



155 Burr Street
New Haven, CT 06512
Phone 466-8833 FAX 466-1199

**Airport Authority Board of Directors
Minutes of March 9, 2011**

Directors present: Angeletti, Harris, Leonardi, Murphy, Piscitelli, Scarpati, and Volchek.

Directors absent: Alexander, Balzano, Markowski, Petrini, Weiner.

Others in attendance: Tim Larson, Chuck Kurtz, Lori Hoffman-Soares, Susan Godshall, Diane Jackson, Maribel Lota, Jim McHugh (U.S. Airways), and Mark Zaretsky.

Mr. Volchek opened the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

1. The minutes of the meeting of February 9, 2011 were approved unanimously.

2. **Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Larson reported that the Governor's proposed budget includes \$1.5M for Tweed in each of the next two fiscal years.

He described a new Connecticut Airport Authority now under consideration by the legislature and the idea under discussion of adding Tweed to the airports managed by a state-wide Airport Authority. More work will be done on this topic leading to a possible approach to the Governor to have Tweed included in the bill.

Mr. Larson reviewed the status of the Part 150 Noise Study and stated that the Community Advisory Board would be meeting with the consultant, Wyle Laboratories, this evening. The consultant would like to have five people each from the City and the Town on the committee. The Technical Advisory Committee, including Andy Rizzo on the City side and James Staunton representing the Town, will meet with the consultant tomorrow. The purpose of the two committees is to support the purpose of the study and ensure transparency to the neighborhood and municipalities.

Mr. Larson stated that air service development works continues, with community support and several air service consultants, under the leadership of John Harden.

He stated that obstruction removals are on hold until additional funding can be secured. In answer to a question, Mr. Larson summarized the remaining trees to be removed:

- 12 locations (approximately 75 trees) on the North end, and
- 6 locations (approximately 8 - 10 trees) on the South end.

Ms. Murphy stated that the City might be able to help with \$20,000 to complete this work. Mr. Larson accepted her generous offer.

3. Chairman's Report/Strategic Planning Committee Report

Mr. Volchek reiterated that additional scheduled air service is now the Authority's highest priority, but rising fuel costs are not helping. He expressed a hope that prices would stabilize at a lower level.

Subcommittees of the Board continue to work on the Airport's next phase, aimed at bringing in more on-airport revenue, as described at an earlier meeting by Mr. Scarpati.

4. Committee Reports

Finance and Audit Committee

Mr. Scarpati stated that the Committee will meet on March 21 to work on the FY11-12 operating budget. He foresees very limited ability, given the State and City subsidy amounts proposed for next year, to achieve a balanced budget.

Mr. Piscitelli stated that a draft budget will be needed by April 7 to share with the Board of Aldermen on an informational basis.

Community Advisory Board (CAB)

Mr. Harris noted that the CAB will meet this evening with the consultant for the noise study.

5. Staff Reports

a. Runway Rehabilitation Project (AIP 36)

Mr. Kurtz updated the Board on spring construction plans. There will be an overnight closure on April 30 to allow the contractor to completeness the runway paving. Then they will restore Pig Farm Road to its original (non-passable) condition. Final paint markings will be completed when the weather improves. The electrician is working on faulty connections to the new taxiway signs. Some circuits may need to be replaced.

Board members asked if Pig Farm Road can be left open. Staff concurred that this would be an advantage for fire and rescue equipment. Mr. Kurtz stated that DEP is not in favor of this but the Authority can revisit filing a permit application if East Haven formally requests it. It would require installation of permanent drainage and compensation for disturbing the wetlands. If DEP approves, the Authority would then have to approach FAA for funds.

Mr. Leonardi asked AvPORTS to investigate the option of keeping the road open and bring a recommendation to the Board.

b. Taxiway B Construction (AIP 35)

Ms. Godshall reviewed the closeout and DEP monitoring requirements. She presented **Resolution #335: Approval of an Amendment to the Agreement with Hoyle, Tanner and Associates for Construction Administration Services.** The Resolution was moved by Mr. Leonardi, seconded by Ms. Murphy and approved unanimously.

c. City of New Haven Capital Budget

Ms. Godshall reported that the City's Capital Budget for FY11-112 will include \$300,000 for Airport Authority capital projects, including the local share for the next AIP grant.

d. Airport Manager's report.

Ms. Hoffman-Soares reiterated that the winter was very hard on the budget and many

maintenance supplies were depleted. She is developing ways to reduce expenses next year, including modest savings in office expenses and employee health insurance costs.

Ms. Hoffman-Soares reported that the Tabletop Drill will take place in March and the FAA Part 139 inspection will take place on April 5 – 7.

The Triennial emergency drill will be held on April 26th. Ms. Hoffman-Soares described the objective of improving coordination between City and Town emergency services. East Haven High School students will serve as volunteers. The Board is invited to observe.

Ms. Hoffman-Soares summarized the February enplanements, which are substantially higher than the same month in 2010. (2,669 vs. 1,855 passengers). The load factors from Tweed were 79%, compared to system-wide U.S Airways load factors around 66%. She stated that the summer schedule will be resumed in May, with 5 flights on Monday and Friday and 4 flights on weekend days.

Ms. Hoffman-Soares summarized plans for the Air Fest in October. She distributed a press release and a preliminary budget for the event. The Air Fest will attract visitors and generate positive publicity for Tweed. All net proceeds will go to Angel Flights New England. The Air Fest is expected to generate 10,000 visitors including 5,000 children and 3,000 seniors and military personnel.

The Board discussed ways to manage the attendance including parking locations. Mr. Angeletti agreed to serve as the Board liaison to the Air Fest Committee. Mr. Leonardi suggested bringing in a large passenger plane for public tours. Mr. Volchek asked staff to investigate whether aircraft manufacturers will bring in demonstration planes as a sales tool. This would increase the aviation-related activity on the Air Fest weekend.

- e. Ms. Godshall reviewed the January 2011 financial statements. A cash flow report through the end of the fiscal year suggests a substantial year-end deficit. Mr. Scarpati stated that since 2/3 of the budget is government subsidy and the City's subsidy was cut in half, "this is not the kind of problem that small adjustments can fix."

6. Other Business - None

7. Public Comment

Mr. Robinson distributed summaries of an important issue in the proposed State budget which would impose property taxes on aircraft and sales tax on aircraft repairs. He stated that passage of these measures would have a dire impact on general aviation in Connecticut since based aircraft would depart to neighboring states. This will result in loss of jobs and failure of the FBO business in the state. He asked the Authority to work behind the scenes with leadership to have these provisions removed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

