

# **Regular Meeting Of the Putnam Town Board**

February 9, 2023, 7PM ~ Putnam Town Hall ~ Zoom

## **7:00 Meeting called to order**

Supervisor Darrell Wilson Schneider led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Roll Call**

<b>Members present:</b>	Supervisor	Darrell Wilson
	Councilman	Christopher Mallon
	Councilman	Larry Shiell
	Councilwoman	Carole Schneider
	Councilman	Charles Bain

**Others present:** Mary Jane Dedrick (Deputy Clerk, P.O. Box 14), Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent, Treadway Lane), Bill Brown (Planning Board Chair, 17 Charter Brook Lane), Leslie Bain (Resident, 371 Peterson Rd.), Chris Navitsky (Lake George Waterkeeper, LGA, P.O. Box 408 Lake George, NY 12845), Cee McKenzie (BAR Chair, Budget Officer, 526 Gull Bay Rd), May Drinkwine-Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3)

**Present via ZOOM:** Nancy Wolf-Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road), Karl Ohly (Resident, 428 County Route 3), Bill McCarty (Assessor, 224 County Route 62 Cambridge, NY 12816), John Breitenbach (Town Attorney, 2749 Main Street, Crown Point, NY 12928), Corey Granger (Highway Department, 139 Craig Road), Diane Granger (Resident, 139 Craig Road), Ken Parker (Lake George Park Commission Chairman), Dave Wick (Lake George Park Commission Executive Director), Joe Thouin (Lake George Park Commission Environmental Analyst), Tom West (Lake George Association Vice Chair), Sally Thurston (Lake George Association Board of Directors)

## **Resolution # 8**

### **Accept the minutes of the January 12, 2023, Regular meeting**

On motion of Councilman Larry Shiell, seconded by Councilwoman Carole Schneider; all in favor. Resolution unanimously adopted.

## **Resolution #9**

### **Accept the Financial reports for the month of January 2023**

On motion of Councilwoman Carole Schneider, seconded by Councilman Charlie Bain; all in favor. Resolution unanimously adopted.

## **Resolution # 10**

### **Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of January 2023**

On motion of Councilman Chris Mallon, seconded by Councilwoman Carole Schneider all in favor. Resolution unanimously adopted.

**Resolution # 11**

**Accept the Town Justice Report for the month of January 2023**

On motion of Councilwoman Carole Schneider, seconded by Councilman Charlie Bain; all in favor.  
Resolution unanimously adopted.

**Resolution #12**

**Pay bills as audited**

On motion of Councilman Charlie Bain, seconded by Councilman Larry Shiell; all in favor.  
Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolved, the bills on the following are paid as audited.

General Fund	# 9-31	\$9,747.19
Highway Fund	# 5-14	\$20,270.35

**Correspondence**

Paul Garbis of Holmes Lane sent a letter of praise to the Highway Department/Town (See attached).

**Courtesy of the Floor** (7:04)

Supervisor Wilson passed condolences on behalf of the Town to Attorney Breitenbach on the passing of his father.

Chris Navitsky, Lake George Waterkeeper, spoke first. Mr. Navitsky addressed the room about the use of ProcellaCOR in Lake George. Mr. Navitsky argued against its use, and distributed information published by the Lake George Association (LGA). (See attached)

Dave Wick, Lake George Park Commission Executive Director, addressed the room next via ZOOM. Mr. Wicks spoke about ProcellaCOR use in Lake George. Mr. Wick argued in favor of its use, information provided by Mr. Wick prior to the meeting was distributed. (See attached)

Ken Parker, Lake George Park Commission Chairman, spoke next in favor of the use of ProcellaCOR in Lake George.

Tom West, Lake George Association Vice Chair, spoke next against the use of ProcellaCOR in Lake George.

Supervisor Wilson asked if there was any further comment from the floor, there was none.

**Highway Superintendent Report** (7:31)

Highway Superintendent (HS) Gary Treadway reported that there have been a few minor breakdowns, things are running well. The stockpiles of salt and sand are in good shape for this point of the winter. HS Treadway and Supervisor Wilson attended a meeting with CHPE and their contractors. Work is expected to begin in the coming weeks. The entire project projected operational date is May of 2026. An informational open house for the public will be held Monday February 13, 2023, in Whitehall.

**Courtesy of the floor re-visited**

Attorney Breitenbach invited Mr. Wick to speak about the septic inspection program found at:

<https://lgpc.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/02/septic-inspection-program-faq-2-6-23.pdf>

Cee McKenzie asked why the program didn't focus on the southern end of the Lake first since it was heavily commercial, highly populated, and more prone to accidental releases by historical comparison.

Mr. Wick indicated that the LGPC was trying to avoid overwhelming any one town with financial obligations and jamming their community's planning/zoning boards, since it is anticipated that 15-20% of systems will fail the inspection, and will require immediate corrective action.

Councilwoman Carole Schneider asked Mr. Wick about the fee scale. Mr. Wick explained that systems will be inspected every five years, residential systems cost \$50 a year, and commercial systems are \$100 a year. This rate spreads out the cost of an inspection over 5 years for the homeowner. Councilwoman

Schneider expressed she felt this was “another” unfunded mandate that taxpayers are being saddled with, saying “it adds up”.

**Planning Board Report** (7:56)

Planning Board Chair Bill Brown reported that their meeting had taken place the prior evening. Their Agenda included: Darrell Wilson, converting pre-existing home into a multiple family dwelling, Public Hearing & Project approved. - Joe Iannuzzi, requesting a two lot subdivision of his lot located at 102 Tiroga Beach Lane.- Richard Schumaker, new home construction on Black Point Way. Public Hearing scheduled for the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. -Donald & Anita Kennedy, New Home on Hutton Square. Working with the APA on their permit. - Devlin/Ryan, Lot line adjustment, subdivision application. The Devlin/Ryan’s are seeking to absorb a vacant piece of land between their two properties. -James Coffman, previously approved plans changed. The Coffman’s have decided to tear down and replace the existing garage, adding a loft in the same footprint, a change from their original submission to the Planning Board. -Sid & Bonnie Barnhart submitted a plan showing the 16X100 cattle shelter that they constructed. No LRCC1 needed as it’s a farming structure. – Possible unpermitted building at 732 Gull Bay Road, Code Enforcement notified.

**Fire Department Report**

No report from the Department.

Supervisor Wilson advised that the Tax Collections for the Fire Department was complete and they would be getting a check soon.

**Old business** (7:58)

Ticonderoga Beach- Update Putnam Law to enable law enforcement in Ticonderoga to respond to issues at the Ticonderoga Beach, which resides inside the Putnam town lines. The current Putnam law for the Gull Bay Beach is being reviewed by the Parks & Recreation Committee and Town Board.

**New business** (8:02)

Chris Edwards has moved and has resigned from the Planning Board.

**Resolution #13**

**Accept the resignation of Christopher Edwards from the Planning Board**

On motion of Councilman Charlie Bain, seconded by Councilman Larry Shiell; all in favor. Resolution unanimously adopted.

Review Appointment of Mark Karlson for the Planning Board vacancy. Councilman Bain and Councilwoman Schneider expressed discontent that the Planning Board vacancy was not advertised allowing opportunity for others in the community to apply. Supervisor Wilson explained that Mr. Karlson had originally expressed interest and was interviewed by the Board about a year ago when another vacancy happened. Councilman Bain reiterated he would like to see any openings posted to give everyone opportunity. Councilman Shiell advised he was OK with Mark since he had already gone through the process. Councilman Mallon also said he was OK with Mark as he did well during the interview process however, he was not a full time resident at that time.

**Resolution #14**

**Appoint Mark Karlson to the Planning Board for a term ending 12/31/2027**

On motion of Supervisor Wilson, seconded by Councilman Chris Mallon.

**Roll Call:**

Supervisor Darrell Wilson	YES
Councilman Christopher Mallon	YES
Councilwoman Carole Schneider	NO

Councilman Larry Shiell YES  
Councilman Charlie Bain YES

Resolution passed by majority vote. 4-1

Two Property Tax Exemptions- one for Seniors, and one for Volunteer Fire Fighters. The Town Board will be working on these two exemptions and their parameters in the coming months. A brief discussion with different scenarios took place about the impact on the tax base and the community.

Supervisor Wilson reviewed his draft response to the audit with the Board, and asked to have any edits or suggestions by February 25, 2023, so that he will have time to complete changes before the March submission deadline.

The Corrective Action Plan was also discussed. The CAP requires Board approval. Supervisor Wilson brought attention to a question list to be used while evaluating the document.

Councilwoman Carole Schneider raised the issue of employees working from home. She highlighted past poor experiences with allowing people to work from home. Councilman Bain reiterated what Councilwoman Schneider said, adding he believes employees should work from the Town Hall or respective sites, and records should be kept on the premises. Councilman Shiell opined that the Accounts Clerk and Supervisor Clerk should work on site. The Town Clerk added that there has been past issues with different employees not returning records after they left employ at the Town. Supervisor Wilson advised he would inform the clerks of the Board's direction, and concerns.

**Resolution #15**

**Move to Executive Session to discuss matters of potential litigation**

On motion of Councilwoman Carole Schneider, seconded by Councilman Chris Mallon; all in favor.  
Resolution unanimously adopted.

NO ACTION TAKEN

**Resolution #16**

**Move to exit Executive Session**

On motion of Councilwoman Carole Schneider, seconded by Councilman Charlie Bain; all in favor.  
Resolution unanimously adopted.

**Resolution #17**

**Move to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board at 9:17PM**

On motion of Supervisor Darrell Wilson, seconded by Councilman Larry Shiell; all in favor.  
Resolution unanimously adopted.

**The Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board adjourned at 9:17PM.**

**Next meeting is March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Putnam Town Hall & ZOOM**

Respectfully submitted,  
Darlene Kerr  
Putnam Town Clerk

Darrell Wilson \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor      Christopher Mallon \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman  
Carole Schneider \_\_\_\_\_ Councilwoman      Larry Shiell \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman  
Charles Bain Sr. \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman

Clerk Copy

24 Jan, 2023

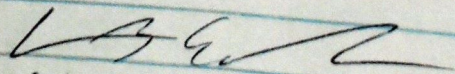
From: Christopher Edwards

To: Town of Putnam Station, NY

Subj: Resignation From Town Planning Board

1. Regretfully, I have to resign my position on the Town Planning Board, effective 24 Jan, 2023.
2. I have moved to Maine and will no longer be a resident of the Town, nor will I be able to attend the meetings due to the distance involved.
3. The Planning Board has done a lot of good work for the Town, and I wish the Board, its members and its leadership the best of luck in their future work.

Respectfully,



Christopher Edwards  
16 Pearborn Dr  
Cape Elizabeth, ME

**Laura Chadwick**

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**From:** New York State Department of Taxation and Finance  
<information@messages.tax.ny.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 22, 2022 5:10 PM  
**To:** Laura Chadwick  
**Subject:** [ EXTERNAL ] New statewide exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a webpage.](#)



**Department of  
Taxation and Finance**

## **Taxing jurisdictions that offer property tax exemptions to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers must transition to a newly authorized statewide exemption within three years.**

As the Chief Executive Officer of a taxing jurisdiction that may be offering a property tax exemption to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers, you should be aware that recently enacted legislation, [Chapter 670 of the Laws of 2022](#), has changed the applicable law and may require action on the part of your jurisdiction.

Generally speaking, the new law gives municipalities, school districts and fire districts throughout the State the option to provide a property tax exemption of up to 10% to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers. Any such exemption would be valid only on property used exclusively for residential purposes. If a portion of a volunteer's property is used for other purposes, the exemption would be prorated accordingly. In order to be eligible for this partial exemption, volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers must live in the community served by their volunteer organization and meet a minimum service requirement of between two and five years, as set by the respective taxing jurisdiction. Additionally, at local option, a lifetime exemption may be provided to volunteers with at least 20 years of service as long as they maintain their primary residence in the county they have served. Taxing jurisdictions may also allow unremarried surviving spouses of eligible volunteers to retain the exemption.

The specific terms of the new exemption are set forth in new § 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) as enacted by Chapter 670 of the Laws of 2022.

It is important to note that, if your taxing jurisdiction has been offering a similar exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers under one of the pre-existing statutes (i.e., current RPTL § 466-a through § 466-k), it must adopt a local law, ordinance or resolution to conform to the new Statewide exemption statute no



# Application for Volunteer Firefighters/Ambulance Workers Exemption

File this form with your local assessor by the taxable status date. See instructions.  
Do not file this form with the Office of Real Property Tax Services.

Name(s) of owner					
Mailing address of owner(s) (number and street or PO Box)			Location of property (street address)		
City, village, or post office	State	ZIP code	City, town, or village	State	ZIP code
Daytime contact number	Evening contact number		School district		
Email address			Tax map number of section/block/lot: Property identification (see tax bill or assessment roll)		

Mark an **X** in the appropriate box.

- Is the property your primary residence?..... Yes  No
- Name of the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated volunteer ambulance service that you serve: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Have you been an enrolled member of this organization for at least five years? ..... Yes  No   
If No, specify the number of years you have been enrolled as a member. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Do you reside in the city, town, or village served by this organization?..... Yes  No
  - Are you an un-remarried spouse of a deceased enrolled member who served for at least five years and who was killed in the same line of duty? ..... Yes  No
  - Are you an un-remarried spouse of a member who is deceased and served for at least 20 years? ..... Yes  No
- Have you been granted a lifetime exemption in any municipality within the county? ..... Yes  No   
If Yes, which municipality? \_\_\_\_\_
- Is any portion of the property used for purposes other than residential, such as farming, commercial, vacant land, or a professional office? ..... Yes  No   
If No, skip to Certification.
  - What percentage of the property is **not** used for residential purposes? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Explain such use and describe the portion that is so used. \_\_\_\_\_

## Certification

I (we), \_\_\_\_\_, hereby certify that the information on this application and any accompanying pages constitutes a true statement of facts.

Signature <i>(All owners must sign this application)</i>	Phone number	Date

Return this form to the **local assessor** by the taxable status date. (See Deadline below.)

## ProcellaCOR & Lake George: Too Many Unanswered Questions

The Lake George Association (LGA) and Lake George Waterkeeper are calling on Gov. Kathy Hochul, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the New York State Adirondack Park Agency to halt a proposal by the Lake George Park Commission, another state agency, to use a chemical herbicide called ProcellaCOR in the Lake as a treatment for Eurasian watermilfoil.

The LGA is the preeminent not-for-profit Lake-protection organization dedicated to safeguarding the Lake's world-renowned water quality. The Lake George Waterkeeper is a science-to-solutions program of the LGA.

This would be the first time a chemical herbicide has ever been used in Lake George, which is classified by the state as a Class AA Special waterbody, the highest designation available, and is a drinking water source for thousands of local people and visitors.

This same proposal was the subject of overwhelming public opposition last summer — a nearly 4,600-signature petition, 300 letters to the APA, and resolutions from the towns of Hague and Ticonderoga — and was eventually halted by a preliminary injunction in New York State Supreme Court.

The LGA and Waterkeeper oppose this experiment due to the startling lack of scientific research regarding the specific impacts the herbicide will have on the specially protected waters of Lake George. Our concerns include:

- potentially adverse impacts to critically important native plants and organisms;
- the possibility that treated and decomposing milfoil will cause significant algae growth and increase the risk of harmful algal blooms;
- the likely far-reaching spread of the herbicide due to the Lake's strong currents;
- how long the toxic chemical will remain in the Lake, and the fact that it eventually breaks down into chemicals that are just as toxic as the parent chemical;
- the likelihood that the herbicide's projected effectiveness will be reduced by the Lake's strong currents since the manufacturer clearly states its product is for use in "slow moving/quiescent waters with little or no continuous outflow ...;"
- the significant restrictions on the use of Lake water for agricultural and non-agricultural irrigation, and for feeding animals, after the herbicide is used;
- why such a dramatic and risky departure from the traditional hand harvesting method of milfoil removal is necessary when the Park Commission itself has acknowledged the success of that program.

**Please join us in protecting Lake George by asking Gov. Hochul, the Lake George Park Commission, NYSDEC, and the Adirondack Park Agency to reject the use of ProcellaCOR until all of these critically important questions are answered. Email links and more information can be found at [www.lakegeorgeassociation.org/hochul-letter](http://www.lakegeorgeassociation.org/hochul-letter).**



## ProcellaCOR FAQ

### **What is ProcellaCOR?**

ProcellaCOR is a cutting-edge aquatic herbicide used for management of invasive aquatic vegetation in lakes, reservoirs and ponds. It was formally approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2017, and then by New York State in 2019, and has been incredibly effective at controlling and even eliminating invasive Eurasian watermilfoil infestations, without impact to native plant and animal populations. It is applied at a dosage of approximately 7 parts per billion, which is 1,000 times less dosage than the aquatic herbicide previously approved by the Adirondack Park Agency. Following application, there are no restrictions on potable water usage (drinking water) or on contact recreation such as swimming.

### **How does ProcellaCOR work?**

ProcellaCOR is applied directly into the water at the depth of the invasive plants. It is a systemic herbicide, meaning that the plant takes through its entire structure and roots. The plant dies off over a period of two to four weeks and breaks down naturally. ProcellaCOR itself is short-lived, and also breaks down naturally and quickly, within 3-4 days.

### **Why is ProcellaCOR being considered for use in Lake George now?**

ProcellaCOR is being considered for use in Lake George to address areas of the lake that hand harvesting has been unable to effectively manage. ProcellaCOR is not planned to replace hand harvesting on Lake George, but rather to supplement it in areas with dense enough stands that physical removal is unfeasible.

The Lake George Park Commission and partners have been funding the physical removal of Eurasian milfoil for decades, since the late 1980's. These efforts primarily consist of hand-harvesting the plants, which consists of a diver pulling each individual plant out by the roots and removing it from the lake. While this method has overall been successful in many areas of the lake, not all areas respond well to these efforts and grow back over a short period of time. Eurasian milfoil that is rooted in rocky areas is particularly difficult to manage, as the roots cannot easily be removed. Hand harvesting milfoil is also very expensive on a large scale, at a cost of \$8,750 per week for each diver removing the plants. The 2022 contract for hand harvesting milfoil is anticipated to be approximately \$300,000. The previous three years' milfoil management on Lake George exceeded \$1.2 million dollars, and that amount of funding is unsustainable for the long-term.

### **What types of regulatory review has ProcellaCOR undergone?**

ProcellaCOR was developed in 2010, and was subject to dozens of peer-reviewed scientific studies for several years, leading up to its ultimate approval by the US Environmental Protection Agency in

2017. The active ingredient of ProcellaCOR, florpyrauxifen-benzyl, has been utilized worldwide for several years as an herbicide on food crops such as rice. The New York Department of Environmental Conservation approved ProcellaCOR for use in 2019. Much of the science surrounding ProcellaCOR and its subsequent approvals are on the LGPC website.

### **Where and when are the ProcellaCOR Treatments in Lake George proposed?**

A demonstration of ProcellaCOR is planned for two bays: 1) Blairs Bay, Glenburnie, Town of Putnam and 2) Sheep Meadow Bay, Huletts Landing, Town of Dresden. Both of these treatment sites have dense beds of milfoil that have not responded well to hand harvesting and plastic barriers historically. The Blairs Bay application is approximately 4 acres in size, and the Sheep Meadow Bay site is 3.6 acres. Both applications will be conducted on the same day in early to mid-June when the invasive milfoil plants are just starting to emerge for the season. The applications will take only about 30 minutes for each site.

### **How much is ProcellaCOR is proposed to be applied to the Lake?**

The effective dosage rate for ProcellaCOR is staggeringly low, at 7.7 parts per billion. This amounts to a dosage that is 1,000 times less than the previous generation of aquatic herbicides. Only a few gallons of the product will treat the milfoil-affected areas of 3.6 acres (Sheep Meadow Bay) and 4.0 acres (Blairs Bay). The herbicide would be released directly into the water at depths of 8-10 feet to achieve the concentration over the area of the Eurasian milfoil bed. ProcellaCOR breaks down quickly and will be undetectable in the lake within a few days.

### **What are the risks to human health?**

None. The USEPA registered ProcellaCOR as their lowest category of risk ('reduced risk') and identified no risks of concern to human health. Toxicology studies found no adverse acute or chronic effects. The EPA concluded that drinking water exposures to ProcellaCOR do not pose a human health risk and no federal maximum allowable drinking water concentrations were created (i.e. no drinking water restrictions). The observed half-life of the product is 2.6 days in aquatic environments, and EPA and DEC both concluded there is no hazard or concern for metabolites and degradates. The EPA's findings and an exemption from maximum tolerance can be found here: <<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/09/26/2019-20530/florpyrauxifen-benzyl-exemption-from-the-requirement-of-a-tolerance>>.

The Vermont Department of Health established a drinking water standard of a maximum of 3 mg/kg/day. This equates to a maximum concentration that is 400 times higher than proposed concentration to treat Eurasian milfoil in lakes ([https://www.lakeiroquois.org/fileadmin/files/Milfoil/Documents/9\\_VTDOH\\_Review.pdf?482b7b3b42467861e81e20f2ce2774b7d0ff65f1](https://www.lakeiroquois.org/fileadmin/files/Milfoil/Documents/9_VTDOH_Review.pdf?482b7b3b42467861e81e20f2ce2774b7d0ff65f1)).

**Will there be a detrimental impact on wildlife and non-target aquatic plants?**

No. ProcellaCOR is incredibly selective and has shown no impacts to aquatic animals, and almost no impacts upon other aquatic plants. The EPA set the maximum allowable application rate of ProcellaCOR at 48 ppb due to concern for non-target aquatic vascular plants. The proposed application rate for the demonstration sites in Lake George are approximately seven times lower than this threshold. The US EPA found no risk concerns for non-target wildlife, which was supplemented by University studies in Washington and North Carolina State.

**Has this product been used in other lakes? If so, what was the outcome?**

Yes. ProcellaCOR has been used in more than 200 lakes across the United States so far, including 50 in New Hampshire and 30 in New York State, with exceptional results and no impacts to public health or the environment. Dozens more are planned for 2022. Local lakes that have been treated with ProcellaCOR recently include Glen Lake, Saratoga Lake and Minerva Lake. All treatments received the required NYSDEC Permits, and Minerva Lake also required an Adirondack Park Agency permit similar to the Lake George proposal.

**What is the nature of the demonstrations? Is this planned for future use?**

The Lake George Park Commission has identified the sites of Blair's Bay and Sheep Meadow Bay for a limited demonstration of this product, due to their persistent growth of milfoil and limited size of the treatment areas. The Commission will quantify the impact of this treatment on the milfoil population and native aquatic vegetation, and will conduct the required regulatory water quality sampling as required in the NYS permits. The Commission will consider the success of these demonstration projects and any non-target impacts identified before considering any additional treatment efforts in Lake George.



Darlene Kerr <townclerk@townofputnamny.com>

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## Holmes Lane

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**PAUL GARBIS** <pgarbis@me.com>

Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 7:06 PM

To: Darrell Wilson <supervisor.wilson@townofputnamny.com>

Cc: Gary Treadway <superintendent.treadway@townofputnamny.com>, Darlene Kerr <townclerk@townofputnamny.com>

Warmest greetings for the New Year to you all. I hope 2023 is fruitful, healthy and prosperous for your all.

I could not believe how great the re-topping of Holmes Lane came out. Thank you all for honoring your word and getting this done for us. Looking forward to winter passing and getting up there for the summer. Please drop by so we may thank in person. Great place that Putnam-because of people like you.

Best regards,  
PAUL GARBIS

On Oct 19, 2021, at 2:46 PM, Darrell Wilson <supervisor.wilson@townofputnamny.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]