

## Researcher's comments:

This exchange with the Town Treasurer below (my bold and underlining) appears to explain why Fairlee's voters have never had control over any of our forest sales or expenses, ever. I do not know where or how our Treasurer came to this conclusion. I suspect this idea was concocted years ago. Going back to 1979, I have found no occurrence where the Voters have ever delegated to any board or individual the authority to sell off town property—convert it to taxpayers' dollars—and then again to spend those dollars, to support their personal hobbies and interests.

There is no evidence the Fairlee SB had these powers, which would have required voter approval, therefore they have never had the right to delegate them.

This should have been corrected by our own Budget and Audit committees. It surely should have been caught by our own outside independent CPAs.

IMO, given the the significant amount of documentation showing that the SB, from the very beginning, intended to evade government oversight of the Lange Forest, I believe this myth about "taxpayer dollars" was and still is intentionally deceptive.

s/ Bill Weale 7/7/2022

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Town Treasurer <treasurer@fairleevt.org>  
Subject: RE: Fund Accounts vs Department Budgets  
Date: June 3, 2020 at 5:00:48 PM EDT  
To: Bill Weale <bill.weale@builderman.com>

Hi Bill,

I added that column this year kind of at the last minute and was not able to get numbers from the Forest Board. **It is informational only as those funds are not funded by tax dollars.** I thought it would be good to give taxpayers an idea of what "might" be coming up in 2020 in all the fund accounts when possible. As you can see we did better with some than with others. As with anything new it takes a bit to get everyone on board and thinking ahead.

I am working in the Town office on Friday and am planning on working on those forest fund numbers for you.

Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Lisa Hinsley  
Treasurer

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-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Weale <bill.weale@builderman.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2020 4:45 PM  
To: Town Treasurer <treasurer@fairleevt.org>  
Subject: Fund Accounts vs Department Budgets

Hi Lisa—

The Town Report seems to contain both a Fund account and a Department Budget for all town functions. Why don't the Lange and Town Forests have Department Budgets?

Just curious,

Bill