

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE**

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 25, 2018 in the Council Chamber in the Municipal Building, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT. Chairman Gaston called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

**Present:** Jim Gaston, Sandy Roussas, Steve Hinden, Mark Boland, Keith Alexander

**Also Present:** Finance Director Bob Tait, First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, BOE Director of Business Ron Bienkowski, BOE members Michelle Embree Ku and Debbie Leidlein, Selectman Maureen Crick Owen, Town Clerk Debbie Halstead, Ned Simpson, one member of the public and one member of the press.

**Voter Comment – NONE**

**Communications – NONE**

**Minutes – S. Roussas moved to approve the minutes of the 10/9/18 meeting. S. Hinden seconded, motion passes with one abstain (Alexander).**

**First Selectman Report –** First Selectman Rosenthal reported that they have made an offer and it has been accepted for the Purchasing Agent. They are also close to finalizing the two open contracts, one for Dispatch and one for Public Works. They have also signed the lease for a brewery at Stratford Hall.

**Finance Director Report –** No report

*Appointment of new Board of Finance member to fill the term of Roger Cyr –* J. Gaston reported that they received a resume and a recommendation by the Democratic Town Committee for Ned Simpson (Attachment A). Ned Simpson then introduced himself to the board and summarized his resume.

S. Roussas moved to approve Ned Simpson to fill the term of Roger Cyr on the Board of Finance. S. Hinden seconded. There was concern from board members concerning the process. Posting in the community and having multiple candidates to vote on would be preferred. Motion unanimously approved. At that time Town Clerk Debbie Halstead swore in Ned Simpson as a member of the Board of Finance.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*Review of potential CIP regulation policy matters –* The Board of Selectman is still working on this and this will be discussed at a later date.

*2019/20-2028/29 CIP –* M. Boland had questions for the BOE regarding HVAC at Hawley School (Attachment B). He has concerns about spending that much money on a hundred year school and started looking for alternatives. R. Bienkowski explained that this has been in the

CIP since 2003. The cost estimate has been reviewed by Kaestel Boos in 2013 and validated that these are appropriate numbers because they have to do significant modifications to the building. To put the AC in according to code you need to have a ventilation system. They did not look into heat pump systems. It is quite extensive and know there are alternatives and they are starting to look at them. Recently they have put in ductless splits in some of the schools. They need to have an active ventilation system. R. Bienkowski suggested having M. Boland, his contact meet with Director of Facilities Gino Faiella and the BOE engineer. They put numbers in the CIP in the future and don't do the engineering until it gets closer and is imminent. This is two to three years out.

K. Alexander referred to the reduction in the FFH demolition costs. First Selectman Rosenthal explained that the message that he is trying to send is that they will demo some buildings but there are other things that are more priority than demo building. Plan for some demo while trying to jump start commercial development in others.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

2019 Meeting Schedule - S. Roussas moved to accept the 2019 meeting schedule (Attachment C). M. Boland seconded, motion unanimously approved.

**Voter Comments – None**

**Announcements – None**

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Arlene Miles, Clerk

# Attachment A

## Ned J. Simpson

42 Watkins Drive, Sandy Hook, CT 06482

734-645-0828

[neds2124@gmail.com](mailto:neds2124@gmail.com)

Before retiring in 2014, Ned Simpson had a career that encompassed multiple health care sectors including: provider, payer, life sciences and states' department of health. In CIO, executive, and consulting roles Ned has worked in: Academic medical centers, physician practice management, health plans, Fortune 500 and start-up organizations. With a tenacious customer focus, a bias for quality and effectiveness, a comfort with analytics, and skilled in collaboration, he utilized technologies ranging from punch cards to cloud computing.

In the first part of his career Mr. Simpson worked in hospitals and health systems focusing on operations, planning and information systems. Later he moved into roles related to health insurance, medical equipment supply chain and managed care. Notable assignments include:

- A skunks-works team looking into the transformation of a large traditional fee-for-service health insurer to a managed care company.
- Determining the cost of treating AIDS patients to establish reimbursement rates for the State of New York.
- Several planning projects looking to connect health providers in community health information networks.
- Project Director and Business Architect for the deployment of the web portal for the Massachusetts Health Insurance Connector Authority ([www.mahealthconnector.org](http://www.mahealthconnector.org)).
- Project Manager for the development of New York State's Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace implementation. (<https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov>)

He has been involved in health care transformation and reform dating back to the Nixon era. Ned is a Past Chairman and Life Fellow of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) In addition he has served on boards and committees such as: HIMSS Advocacy, HIMSS Patient Safety HIBIC, CPRI, and Davies Recognition.

Since moving to Newtown in 2017 with my wife Katherine. With a daughter in Brooklyn NY, we wanted to be on the end of a Metro North line and within driving distance to my Uncle in Albany. Ned's community involvement since unpacking has included:

- Joining Newtown Congregational Church where he has participated in mission outreach and as a Deacon
- Forming a Communications Committee for the Regency at Newtown home owner's association which revived the community newsletter and email flash messaging.
- Serving in several capacities in the AARP - Newtown Age Friendly Livable Community initiative. Providing logistics for the April 2018 Livable Community town workshop, producing the August 2018 town work session and now chairing the Steering Committee for the initiative.

### Education

MSE, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

BS, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

## **Ned J. Simpson**

42 Watkins Drive, Sandy Hook, CT 06482

734-645-0828

[neds2124@gmail.com](mailto:neds2124@gmail.com)

### **Employment History**

#### **CSC Consulting**

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Principal – Global Health Services

#### **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**

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Director Life Sciences and Healthcare

#### **Allegiance LLC (Saint Joseph Mercy Health System) – Ann Arbor, MI**

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Vice President and Chief Information Officer

#### **Meridian Occupational Health Care Associates - Nashville, TN**

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Senior Vice President & Chief Information Officer

#### **BRC Holding Company - Dallas, TX**

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Executive Vice President - Health Source Division

#### **NJS Associates, Inc.**

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President

#### **Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Maryland - Baltimore, MD**

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Director, Information Services - Managed Care, and Vice President, LifeCard International

#### **Mercy Catholic Medical Center - Darby, PA**

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Chief Information Officer

#### **KPMG - New York, NY**

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Senior Manager, Management Consulting and Manager, Management Consulting

#### **University of Michigan, University Hospitals - Ann Arbor, MI**

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Chief Information Officer, Director Management Engineering, and Management Engineering

### **Publications**

“Implementation Guide to Bar Coding and Auto-ID in Healthcare”, HIMSS, 2009, Ned Simpson and Ken Kleinberg

Journal of Healthcare Information Management, “RFID and Bar Codes - Critical Importance in Enhancing Safe Patient Care”, Fall 2004, Richard A. Perrin

## Attachment B

At the last BOF meeting, I expressed concern about the cost of the HVAC renovations to the Hawley School. My original concern stemmed from an estimate of the cost to rebuild Hawley from the ground up. (copy attached; see page 3) Please note, this is a very general estimate using general assumptions and estimates. It does, however, indicate the cost to rebuild the entire "1921 section" of Hawley is \$4.9 million. The HVAC renovation costs in the BOE CIP is \$5.0 million.

Because the cost to upgrade the HVAC was identical to the cost to rebuild the entire school section, I did a little more digging. I called the president of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers for CT and described the project. In general, he suggested the project cost sounded high with the caveat that you never know the true cost without a formal study. He suggested the BOE explore other alternatives for the project, including a modern HVAC system which I refer to as heat pumps (my term not his).

He stated there are many advantages to modern systems, including:

- 1) All new systems comply with the 20% fresh air standards.
- 2) New systems would minimize the engineer around existing sewage and water piping as well as existing electrical equipment that are behind the walls.
- 3) There is a high probability that asbestos or mold exists behind the walls. Minimizing the wall openings will minimize testing and abatement costs.
- 4) Modern systems could minimize the need to install duct work. Duct work must comply with fire codes and will require fire stops or individual air handlers on each floor or adequate alarm systems.
- 5) Duct work must fit into the existing building framework and can be noisy and lack appropriate clearance.

While we have time, I would like to see the BOE engage an engineering firm to explore alternatives to this costly project.

NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER  
3 PRIMROSE STREET  
NEWTOWN, CT 06470



[www.newtown-ct.gov](http://www.newtown-ct.gov)

*Robert Tait, Finance Director*

## TOWN OF NEWTOWN BOARD OF FINANCE

### 2019 MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board of Finance will hold meetings the second Monday and fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30pm in the Council Chamber at the Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT as follows:

Monday	January 14
Thursday	January 24 – Town Hall South
Monday	February 11
Thursday	February 14 – Public Hearing and regular meeting
Thursday	February 21
Monday	February 25
Wednesday	February 27
Thursday	February 28
Monday	March 11
Thursday	March 21
Monday	April 8
Thursday	April 25
Monday	May 13
Thursday	May 23
Monday	June 10
Thursday	June 27
Monday	July 8
Thursday	July 25
Monday	August 12
Thursday	August 22
Monday	September 9
Thursday	September 26
Tuesday	October 15 (Monday is a holiday)
Thursday	October 24
Tuesday	November 12 (Monday is a holiday)
Monday	November 25 (Thursday is Thanksgiving)
Monday	December 9
Thursday	December 26
Monday	January 13, 2020
Thursday	January 23, 2020 – Town Hall South