

Buildings and Grounds

Projects we are working on to meet legal requirements, improve the community, meet needs or save money:

Canaan Hall



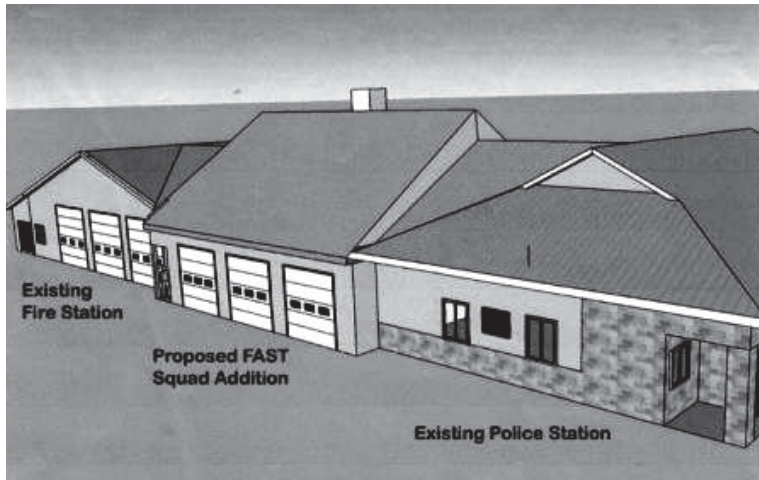
Canaan Speedway recently was purchased by Tillman Gerngross to create a road rally style race track. As part of the acquisition, Tillman wanted to preserve Canaan Hall as a community resource. In an exchange for a waiver of taxes on the building and the small parcel of land that it sits on, Gerngross has leased the Canaan Hall to the Town



for community use on a year to year basis. The transaction took place on November 1st. In the first two months, the Hall has hosted a number of events and raised enough money to heat it all winter. There was a fundraising dinner for recreation, several weekend Farmers and Crafters Markets, public meetings for the regional health center, several Christmas parties, a wedding, a memorial service, a community Thanksgiving Dinner and an athletic banquet. The Hall will raise the money necessary to fund its operation or we will discontinue our use. Future plans include dinners, recreation programs, arts and crafts, music programs, arts, crafts, flea markets, farmers markets (off season) and private events. It is available for rent and alcohol is allowed. Contact the Town Office for information.

FAST Squad Building

The Town Office worked with the FAST Squad to reach an agreement that was helpful to all parties in creating a new FAST Squad building that allowed FAST to add another ambulance and generate revenue from discretionary private transport of patients. The result is a new building serving police and FAST that is funded by FAST and owned by the Town of Canaan without any financial obligations. The Town



and FAST entered into a long term contract to keep the cost of ambulance service stable over the next 20 years. Part of the plan will include a new safer police holding cell, more storage space for the FAST Squad and Police Department and a large public meeting room that will benefit the entire community.

Clean Up of Junk Yards and Abandoned Buildings

Several buildings that had been abandoned by the owners were cleaned out and sold to restore those properties to use and to the tax rolls. Enforcement action continued against three junk yards in the Town.

Elliott Field

As part of the Canaan Speedway sale, the current location of Elliott Field will be used for other purposes. Gerngross funded the cost of moving the ball field, lights, buildings, and fencing to a new location behind Canaan Elementary School. That work will be completed this spring. For the first time, this ball field will be located on public land which will assure its continued use.



Autoware

The Town currently owns the Autoware property by tax deed with the right of redemption held by Autoware. We are looking to acquire this property by grants and gifts. The reasons are three fold:

- **Add parking spaces for the Town Office, the Library and the Senior Center (the property goes behind the Senior Center)**
- **Improve the appearance of the Village and**
- **Create a retail store front that is self funded and markets local food, local arts and crafts and local businesses.**

This project would not use any tax dollars and would be self funded through rent and fees.



Skating Rink

For the second year, a skating rink was created at Williams Field. Unlike last year, the rink is composed of reusable parts allowing it to be set up each year. Thanks to all who donated their time and money to make it possible.



Painting

More than \$20,000 worth of painting was done at the Matting House and the Union Academy Museum. Three sides of the museum and the two long sides of the Meeting House were painted with a very tough primer under the surface paint to keep the paint from peeling longer.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Samson, Town Administrator**