlos Eyzaguirre, Ray Pompano, Kenny Dagliere, Jesse Phillips, Mark Scussel, and John Picard.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tom Rafter, Tom Cavaliere, Jeremy Nielson, Michael Jones, Felipe Suriel, Brett Simon, Matthew Hoey, Brian C. Courtney, Derek Miller, Eliot Jameson, Gloria Bellacicco, Howie Blau, Jeremiah Wilhite, Kathy Gonzalez, Mark Zaretsky, Peter Leonardi, Sandra Reiners, Tobie Schuerfeld, Lisa Brandes, Andrew King, and Timothy Sullivan.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Tweed New Haven Airport Authority Board was called to order at 4:04 PM. A quorum was confirmed to be present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 2026 Board Meeting was made by Mr. Page and seconded by Ms. Hennessey. There were no corrections or amendments. Motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Reed thanked the Board for its participation in the special meeting held the prior week. He noted that, while meaningful progress had been made, significant work remains on the project, particularly as the legislative session nears its conclusion. Chairman Reed requested the Board's continued patience and encouraged members to contact him with any questions or requests for updates. He then concluded his report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Rafter provided an overview of the resolutions before the Board, including acceptance of the audit reports and a proposed noise mitigation fund agreement with the Connecticut Airport Authority.

He reported that the Authority's unrestricted fund balance is approximately \$520,000, reflecting improvement since the August 2022 transaction closing and June 2023. He noted that the Authority continues to operate within its means while providing oversight as Avports advances capital projects on the Authority's behalf.

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Executive Director Rafter also reviewed airport activity statistics, noting that January activity was down approximately 10% year over year, primarily due to a reduction in available seats. However, activity remained up approximately 21% over the trailing 12-month period, with enplanements exceeding 732,000. In response to a Board member's question, he explained that total passenger counts include both enplanements and deplanements, which accounts for the approximately 1.4 million total passengers reported.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026 FINANCIALS

Ms. Neal-Sanjurjo requested that Mr. Rafter present the Finance Committee Report for the period ending February 28, 2026.

Mr. Rafter reported that, due to internal delays, the airfield financials and balance sheet were not yet available and would be provided to the Board and posted once received.

Mr. Rafter presented the available administrative account information. He reported February revenues of \$60,607, which were under budget by \$22,246, and year-to-date revenues of \$554,041, which were under budget by \$77,269. February expenses were \$76,473, and year-to-date expenses were \$566,208, which were under budget by \$133,749. The administrative fund reflected a net loss of \$15,866 for February and a year-to-date net loss of \$12,166.

AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

AIRFIELD OPERATIONS

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

Mr. Nielson reported that the Airport completed its annual FAA certification inspection from April 7 through April 9, with an excellent outcome. He noted that the inspection was thorough and covered airfield pavement, lighting, signage, markings, aircraft rescue and firefighting, wildlife management, fueling, and training records. Mr. Nielson commended the airport operations and maintenance teams for their work and dedication throughout the year.

Executive Director Rafter also recognized the team, noting the importance of the annual inspection for safety, regulatory compliance, and FAA grant eligibility. He stated that the FAA inspector provided very positive feedback regarding the Airport and its staff.

Mr. Nielson further reported that the Airport continues to monitor pavement conditions and is pursuing funding sources and a pavement management system to help prioritize future airfield pavement investments. He noted that the new ARFF truck remains on schedule for delivery in June or July, the Airport is preparing its Safety Management System implementation plan for submission to the FAA, and annual airfield painting and rubber removal are expected to be scheduled for the following month.

Mr. Nielson also reported that the Airport is continuing efforts to strengthen relationships with service partners and tenants, including Midwest ATC. He concluded by noting that a draft Fiscal Year 2027 budget had been submitted to the Executive Director and is expected to come before the Board at a future meeting.

In response to a Board member's question regarding potential federal funding for an ARFF building expansion, Mr. Rafter and Mr. Nielson discussed the status of design work, potential funding sources, and anticipated timing for construction.

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LESSEE'S REPORT – THE NEW HVN LLC

THE NEW HVN LLC

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

Mr. Nielson reported that an airport cleanup day is scheduled for April 21 in recognition of Earth Day, with employees planning to clean areas within the airport fence as well as surrounding streets.

Mr. Nielson reported that spring break operations were proceeding with minimal delays and that TSA staffing had largely returned to normal levels. He also noted that airport staff recently met with representatives from the City of New Haven and New Haven Police Department leadership to discuss contingency planning for passenger impacts during delays and weather events. He stated that the airport is now treating fog events similarly to snow events by monitoring conditions, coordinating with airport partners, and developing response plans in advance.

Mr. Nielson further reported that an emergency response exercise is scheduled for April 28 in partnership with TSA and state and local agencies. He noted that the exercise may result in increased emergency vehicle activity at the airport and that notifications will be provided in advance to the community and relevant stakeholders.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Mr. Cavaliere provided the Community Engagement Report. He expressed appreciation, on behalf of the airport community, to the community partners who supported TSA employees during the recent period in which they went without pay. He specifically recognized Connecticut Foodshare, G Café, St. Bernadette Church, Board members, and other community supporters for their assistance.

Mr. Cavaliere then provided an overview of the updated noise monitoring report. The report was presented to the Board and can be viewed here: [Noise Monitor Update](#).

REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION #635: APPROVAL OF FINAL FY 2025 AUDIT REPORT AND PFC AUDITS

Chairman Reed introduced Resolution #635, which was read aloud by Secretary Linda Hennessey. Upon a motion made by Mr. Page and seconded by Ms. Neal-Sanjurjo, the Board unanimously approved Resolution #635. There was no discussion.

RESOLUTION #636: RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ACCEPTANCE OF NOISE MITIGATION FUNDS FROM THE CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO SECTION 13B-50C OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES

Chairman Reed introduced Resolution #636, which was read aloud by Secretary Linda Hennessey. Upon a motion made by Mr. Fimiani and seconded by Mr. Page, the Board unanimously approved Resolution #636 following brief discussion regarding the permitted use of the funds.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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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.

Sandra Reiners – Branford, CT: Commenter expressed concern regarding the level of public discussion about a recently approved MOU and related proposed legislative changes, stating that the matters include significant issues. Commenter requested that the Board provide additional public explanation regarding the substance of those matters.

Lisa Brandes – New Haven, CT: Commenter expressed support for the MOU and interest in hearing more about future related efforts. Commenter encouraged consideration of transit-oriented airport access, including connections to nearby rail service and potential bus rapid transit service to Tweed, to reduce vehicle traffic and improve airport accessibility.

Gloria Bellacicco – New Haven, CT: Commenter welcomed Chairman Reed back and expressed dissatisfaction with the prior meeting facilitation. Commenter expressed concern regarding airport-related traffic and stated that some residents feel betrayed. Commenter also raised concerns regarding traffic, noise, jet fuel odors, and Board representation for impacted New Haven neighborhoods.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Page and seconded by Mr. Fimiani. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:03 PM.

The next meeting will be held on May 20, at 4:00 PM.

MINUTES PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY

Malena Zanjani
04/20/2026