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# **BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

*ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND*

**January 17, 2024**

**11:37 a.m.**

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# PRESENT

**HONORABLE WES MOORE**

Governor

**HONORABLE DERECK DAVIS**

Treasurer

**HONORABLE BROOKE LIERMAN**

Comptroller

**JOHN GONTRUM**

Secretary, Board of Public Works

**ATIF CHAUDHRY**

Secretary, Department of General Services

**JACOB (JAKE) DAY**

Secretary, Department of Housing and Community Development

**JOSH KURTZ**

Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

**SERENA COLEMAN MCILWAIN**

Secretary, Department of the Environment

**JOSELYN JOHNSON**

Director of Procurement, Towson University for the  
University System of Maryland

**VALERIE RADOMSKY**

Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Transportation

**LISA GRIGSBY**

Recording Secretary, Board of Public Works

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# PROCEEDINGS

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning and welcome to today's meeting of the Board of Public Works. We'll go ahead and get started with the Agenda, the Secretary's Agenda. Secretary Gontrum, good morning. It's great to see you.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Good morning. It's good to see you, Governor, and you, Madam Comptroller, and you, Mr. Treasurer. There are seven items on the Secretary's Agenda this morning and one Appendix report containing two emergency procurement actions. I'm happy to assist with answering any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful. Thank you so much. I'd like to start by highlighting Item 6, which is a request from the Department of Housing and Community Development, and that's to award \$1.5 million for the Business Façade Improvement Program to support 17 projects. And that is taking place in ten jurisdictions. We're going to turn it over to our extraordinary DHCD Secretary, Secretary Day, in a second to talk about this incredible program a little bit more. But this program is just, it's incredibly important and it's just an effective model for how State government and local businesses and the local community members can actually partner together and work on getting a lot of important, big things done. The program provides State money for capital improvement and exterior façades for business buildings and also facilities. And it is administered by our local government partners, who then identify recipients on how the funding can both be utilized and also how the funding can be maximized. And I want to give a special shout out to our friend and our colleague, Speaker Adrienne Jones, who has been a long time champion for this

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program. If you spend time with Speaker Jones, you have probably heard her talk about this program. And it's critical for revitalization efforts and economic development for communities not just in Baltimore County but also all throughout the State of Maryland. So I want to yield to Secretary Day with deep thanks and appreciation and gratefulness to spend some time talking about this program.

MR. DAY: Governor and Madam Comptroller and Mr. Treasurer, good morning. Happy New Year, Happy Session, Happy Budget Day.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Happy Budget Day.

MR. DAY: Thank you. For the record, my name is Jake Day, Secretary of Housing and Community Development. And yes, Governor, we are here to talk about the Business Façade Improvement Program. The Maryland Façade Improvement Program is this year a \$1.5 million program. We're seeking authority to award these 17 awards in ten jurisdictions with general obligation funds, general obligation bond funds. And this is designed, it's one of the seven State revitalization programs, and to create a stand-alone program that no longer competes for dollars with other community development and economic development projects that can be awarded in the Baltimore region, with Neighborhoods Initiative, Community Legacy, and similar programs. So this creates a stand-alone project that is oriented on older commercial corridors. You can conjure images of places around our State in many jurisdictions that need help. And we are very excited about these 17 awards and very excited also that your budget, the \$5 million award next year and into the future will enable even more significant investment in our older commercial corridors, our main streets, and areas that ought to be thriving and with our resources I'm confident can be. So we're seeking your authority, gentleman, lady, for our \$1.5 million awards in 17 jurisdictions. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much, Mr. Secretary.

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MR. DAY: I'm happy to answer any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Any questions?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No questions. Great program.

Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great program. And Mr. Secretary, great work. Great work. Great leadership. Thank you. Thank you. We will proceed with the -- oh, sorry. Before we proceed, may I have a motion to approve?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Well done.

Congratulations. Thank you. We will proceed with the DNR Agenda. Secretary Kurtz, good morning.

MR. KURTZ: Good morning, good morning, Mr. Governor and Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller. It's a pleasure to be with you here today. For the record, my name is Josh Kurtz. I'm the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. Today the department has six items for your consideration, and myself and staff are here to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful. Thank you so much. Is there any discussion for the DNR Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No, not for me.

TREASURER DAVIS: No.

GOVERNOR MOORE: May I have a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

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GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Secretary Kurtz, thank you, thank you. We will next go to the University System of Maryland. Ms. Joselyn Johnson from Towson University filling in for Mr. Hickey today. Great to see you and I love the scarf.

MS. JOHNSON: Good morning, Governor --

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning.

MS. JOHNSON: -- Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. Joselyn Johnson representing the University System of Maryland. We have three items on the Agenda for your consideration and we're happy to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful. Thank you so much, Ms. Johnson. Is there any discussion on the USM Agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: I feel like we should, with a new person --  
(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: -- just to --  
(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: That's right.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: That's funny.

GOVERNOR MOORE: May I have a motion to approve the  
Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: She did such a great job presenting.  
So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: She did. Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.  
(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much, Ms. Johnson. It's great to see you. We will proceed with the MDOT Agenda. Ms. Radomsky, who

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needs no hazing at all, it's great to see you again.

MS. RADOMSKY : Good morning, Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, my name is Valerie Radomsky, Chief Procurement Officer for the Department of Transportation. Today we are presenting nine Agenda items for your consideration and that includes one contract action including approximately \$415,000 awarded to a dually certified minority and small business enterprise. We have representatives available to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Thank you so much. Are there any questions or comments for Ms. Radomsky? Is there a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much. Thank you. And we will conclude with the DGS Agenda. Secretary Chaudhry, good morning.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Good morning, sir. Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer, for the record, I am Atif Chaudhry, Secretary of the Maryland Department of General Services. The department is presenting 30 items on our Agenda today. We are withdrawing four items: Item 7-CGL, Item 25-IT, Item 34-LT, and Item 38-S. Our Agenda includes \$9 million in capital grants and loans and I want to just highlight one item. And that is 6-CGL, which provides \$425,000 in State support to Habitat for Humanity, a great organization, for a 6.2-acre mixed income housing development located in Montgomery County. This project will create vibrant, desirable, and affordable housing with 168 affordable rental units and 27 affordable ownership units that are walkable to

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schools, shopping, and transportation options.

As we continue to keep an eye on minority business participation in State contracts, our Agenda includes four contracts for certified MBE prime contractors totaling more than \$3 million. We have agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful. Thank you so much. And also, I want to highlight Item 2-CGL for the work for Delta Sigma Theta and the work that they are doing not just in Baltimore, and they just celebrated their founders day --

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Other founders day. She's the other.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: -- but for the great work they are doing not just in Baltimore City but around the State. And thank you, Mr. Secretary, and Madam Comptroller.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you. Yes, no, thank you for highlighting that. I also just wanted to really laud the work of MDE and DGS for working together to not only renew their lease, which is excellent, but to really provide an example of how we can advance the goals of the Maryland Climate Solutions Now Act by transitioning that building and those offices by, you know, requiring installation of solar, really moving forward. So thank you, to you, to Wendy on your team, Secretary McIlwain. I just appreciate you working I think creatively with the landlord about how to move these buildings to conformity and to electricity. So thank you for your work and I look forward to see more contracts like that as well. Thank you.

MR. CHAUDHRY: I think it's a great partnership. And I want to

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thank Secretary McIlwain and her organization for wanting to make MDE a shining example of --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes.

MR. CHAUDHRY: -- this type of project --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: As it should be, right?

MR. CHAUDHRY: -- solar panels, EV chargers, and even repurposing built-in cubicles, modernize them so they don't end up in the landfill.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Right.

MR. CHAUDHRY: And this sort of really ties in closely with what DGS is working on for the Climate Solutions Now Act to make sure that we go to full electrification for all of our sites. Obviously, DGS managed and State buildings, but also now tenant buildings, fit outs for private landlords as well.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Great. Thank you. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful. And again, to recognize, you know, Secretary McIlwain, and also you and Sam, Sam Himmelrich from Montgomery Park. This is extraordinary work. And so I just wanted to give a chance to recognize you and if you'd like, actually, say a few words as well.

MS. MCILWAIN: I don't want to stay up here too long --

GOVERNOR MOORE: That's all right.

MS. MCILWAIN: -- long on words --

(Laughter.)

MS. MCILWAIN: -- good morning, Governor, Treasurer, Madam Comptroller. So just to give you a little bit of background, MDE, we've been in the building that we're talking about in the historic area in Baltimore for 20 years. So we have been there a long time. And so I'm really happy that we're able to, one, stand up as an example, as the Department of the Environment, of what it means to really start thinking about how you electrify your buildings and be a part

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of what we are, in Maryland, what we are promoting. And we just, as you know, Governor, Comptroller, we just had, just a couple of weeks ago, we released the Climate Pollution Reduction Plan. And in that plan, we talked about building standards, performance standards. So we, this is a real opportunity for us to stand up and be the leader and make sure that we are providing the example for other buildings. And so working with the builder, working with DGS, I am really happy that we are requiring in the lease to install 66 kilowatts of solar panel array and also help to, well a requirement to electrify the building. So this is good. This is in the right direction. I am happy and I am humbled and really hope that we are able to get approval for this. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. Thank you for the work. And Sam, thank you as well. Thank you. I truly appreciate it. And may I have a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much. This concludes today's meeting of the Board of Public Works. Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 14th, Valentine's Day (January 31<sup>st</sup>). Everyone wear your hearts and your red. We will see you then. Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 11:49 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)