


From: bill.weale 
Subject: Fwd: Town's Independent Auditing Firm
Date: March 1, 2022 at 5:30 PM
To: Mike@fsv-cpas.com



Hello Mr. Segale—

Thank you for listening regarding my concerns that your firm's recent Audit and Review reports don't seem accurately to describe our town's true statement of position regarding undisclosed and unfunded financial liabilities.

Your position, clearly stated, is that if the Town has not received **and** paid an invoice for goods or services or if it has sold **and** been paid for sales of its real property during a tax year in question, you are not obligated to report anything. Contractual and legal obligations which will require more than \$250,000 in the future expenses need neither to be reported nor disclosed. You are happy with your reports; several times you declared, "you are done with the reports." And, finally, you have been told by town officials that I am the only one complaining about the town forest finances.

In addition you seemed to me to be quite dismissive and defensive.

If this had been a better time for you, I would have attempted to explain, to document with public records, why I and others feel we have a serious financial problem, which pairs with abusive logging practices and environmental damages, with our town forest.

Below I'm forwarding to you some questions I have asked of another CPA, one I have known for a long time. Others, Fairlee-specific issues, which may be of interest to you, include a [Timber Sales Summary Report](#), a [request from Chairman Berger](#) to me to look for more information; [Chairman Berger's own opinion](#) regarding a rogue Forest Board and a [Thank You letter](#) from the Town T-A and the entire Select Board to me, for helping them stop illegal and unauthorized logging, which should result in a liability insurance claim against the Town.

Following the Thank You letter, I was determined to make sure what has happened to our forest during the past decade would never happen again. Simply put, the documents on this site strongly support the need for an investigation to determine if an act of fraud was committed by our Select Board in 1980 and which has actively, knowingly, deliberately and collectively been sustained by a handful of individuals, who are and/or were our own Town Officials, up and including the present time. It has cost us hundreds of thousands of dollars. It's all on this website.

It was what I began discovering after that Thank You letter which has bothered Chairman Berger, [resulting in his latest edict](#). Note that he alone signed this one.

From decades of consulting experience, I have learned that sometimes you have to fire a client. Are you really comfortable having given our Town a financial clean bill of health during the past few years?

If you care to look any farther, I stand by to help you and all others who may have been mixed up with this fraud.

Respectfully,

Bill Weale
Fairlee, VT
802 384-4791

Begin forwarded message:

From: [bill.weale](#)
Subject: [Town's Independent Auditing Firm](#)
Date: March 1, 2022 at 9:25:11 AM EST
To:

I've attached the most recent Audit Report for the Town. It's for y/e 12/31/2020, but received on 2/14/2022.

In general I'm concerned about the lack of any budget process for our Town Forest. It seems to me it should be a capital account. I know from looking at town reports and from research ([FogeyPower.com](#)) that [the town has lost over \\$150,000 in unauthorized Timber Sales](#) and that we face well [North of \\$250,000 in legal- and contract-mandated Forest Trail and water crossing repairs](#).

Nothing appears on any of the last 3 Independent Audit/Reviews ([2018](#) and [2019](#)). What's even more puzzling is the statement below, contained on p 3/3 of the "Audit Communication Letter." I don't believe any communication between the Town Offices and an Independent CPA for the purposes of Town financial statements can be "secret."

“This information is intended solely for the use of Selectboard and management of the Town of Fairlee, Vermont and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

FOTHERGILL SEGALE & VALLEY, CPAs
Vermont Public Accountancy License #110”

I'm just asking what your general observation is regarding the integrity of our financials and of our Independent Auditors? I was planning to call the Partner in charge of this audit, Michael Segale, I believe, but I'm wondering if I should be looking for enforcement? The biggest problem is that the SB has been covering up the the town's stewardship obligations to the Federal Contract that got us the grant money to purchase the forest in 1980. Long story, but the SB knows what I've found and has yet to “confess,” which I think will bring down on them some pretty serious consequences.

I've been trying to get them to initiate what's best for the town, hence the research that is now being “published” at FogeyPower.com.

So I don't know whether Fothergill et al failed their due diligence in requesting info from the town, or if the town deliberately has continued the coverup by not responding completely and fully. Seems to me, if Fothergill values its license, they would be on our side and help to get enforcement involved? Do I have to drop the Mazars bomb regarding how worthless their reports regarding Fairlee's statement of financial position have been, for the past nn years?

Bill