

As part of a recent FOIA request to the Town of Christiansburg, I received copies of the Town Council Meeting Minutes from 2001 (July fiscal year) thru 2007 (December) I have scanned these documents, put them in pdf format, and made them searchable. I thought this would be a useful format to watch long-term developments. To test that theory, I have gone through each of the files using as my search criteria, the word 'AQUATIC'. What follows is the history of the AQUATIC center development during those years based upon the public information from the Meeting Minutes. This is simply the information any citizen can obtain by going through these public records. (Note: this does not include the Planning Commission Minutes which I am still waiting to receive a lot of from the Town or information contained on the few missing pages in the Minutes I have received. The most significant of the missing pages is from the 2007 fiscal year and is sequenced as number 4. This would have included information on the Public Hearing for the AQUATIC Center Bond issue. Also October 19, 2004 is missing a page sequenced as 20C that may possibly contain a report on the)

It is also important to remember when using these documents in this manner that they are scanned images which are converted to searchable text. If an unusual font is used or there is any degradation of the type or paper, not all instances of a word may be picked up. I did review each page along with the search to try to make sure I included every entry that contained the word AQUATIC. This means it will also show those instances where the AQUATIC center was a side note in other conversations.)

Overall, this exercise gave a great deal more insight into the AQUATIC Center concept and how it has changed over time. Have fun with your own searches.

2001: For the year 2001, the word AQUATIC does not appear in any of the Town Council Meeting Minutes. (Note that I only have from July thru December of 2001.)

2002: Six (6) instances were found where the word 'AQUATIC' appeared. (Note that the word may appear twice in the same sentence or paragraph and the search facilitates count each of those as one entry.)

- March 5, 2002 entry:
 - MR. BARBER AND MR. WEAVER – AQUATIC Center Site Selection Committee. Councilman Barber reported that it is time to start reviewing proposed building sites for the AQUATIC center if the Town is going to stay within the ten-year plan. He would like to consider both Town and privately owned properties and asked the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager to compile information for the Committee to study and review.
- July 2, 2002 entry:
 - PROGRESS REPORT CONCERNING SITE SELECTION FOR FUTURE AQUATIC CENTER. Councilman Barber reported that the Committee had met with the Town Manager and reviewed the different land uses within the Town and the land available for this project. From the Committee's study, it was concluded that the V.V. Lester Farm, the property to the left of Kroger, is most suitable for this facility. The Town has owned this property for fifteen years and, along with great accessibility to the property, the centrally located land includes nine acres and will coincide with the Rosa L. Peters Park on Depot Street. The Committee believes this is the best possible location for the AQUATIC center, and Councilman Barber made a motion to accept this recommendation; however, several Councilmembers had questions and concerns regarding land topography and terracing, and Councilman Lester stated that he would like to review the most recently submitted plans before making a vote. Mayor Linkous postponed this vote until the next meeting so council can review the submitted plans and the recommended site. Mayor

Linkous asked Town Manager Terpenney to arrange a meeting with Council for this purpose.

- July 16, 2002 entry:
 - MR. BARBER AND MR. WEAVER – Ad Hoc Committee:
Site Selection for Future AQUATIC Center – At the July 2, 2002 meeting the Pool Site Selection Committee recommended the V. V. Lester Farm property located to the left of Kroger. Since then, Council has visited the site and reviewed some concept plans, and are satisfied this is the best possible location for this facility. Councilman Barber made a motion, with Councilman Weaver's approval, to accept the Site Selection Committee's recommendation, seconded by Councilman Ballengee. Councilwoman Carter commented that this has been a long time coming and will meet with the recreation master plan timeframe. Council voted as follows: AYES: Ashworth, Ballengee, Barber, Carter, and Weaver. NAYS: None.
- November 19, 2002 entry:
 - MS. RENEE COX asked Council for an update on the ballfields at the new middle school. Manager Terpenney reported that the fields are currently under construction and will be ready for school use when school opens next fall. Due to costs the concession stands, bleachers, and lights will be completed in time for the 2004 school year. Councilman Barber pointed out that the Town currently has several recreation projects underway, the AQUATIC center being one of them, and thanked residents for their patience.

2003: Ten (10) instances of the word 'AQUATIC' show up in the Town Council Meeting Minutes.

- January 21, 2003 entry:
 - TOWN MANAGER TERPENNEY reported that several Town citizens met with him to discuss their interest in developing a skateboard park on the old wastewater treatment plant site. Manager Terpenney explained that a conceptual plan provides for a skate park at the AQUATIC center site, but that it is something that will be constructed in the future after completion of the AQUATIC center. The group of citizens, named "Concerned Citizens of Christiansburg" are interested in soliciting funds and sponsorships to build the park now without Town funding. Upon completion the park would be turned over to the Town for staffing and maintenance. The group wants to build the park to tournament guidelines, so that in time the park will generate revenue for the Town. A draft letter soliciting funds was presented to Council for comments. Mayor Linkous does not think the Town should be involved in anyway with the solicitation of funds and sponsorships for the skate park and any reference to the Town should be taken out of the draft letter. Councilman Lester said that funds paid to the Town of Christiansburg Treasurer, as directed in the draft letter, could create problems for the Town and for those donating funds. Councilman Barber commended the efforts of the group, but feels that it may be perceived by others that the Town is not constructing the skate park itself due to lack of funds. The skate park, he said, should be constructed by the Town and should not be left to a small group of residents to oversee. Councilman Ballengee mentioned the community interest survey taken a few years ago and asked what the community's interest was at that time concerning the skate park. According to the Town Manager, the skate park was not included in the survey. Councilman Ballengee said he could understand expediting the construction of the skate park if community interest was high; however, he does not want funds solicited for this purpose. Councilman Ballengee believes the Town's recreational growth should proceed as planned in the Recreation Master Plan. Manager Terpenney reported from an injury statistic sheet provided by the group indicating that injuries from skateboarding are more infrequent than from many other popular recreational sports. Manager Terpenney said that the group is proposing, in addition to the tournament size park, an equipment counter, full staffing, skate boarding lessons, and a fully structured program. The skateboard park would be constructed and operated at a professional level. Councilwoman Carter commented that many of the Town's young folks are skateboarding on the library property and many other public business sites unsupervised, and understands the need and the urgency for this type of facility. Council had many questions concerning how the facility would be staffed and if the Parks &

Recreation Department is ready to maintain and operate a facility of this magnitude. Council is also concerned with how the contributions will be handled. Will the group manage the construction of the park; or will the funds be turned over to the Town? In light of the many unanswered questions, Council decided to have Manager Terpenney again meet with the group regarding the concerns and questions raised by Council.

- February 4, 2003 entry:
 - GEORGE SCHAEFFER'S REQUEST REGARDING FUNDRAISING FOR A SKATEBOARD PARK. Councilman Weaver believes the Finance Committee should study this request for any possible problems that may arise from the Town handling solicited funds. Manager Terpenney said that an escrow account would be set up specifically for these funds. Councilman Lester asked if the Town would be responsible for constructing the park once the funds are raised. While this has not been clearly decided, Mr. Schaeffer stated that the group raising the funds intend to work with the Town and will abide by the current Recreation Master Plan. Councilman Lester believes the Town should be responsible for constructing the park. Mayor Linkous is concerned that it may appear that the Town is soliciting funds for other recreational purposes over and above what it is currently committed to, such as the AQUATIC center. Councilman Barber commented that the group's sole intent is to speed up the process of constructing a skateboard park. Manager Terpenney asked Mr. Schaeffer what the group intends to do if fundraising goals are not met. Mr. Schaeffer stated that, while he is confident the needed funds will be raised, if by chance they are not, the funds collected could be returned to the contributors. On motion by Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilman Ashworth, Council voted to approve Mr. Schaeffer's request to solicit funds for construction of a skateboard park. Council's vote is as follows: AYES: Ashworth, Ballengee, Barber, Lester, and Weaver. NAYS: None.
- March 6, 2003 entry:
 - MANAGER TERPENNEY REPORTED that George Schaeffer approached him with a request to solicit funds from Corning for the proposed skate park. Corning has a fund set aside for money to be donated to local community projects. Corning donated funds for the construction of the Blacksburg AQUATIC center and the Christiansburg Recreation Center. The Town sees the industry as a potential contributor to the Christiansburg AQUATIC center and doesn't want contribution requests for the skate park to jeopardize potential pool funding. Councilmembers Lester and Ashworth both stated that the AQUATIC center comes before the skate park. Councilman Ashworth pointed out that there are several large corporations that would benefit from contributing to the skate park construction and that Corning should not be approached about the skate park. Mayor Linkous agreed that this may jeopardize the pool funding and could delay pool construction. Councilman Barber commented that it is his understanding that the pool will be built regardless of the amount of contributions. The consensus of Council is that Corning should not be approached concerning funding for the skate park; however, since Council gave Mr. Schaeffer permission to solicit funding, Council cannot tell Mr. Schaeffer not to approach Corning.
- August 19, 2003 entry:
 - TOWN MANAGER TERPENNEY introduced to Council Pepsi Cola representatives Tim Sweker and Mike Meadows, who are present to offer a proposal for skatepark sponsorship at the request of George Schaeffer, who has been raising funds to build a skatepark in Christiansburg. Per Mr. Meadows, Pepsi's proposal is as follows: Christiansburg will allow Pepsi to place vending machines at all facilities owned by the Town, with approximately **\$17,000** per year in commissions given to the Town through vending sales from those machines. Pepsi will also be allowed to offer promotional items such as Aquafina, Gatorade, etc. Pepsi will donate fifty (**50**) cases of drinks per year to the Town to be used at the Town's discretion. Twenty-thousand dollars will be contributed by Pepsi to be used towards the initial construction of the skatepark. This proposal will generate approximately **\$176,226** to the Town over a seven (**7**) year period. Manager Terpenney explained that the proposal is a very popular program used by schools and recreational facilities. The proposal is required to go through the Virginia Procurement Act, which will provide the opportunity for other businesses to become involved. Manager Terpenney pointed out that the figures provided do not include vending at the future AQUATIC center, or

any other possible future vending site. Councilman Barber commented that the Kiwanis Club has a successful relationship with Pepsi through programs such as this one. Mr. George Schaeffer said that currently funds raised for the skatepark are as follows: **\$6,617** cash; **11,000** in-kind; **\$3,000** pledged; and **\$14,615** pledged in-kind, for a total of **\$35,000 +/-**. If the Pepsi proposal is approved, there would currently be fourteen (**14**) Pepsi machines placed within the Town, bringing the total amount of funding raised to **\$181,000+/-**. Mr. Schaeffer said that drawings for the skatepark will be submitted to the Town this week, and plans are to build the park in sections, since funds are not available to build it completely at this time. Plans are to begin construction this Fall with donations continuing to be solicited. Councilman Weaver asked for examples of pledged in-kind construction. Mr. Schaeffer said mainly architectural designing and reduced concrete costs by Marshall Concrete. Manager Terpenney said that Town crews could do the demolition and grading. Councilman Barber commented that it is important to show progress with the AQUATIC center before showing progress with the skatepark. Councilman Ballengee commended Mr. Schaeffer for his fundraising efforts, and pointed out that the Pepsi proposal, if accepted, will continue to grow through the years and funds can also be used for ballparks and other recreational programs and facilities within the Town. Council agreed that there is a need for a skatepark for Christiansburg youth and directed the Town Manager to begin the first step in proceeding through the procurement process.

- AQUATIC CENTERBALLFIELD UPDATE - Manager Terpenney reported that progress on the ball fields has been delayed due to rain this summer and a change order was issued for irrigation. Concerning the AQUATIC center, requests for proposals have been sent to architectural firms as far away as Richmond. The proposal was written as a "wish list" for the center, and the Town will scale down from there. Plans are to spend this year designing the facility, with groundbreaking this time next year. Some funding has been set aside for architectural work and construction. The balance will be financed.

2004: Thirteen (13) instances of the word AQUATIC appear

- April 6, 2004 entries:
 - RESOLUTION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION GRANT TO FUND A TRAIL PROJECT TO THE FUTURE AQUATIC CENTER SITE - On motion by Councilman Lester, seconded by Councilman Ashworth, Council voted to approve the Resolution as follows: AYES: Ashworth, Ballengee, Barber, Carter, and Weaver. NAYS: None. A copy of the Resolution is attached herewith and made a part of these minutes.
 - APPOINTMENT OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE FUTURE AQUATIC CENTER. Mayor Linkous appointed the following individuals to the AQUATIC Center ad hoc committee. The committee will meet within two weeks.
 - Lance Terpenney, Town Manager
 - Barry Helms, Assistant Town Manager
 - Jim Williams, Recreation Advisory Commission
 - Ann Carter, Councilwoman
 - Wanda Garrison, Senior Citizen Representative
 - Art Price, Parks and Recreation Director
 - Ernie Wade, Planning Commissioner
 - Bill Beecher (AQUATIC facilities manager)
- May 4, 2004 entries:
 - MIKE MEADOWS TO PRESENT A RECREATION CONSTRUCTION DONATION TO TOWN COUNCIL FROM PEPSI. Mike Meadows presented the Town with a check for ten thousand dollars from Pepsi to be used towards construction of the new town skatepark. Mr. Meadows, on behalf of Pepsi, said he looks forward to a successful partnership with Christiansburg in the years to come. Mayor Linkous thanked Mr. Meadows, and Pepsi, and invited Mr. Meadows to utilize and enjoy the new skatepark and AQUATIC center once completed.
 - ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION FOR COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD RECREATIONAL ACCESS FUND FOR FUTURE AQUATIC CENTER - This request is for an

access road grant to construct a roadway from North Franklin Skeet to the new AQUATIC center site. On motion by Councilman Lester, seconded by Councilman Ashworth, Council voted to adopt tile resolution requesting recreational access funding from Virginia. Council voted as follows: AYES: Ashworth, Ballengee, Barber, Carter, Lester, and Weaver. NAYS: None.

- August 3, 2004 entries:
 - Possible but do not know as pages are missing. Sequence number of pages are 6 & 7.
- September 7, 2004 entries:
 - COUNCILMAN BARBER asked for an update on the progress of the AQUATIC Center project. Manager Terpenny said he has a meeting on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in his office for a progress report.
- September 21, 2004 entries:
 - COUNCILMAN HUPPERT asked Manager Terpenny for an AQUATIC center progress update. Manager Terpcnny is trying to get enough information together to bring to Council regarding the size of the indoor pool. The decision is between a fifty meter pool or a twenty-five meter pool. He believes many swimmers will use the pool if it is a fifty-meter pool and he plans to approach Virginia Tech and Radford University regarding usage of the pool. Manager Terpenny hopes to have an economic package put together for Council by the October 19th meeting.
- October 19, 2004 entries:
 - Regarding the AQUATIC Center Town Manager Terpenny requested that tile Finance Committee allow fundrasing projects to raise additional funds for a fifty-meter competition size pool. Radford Univerity and Virginia Tech are interested in utilizing the pool if it is a fifty-meter pool. This could mean substantial revenue for the Town. The difference in the twenty-five meter pool and fifty-meter pool is approximately 2.5 million dollars. Mayor Linkous commented that plans are to move forward with the construction of a fifty-meter pool while contributions are being sought.
 - (Possible information on missing page sequenced 20C.)
- November 2, 2004 entries:
 - PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST - Town Manager Terpenny presented the following requests and recommended setting the Public Hearings for December 7, 2004:
 1. Ordinance amendment, Christiansburg Town Code, increase the income limits for tax exemptions for elderly and handicapped.
 2. Bond issue for development of the AQUATIC center.
- December 7, 2004 entries:
 - AQUATIC Center Bond - Proposed issuance by the Town of its general obligation bonds in an estimated maximum principal amount of thirteen million dollars (\$13,000,000). Mayor Linkous commented that there will be other avenues of revenue in addition to the \$13,000,000. Town Manager Terpenny said approximately forty to sixty percent (40% to 60%) of operating expenses will be recouped through membership fees, meets, and practices. The bond will allow construction of the project as well as completion of the Harkrader Ball Complex. Between now and March, fund drives will be held with area industries to raise the cost difference between a twenty-five meter pool and a fifty meter pool. A fifty-meter pool will house meets and tryouts, which will bring large numbers of people to the area. Mayor Linkous said there will also be a therapeutic pool, and letters of inquiry will be sent to Montgomery Regional Hospital and Carilion New River Valley Medical Center concerning interest in use of the therapeutic pool. A leisure pool is also planned.
 - AQUATIC Center Bond - Proposed issuance by the Town of its general obligation bonds in an estimated maximum principal amount of thirteen million dollars (\$13,000,000). On motion by Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilman Ashworth, Council voted to approve the AQUATIC Center Bond in the amount of \$13,000,000. Council voted as follows: AYES: Ashworth, Barber, Carter, Huppert, and Lester. NAYS: None.
- 2005: Two (2) instances of the word 'AQUATIC' appear:
 - August 17, 2005 entries:
 - SEVERAL COUNCILMEMBERS commented on the infonnative article in the Roanoke Times about the proposed AQUATIC center. The article was well written and provided the public with an update on the progress of the project.
 - November 15, 2005 entries:

- COUNCILWOMAN CARTER asked for a brief update on the AQUATIC center progress. Manager Terpeny reported that he spoke with Architect Glenn Reynolds today who believes the concept drawings will meet the budget, and hopes to begin construction drawings within the next few weeks.
- July 19, 2005
 - Possible but page is missing. Sequence page number is 5.
- 2006: Twenty (20) instances of the word 'AQUATIC' appear:
 - January 17, 2006 entries:
 - AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE - Manager Terpeny reported that he met with Jim Guym, Lionberger Construction, and Architect Glenn Reynolds regarding a possible public/private partnership in constructing the AQUATIC center. In partnership, Lionberger Construction could build the AQUATIC center and upon completion the Town would purchase the AQUATIC center from Lionberger at a predetermined cost. Attorney Jim Guynn explained the process to Council.
 - February 7, 2006 entries:
 - RESOLUTION FOR RECREATIONAL ACCESS FUNDS FOR MILL LANE UPGRADES. Town Manager Terpeny reported that this resolution through VDOT is a required part of the grant application process for recreational access funds. Mill Lane will be used as access to Christiansburg's new AQUATIC center. Councilman Barber made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Carter. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Ballengee, Barber, Carter, Huppert, and Wade. NAYS: None.
 - March 21, 2006 entries:
 - AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE - Manager Terpeny reported that he met with Jim Guynn, Lionberger Construction, and Architect Glenn Reynolds to further discuss the possibility of forming a public/private partnership in constructing the AQUATIC center. Mr. Reynolds is working on the drawings as the public/private partnership process begins. Grading plans are complete and grading is ready to begin.
 - June 6, 2006 entries:
 - SHANE ADAMS OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL. Mr. Shane Adams, President and CEO of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, along with Kathy Mantz, Vice-President and CFO of the Chamber, updated Council on the one-percent lodging tax approved by Council last year. Mr. Adams thanked the Chamber's board members who are in attendance tonight. Mr. Adams explained that tourism in Christiansburg, and in Virginia as a whole, has increased in the past year. A large portion of the funding obtained through the occupancy tax goes towards advertising for Montgomery County, Christiansburg, and Blacksburg, in publications such as *Blue Ridge Parkway Virginia Travel Guide*, and *Blue Ridge Travel Association of Virginia*, and on the Chamber's website. The Chamber also has a television advertisement on the local WDBJ station. Approximately five thousand responses have been received by the Chamber, and the visitor centers, as a result of these advertisements. There have been approximately ten thousand visits to the Chamber's website, and the Chamber has secured fifteen websites that link to the main website. Future plans are to create a local resource guide, and a waterfall tour. The Chamber carries two toll free telephone numbers. Mr. Adams said the Chamber is active in the annual Wilderness Trail Festival held in Christiansburg, and it has formed a communication network with outfitters, lodgings, and restaurants. The Chamber has commissioned an ongoing study through Radford University for marketing reports. Three marketing scenes have been created as a result of the study: (1) Nature's Natural Resource; (2) Christiansburg, Home of Heroes; and (3) Virginia Naturally. Funding from the lodging tax has also been used to apply for signs from VDOT, hospitality training, tourism training, and promotional items. Mr. Adams said there is also twelve thousand dollars available in local grants for group events. Blacksburg, Montgomery County, and Virginia Tech also contribute funding for the Chamber of Commerce's activities. Mr. Adams thanked Town Council for approving the one-percent lodging tax, which has been instrumental in the Chamber of Commerce's success this past year. Councilman Huppert said he would like to see some of the funding used to market Christiansburg's AQUATIC center next year, and would also like to see more specific advertising for Christiansburg because of the large amount of funding generated by the Town through the lodging tax. Councilwoman Carter commented that she, too, would like to see more "hometown" advertising for Christiansburg. Councilwoman Carter

commented that, as a board member of the Montgomery County Museum, she wasn't aware of the local grants available through the Chamber for group events. Mr. Adams replied that the Chamber plans to publicize the grant funding through email and the website. Councilman Ballengee asked if the Chamber of Commerce could get linked to the websites of ACC schools, since Virginia Tech is a member of the ACC. Mr. Adams said he would check with ISP Sports to see if this is possible. Mayor Linkous thanked Mr. Adams and Ms. Mantz for their report. Town Council looks forward to future updates by the Chamber of Commerce.

- June 20, 2006 entries:

- CHRISTIANSBURG AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE - Town Manager Terpenney reported that, according to Virginia Tech, the AQUATIC center, as planned, is close to being in compliance with ACC guidelines for holding ACC tournaments. Virginia Tech asked the Town to research the additional cost to upgrade the facility to allow ACC tournaments. Manager Terpenney said it would cost approximately an additional two million dollars to bring the facility to ACC standards, and he met with Virginia Tech to draft a contract for the university to review. The Town is currently waiting for the final estimate and a decision from Virginia Tech on the contract.

- July 18, 2006 entries:

- AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE - Town Manager Terpenney reported that the construction documents for the AQUATIC center are currently being drawn up. The contract between Virginia Tech and Christiansburg, outlining details and usage, is also currently being drafted for Virginia Tech's review. The Town has received a verbal agreement from Virginia Tech for funding.

- August 15, 2006 entries:

- TOWN MANAGER TERPENNEY is pleased to announce that the footprint for the new AQUATIC center building has been staked, and excavation, by Town crews, has begun.

- September 19, 2006 entries:

- TOWN MANAGER TERPENNEY reported that the Town received an unsolicited proposal from a contractor interested in building the AQUATIC center. The Town will advertise this bid for forty-five days and at the end of that time will choose from the bids received.

- December 5, 2006 entries:

- AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH LIONBERGER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AQUATIC CENTER. Town Manager Terpenney reported that, as part of the public/private partnership under Virginia Procurement Code, the Town has accepted a proposal by Lionberger Construction Company to build the Christiansburg AQUATIC Center. The Town can not negotiate the expansion of the AQUATIC center until an interim agreement has been signed and approved. The expansion is a result of changes made by Virginia Tech. Town Attorney, Jim Guynn, has drawn up the interim agreement and has discussed it with Lionberger Construction Company's attorney. Construction can begin once the agreement is signed and approved. Councilman Barber made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilwoman Carter. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Canada, Carter, Huppert, Stipes, and Wade. NAYS: None.
- Right-of-way plat for Mill Lane improvements. Councilman Barber explained that the request is to widen and increase the right-of-way of Mill Lane, which is the access road to the Christiansburg AQUATIC Center. The changes will improve the site line when entering and exiting Mill Lane. Mill Lane, a through street, will also serve the Christiansburg Skatepark. All is in order, and Councilman Barber made a motion to approve the plat, seconded by Councilman Wade. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Canada, Carter, Huppert, Stipes, and Wade. NAYS: None
- AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE - Town Manager Terpenney reported that he plans to meet with the architect this week to review the final drawings before submittal. The AQUATIC center committee will make a presentation to Town Council in the near future.

2007: Twenty-nine (29) entries with 'AQUATIC' center appeared

- January 2, 2007 entries:

- AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE - Town Manager Terpenney reported that crews were currently installing new storm drains on site. There is much underground work to be done, but the work is continually progressing. Councilman Barber asked when the Town can expect a report from OSHA on the fatal accident that occurred on the AQUATIC center site in December. Manager Terpenney

replied that the Town will not receive that report for six months or more.

- February 6, 2007 entries:
 - COUNCILMAN HUPPERT asked when construction is to begin at the AQUATIC center site. Town Manager Terpenney replied the construction should begin by the end of February.
- April 3, 2007 entries:
 - COUNCILMAN WADE asked for an AQUATIC center update. Manager Terpenney responded that the document establish the funding partnership between Christiansburg and Virginia Tech has not been finalized. Construction will begin on site once the funding contract is adopted.
- May 1, 2007 entries:
 - COUNCILMAN WADE said he is concerned with the budget plan for the AQUATIC center and he questioned the total cost of the facility and its impact on the budget in coming years, as well as, operating expenses opposed to revenue. Town Manager Terpenney said the project is expected to cost approximately fourteen million dollars, and explained operational expenses versus projected revenue. Projected revenues from rentals and membership fees are anticipated to cover fifty to sixty percent (50% - 60%) of the estimated \$1.25 million annual operating costs. Virginia Tech is slated to pay its portion over a twenty year period and is currently in the process of drafting a document outlining its obligations. The Town is working with Virginia Tech to find a way to liquefy the twenty year payment commitment by Tech. Town Manager Terpenney said he was recently contacted by USA Swimming regarding possible contracted use of the facility. USA Swimming is willing to work around Virginia Tech's scheduling. Projected opening of the facility is Fall 2008.
- June 5, 2007 entries:
 - PRESENTATION BY COUNCILMAN STIPES REGARDING THE HUCKLEBERRY TRAIL. Councilman Stipes thanked the Mayor for the opportunity to update Council on this positive and vibrant part of the community. Councilman Stipes introduced Mr. Bill Ellenbogen, representative of Friends of the Huckleberry, who gave the presentation. Mr. Ellenbogen thanked the Town for its past and continued support of the Huckleberry Trail through monetary and in-kind contributions. He hopes to work with the Town in extending the trail to the recreation center, and possibly the high school and beyond to the future AQUATIC center. PREIT, developers of the New River Valley Mall, have donated funds in the amount of \$14,000.00 for an engineering survey, which is being performed by Gay and Neel. PREIT has indicated that there may be additional funding in the future. Mr. Ellenbogen pointed out that the Town has other options for grant funding and private funding for the trail. Councilman Stipes said the goal is to extend the trail with as much grant and private funding as possible. The main obstacles in extending the trail are crossing Route 114 and the existing railroad tracks. The engineering survey will provide direction on how to proceed. Council supports the Huckleberry Trail extension and Mayor Ballengee thanked Mr. Ellenbogen for the presentation and for taking an interest in Christiansburg.
 - Fiscal Year 2007 - 2008 Proposed Real Estate Tax Rate. Per Mayor Ballengee, as a result of Council's discussion during the first budget reading, three hundred and six thousand dollars has been cut from the budget. Among the cuts are several vehicles from various departments, and several police officer positions. Councilman Wade asked why the budgeted revenue did not decrease, even though expenditures decreased by three hundred and six dollars. Councilman Canada asked if the money collected from the tax increase is included in the reserves fund. Mayor Ballengee said that the money will be put into reserves to help with planning and future expansions. Examples of future needs are a new emergency building on Route 114, and ballpark lighting at the Kiwanis Park. The Town has always tried to set aside a "cushion", which has allowed the Town to "pay as you go" in the past, with the exception of the AQUATIC center and the wastewater treatment plant renovation. The reserve fund also allows the Town to be prepared for unforeseen disasters. Mayor Ballengee said that a lower tax rate could impede future plans and growth. Councilman Canada commented that he did not have the opportunity to review the revised budget and asked for clarification of the budget cuts and the effect the cuts have on the budget and the proposed tax rate. Councilman Canada said it is clear to him that the tax increase is not necessary, since it results in even greater revenue after the expenditure cuts. He commented that if three hundred and six thousand dollars has been cut from the budgeted expenditures, the savings should be passed on to the citizens. Councilman Wade and Councilman Stipes both agreed that the savings from the budget cuts should be passed on to citizens by way of a reduced real estate tax rate. Councilman Canada pointed out that there are other ways to collect

money without getting it from the landowners in Christiansburg, and offered, along with Councilman Wade, to serve on a committee to find other avenues of revenue for the Town. Councilman Huppert said that Christiansburg must maintain its standards and growth, however, at the same time the Town needs to consider its citizens. Pocketbooks are being hit hard right now, he said, and he agreed the rate needs to be lowered to a rate that will be revenue neutral. Councilman Barber said that the tax rate has not changed in many years and suggested putting an increase off for another year. If an increase is needed next year as a result of a decrease this year, then Council can discuss at that time. Mayor Ballengee said that the reduced tax rate, even though it results in a tax increase, is sound financial management. Christiansburg is the fourth largest town in Virginia, but has the lowest tax rate within a one hundred mile radius. This is the result of the sound financial management the Town has experienced in years past. Councilman Wade pointed out that with Christiansburg's continued growth there are plenty of opportunities for additional tax revenue in the future. Councilwoman Carter said she has received so many calls from the community asking her to not support a real estate tax increase. Montgomery County taxes have risen so high that people are really feeling the burden of increased taxation. Councilwoman Carter said she must support the community that she serves. Mayor Ballengee stated that he is not advocating a tax increase, but understands that the infrastructure of the Town will deteriorate if the means are not available for upkeep. Councilman Wade made motion to set the real estate tax rate at .126/\$100, which will create a revenue neutral tax. The motion was seconded by Councilman Canada and, at Mayor Ballengee's direction, Town Clerk Stipes polled Council as follows: Barber - AYE; Canada - AYE; Carter - AYE; Huppert - AYE; Stipes - AYE; Wade - AYE.

- AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE - Manager Terpenney reported that he met with the contractor and architect regarding the draft agreement, which has since been sent to the Town Attorney, Jim Guynn. The contractor is set to move on site soon. The Virginia Tech commitment is over a twenty year period and the Town is working to find a way to collect the funds up front, possibly through the bonding company the Town used for the initial AQUATIC center bond.
- June 19, 2007 entries:
 - CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR CHRISTIANSBURG AQUATIC CENTER. Town Manager Terpenney reported that the construction contract for Phase I of the project for ten million seven hundred eighty-five dollars is ready to be executed. Phase II, of three million six hundred ninety-seven dollars, is not included in this contract, but is expected to begin within twelve months. The total cost of the project is fourteen million four hundred eighty-two dollars, with twelve million three hundred currently in reserves. Two million dollars is still needed for Phase II and can be bonded through VML/VACO. The two million dollars will retire at the end of the twenty year commitment by Virginia Tech, leaving approximately ninety-five thousand dollars per year after the debt service, to apply towards operations. Councilman Wade asked what the total increase is to the project as a result of meeting Virginia Tech's standards. Manager Terpenney replied that the project increased by approximately two million dollars. Councilman Barber stated that the Town has spent a long-time planning for this facility and the community has looked forward to it for years. Now is the time to begin, said Councilman Barber, and he made a motion to approve the construction contract and allow the construction company to begin building. The motion was seconded by Councilman Huppert. Councilman Canada asked if the quoted cost is firm. Manager Terpenney said yes. Manager Terpenney also said that a formal business plan for the AQUATIC center will be put in place for Council's review. Councilman Canada asked about the operational costs of the facility and if it will be self-supporting. Manager Terpenney said annual operational costs will be approximately one and one half million dollars, with a return of approximately fifty to sixty percent through membership and other fees. Town Manager Terpenney said that he interviewed other localities with AQUATIC facility and there are none in this region with a competition sized pool of this magnitude. Manager Terpenney has already received calls pertaining to the 50 meter pool and he believes there will be no problem booking the pool for major events. This will also result in increased revenue from meals and lodging tax. As a comparison, Manager Terpenney pointed out that the Recreation Center is not self-supporting. Councilman Huppert commented that the AQUATIC center will increase the value of living in Christiansburg in ways that can't be measured in dollars and cents. Councilman Barber said that AQUATIC center has been discussed and planned at length and now it is time to make the facility a reality. Council voted on the motion and second as follows: AYES: Barber, Carter, Huppert, Stipes, and Wade. NAYS: Canada.

- TOWN MANAGER TERPENNY reported that if Council agrees to a two million dollar bond for Phase II of the AQUATIC center, a bond application needs to be submitted to VML/VACO. The bond company sells bonds in July. The Town would receive its funds at 4.4% interest, maturing on August 1, 2027. The annual debt service is one hundred fifty-five thousand eight hundred eighty-five dollars, and will come out of Virginia Tech's five million dollars. The bond approval requires a public hearing, which can be set for July 17, 2007. Councilman Barber made a motion to set the public hearing for July 17, 2007, seconded by Councilman Wade. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Canada, Carter, Huppert, Stipes, and Wade. NAYS: None.
- July 3, 2007 Entries:
 - GLENN REYNOLDS PRESENTATION ON AQUATIC CENTER DESIGN. Mr. Glenn Reynolds, Architect for the AQUATIC center, presented to Council the current architectural drawings for the AQUATIC center. The plans were graphic in nature and were presented in the form of displays that showed floor plans for the main and lower floors of the building. Mr. Reynolds explained that the AQUATIC center will have fitness rooms, multi-purpose rooms, administrative offices, and three pool areas; a 50-meter competition pool, an L-shaped leisure pool, and a therapy pool. The two-story facility will seat fifteen hundred and thirty-six spectators and will provide parking for approximately three hundred and twenty vehicles. He further explained that this facility will be a showcase and that once built the demand for use for competitive events will be tremendous. Construction is set to begin in the next few weeks.
- July 17, 2007 Entries:
 - Council action on the AQUATIC Center Bond. Councilman Wade made a motion to approve the AQUATIC center bond, seconded by Councilman Barber. Town Clerk Stipes polled Council on the motion as follows: Barber- AYE; Canada -AYE; Carter - AYE; Huppert - AYE; Stipes - AYE; and Wade - AYE. The bond is unanimously approved.
- August 7, 2007 Entries:
 - TOWN MANAGER TERPENNY reported that Lionberger Construction is waiting for approved footer designs from the architect before pouring footers for the AQUATIC center. Lionberger hopes to receive the go-ahead in the next two weeks.
- August 21, 2007 Entries:
 - AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE - Town Manager Terpenney reported that the contractor is on site, excavation has begun, and the footers are being dug.
- September 18, 2007 Entries:
 - AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE - Town Manager Terpenney reported that the footer excavation is continuing and the footer material is being ordered. Councilman Huppert suggested placing a sign on the site notifying that it is the future home of the AQUATIC center. He believes many folks who are aware of the construction may not know that it is the site of the new AQUATIC center. Manager Terpenney reported that the Town is in the process of developing a logo for the AQUATIC center and Mayor Ballengee suggested finishing the design of the logo before placing a sign on the site.
- November 6, 2007 Entries:
 - TOWN MANAGER TERPENNY reported that the footers are currently being poured for the AQUATIC center and good progress is being made at the site.
- December 4, 2007 Entries:
 - COUNCILMAN STIPES - UPDATE ON PROPOSED NEW TOWN WEBSITE. Councilman Stipes began by introducing and recognizing the members of the Website Committee: Mayor Ballengee, Adam Carpenetti, Nichole Hair, and Kunberly Weitkamp; he thanked each one for their expertise and enthusiasm. Councilman Stipes reported that the Committee met approximately seven times and as part of their research interviewed Council Members and Department Heads to gain insight on different needs and ideas for the website. The Committee also invited web service providers to submit statements of qualifications for review. Based on the Committee's research, it finds that a professional job is advisable and recommends a website design professional with expertise in government websites. Councilman Stipes explained that the amount of content is not a key factor in the cost of the website, but that cost is based on creativity, utility, and ease of use. It is the Committee's belief that a professionally created and maintained website will lead to a dramatic and sustained increase in website traffic, which will result in an increase in the use and efficiency of present Town services, and in special events and facilities like the AQUATIC center and the

Harkrader Sports Complex. A professional website, according to Councilman Stipes, will enhance the Town and the businesses that are presently located here. Councilman Stipes said he believes that a thorough and up-to-date website is expected from citizens served by local government. An effective website allows citizens to readily access and download information to do business with the Town, and to "visit" the Town without setting foot in it, which is what economic developers and tourism experts say that approximately 90% of people presently do. A new, professional website will reinforce the Town motto, "Progressive Small-Town Living at its Best". With the information gathered during its review, the Website Committee believes that the Town can have a professional website launched by summer 2008, with a cost between thirty-five and forty thousand dollars. Payment for these services can extend over multiple budget cycles. The Town budgeted ten thousand dollars for the website for fiscal year 2007-2008. The Website Committee recommends Town Council allow Town staff to proceed with procurement of professional website design services with the following stipulations: (1) Present fiscal year 2007 - 2008 budget of ten thousand dollars be applied to this contract; (2) Keep up to ten thousand dollars in the next three years' budgets to complete the contract; and (3) Following the website launch, the Town allocate a five hundred dollar per month payment for website hosting, maintenance, and enhancement. Councilman Stipes noted that during the data collection process there was unanimous interest in offering the ability to pay bills, and conduct other financial transactions with the Town, online. A new Town website could support online bill payment at little or no extra cost, provided that the Town accounting software is appropriately established to receive payments. The Town currently owns software that would allow these transactions, but the software has not yet been implemented and this software will require the purchase of an upgrade module before it can be used for online bill pay services. Council expressed a concern that the number of bills paid to the Town during the year would not justify the cost of implementing bill pay software. Councilman Barber suggested that credit card payment may be more practical for the Town. The Website Committee recommends that the Town move ahead with a new website as proposed and consider adding an additional online bill pay service at such time as the new software is fully operational and if the Town feels that the necessary financial software upgrades are cost-effective. Councilman Wade made a motion to allow Town staff to proceed with procurement of professional website design services, with the stipulations noted above. The motion was seconded by Councilman Barber and Council voted as follows: AYES: Barber, Canada, Carter, Huppert, Stipes, and Wade. NAYS: None.

2008 Town Council Meeting Minutes

- February 19, 2008
 - AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE - Town Manager Terpenney reported that progress continues at the aquatic center site, and that the diving tower is currently being constructed.
- April 1, 2008
 - AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE - Town Manager Terpenney reported that progress is continuing on the aquatic center, with approximately sixty-percent of the roof enclosed. Much work has also been done on the access road, which, once completed, will accommodate bus turns. Several Council members suggested placing a sign at the site announcing that it is the future home of the aquatic center.
- May 20, 2008
 - Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009 Budget – First Reading. Town Manager Terpenney gave an overview of the proposed Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009 Budget and offered to answer any questions. The proposed budget includes increases to the water and sewer fees, solid waste fees, cigarette tax, building permit fees, and business license fees. There are no new personnel in the budget, and a three percent pay increase for all full-time, permanent employees, including Town Council and the Town Clerk, is proposed. Major capital improvements proposed are: Sewer extension for Elk Drive; downtown redevelopment on East Main Street; plant mix for streets; continued construction of the aquatic center; upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant; and North Franklin Street bridge repair. Reserve funds are proposed to increase as follows: Fire truck - \$25,000; rescue truck - \$25,000; building inspection software - \$25,000; and emergency services building - \$200,000. Ms. Ann Hess, on behalf of New River Community Action, thanked Council for its past and continued support of the Homeless Intervention Program. Mr. Larry Martin, a local business owner, asked Council to reconsider the fees/tax increases proposed in the budget,

specifically the BPOL tax. Mrs. Nancy McDonald, a local business owner, also expressed her opposition to the BPOL tax increase, and explained the hardship the increased tax will create on small businesses.

- COUNCILWOMAN CARTER commented on the success of Saturday's "Cruisin' Christiansburg" event, and thanked everyone who participated in organizing the event. Councilwoman Carter said she understands the importance of a regional Chamber of Commerce and tourism development, but suggested putting a cap on the amount of funds appropriated to the Chamber of Commerce for tourism initiatives, leaving some funds for the Town to use to promote Town festivities such as Cruisin' Christiansburg, Wilderness Trail, and others. She suggested that the Town Attorney be directed to review the Town's contract with the Chamber of Commerce, before the next budget reading, to determine if this is permissible for the upcoming budget year. Councilman Huppert said he supports capping the fund allocation and suggested setting the cap at Seventy-Thousand Dollars. According to the budget under review, the Town will give the Chamber of Commerce One Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Dollars, which includes annual dues of Twelve Thousand Dollars. Councilman Barber agreed with the suggestion of a cap, commenting that the Town could use some of the tourism funds to begin marketing for the new aquatic center. He suggested that a Seventy-Thousand Dollar cap may be too low. Mayor Ballengee referred this matter to the Town Attorney for review and also asked that the Town Attorney also verify that the contract is valid. Councilman Wade said he would like to see a business plan for the aquatic center. Mayor Ballengee commented that the Town plans to have an aquatic center director in place in July, and their first direction will be to form a business plan for the facility. Councilman Canada echoed Councilman Wade's concerns about the lack of a business plan for a venture this size. Mayor Ballengee said the director will be key in developing the business plan because of their extensive experience in the operations of an aquatic center this size.
- June 3, 2008
 - FISCAL YEAR 2008 – 2009 BUDGET – SECOND READING. Councilman Huppert mentioned Council's previous discussion to place a cap on the amount of lodging tax contributed to the Chamber of Commerce for tourism development. Town Attorney Dillon has reviewed the Town's contract with the Chamber of Commerce and reported that there is a provision for modification, however, it is not unilateral, but must be agreed upon by both parties. The Town can attempt to renegotiate the contribution amount, or if that fails, can choose to terminate the contract with 180 days notice to the Chamber of Commerce. Councilman Huppert suggested a \$100,000 cap. He stated that the funds retained by the Town would provide a way for the Town to work in conjunction with the Chamber on tourism development. Mayor Ballengee suggested that Council approve the budget and give notice of termination with hopes of renegotiating the contract. Councilman Wade suggested setting public hearing for public input on how the remaining tourism funds will be used. Councilman Canada said he would like to know the impact on the Chamber of Commerce if the funding is reduced, and he wants to see an audit of the funds contributed to date to the Tourism Development Commission. Councilman Barber pointed out that local restaurants and hotels will benefit from strong marketing of the aquatic center, and would probably provide a financial boom for all local merchants. Councilwoman Carter made a motion to approve the budget, seconded by Councilman Stipes. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Canada, Carter, Huppert, Stipes, and Wade. NAYS: None.
- June 17, 2008
 - AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE – Manager Terpeny reported that the large pool has been excavated and concrete pouring began today. Good progress has been made on the access road, much of it not visible from North Franklin Street.
 - TOWN MANAGER TERPENNY reported that during recent cell tower negotiations, one particular cell company requested a twenty year lease instead of the typical five year lease. The company has offered to pay several thousand dollars for this consideration, and is asking for confirmation that the Town will consider this request. The Town Manager and Barry Helms have extensively reviewed this request and recommend Town Council's consideration. They also recommend the funds be used for Town recreational purposes such as completion of the skatepark, construction of a local park, the aquatic center, etc. Mayor Ballengee turned this matter over to the Recreation Commission for review and recommendation. Manager Terpeny commented that he needs a consensus from Council to continue negotiations. It is the consensus of Council to consider this request.
- July 15, 2008
 - AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE – Manager Terpeny reported that the concrete has been poured for the fifty-meter pool, and guttering is ready to be shipped along with bulk heads. This will complete the fifty-meter pool. Diving platforms are complete and block work continues. Plumbing and electrical is in progress. Manager Terpeny hopes to bring the name of the new director to Council at the August 5, 2008

Town Council meeting.

- MAYOR BALLENGEE reported that he is currently in the process of forming a committee to work with the architect on decorating the aquatic center. The committee will have representation from Council and the community.
- August 5, 2008
 - TOWN MANAGER TERPENNY reported that Ms. Terry Caldwell has been hired as the Town's new aquatic center director. Ms. Caldwell will have an office in the Town Hall and her first direction will be to develop a complete business plan for the aquatic center. Ms. Caldwell will begin working August 18.
 - MAYOR BALLENGEE appointed Councilman Huppert, Councilman Wade, Planning Commissioner Simmons, First National Bank Director, Sam Tollison, and one member to be named at a later date, to a Contributions Committee to solicit funding for furnishings and fixtures for the aquatic center. Mayor Ballengee said this is a good way for the community to have ownership in the project.