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*STATE OF MARYLAND*  
**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
*GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, STATE HOUSE*  
*ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND*

**July 5, 2017**  
**10:09 a.m.**

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# PRESENT

**HONORABLE LARRY HOGAN,**

Governor

**HONORABLE PETER FRANCHOT**

Comptroller

**SHEILA C. MCDONALD**

Secretary, Board of Public Works

**NELSON REICHART**

Deputy Secretary, Department of General Services

**DAVID BRINKLEY**

Secretary, Department of Budget and Management

**PETE RAHN**

Secretary, Department of Transportation

**JOANNE THROWE**

Deputy Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

**MICHAEL LEAHY**

Acting Secretary, Department of Information Technology

**JIMMY RHEE**

Special Secretary, Governor's Office of Minority Affairs

**MISSY HODGES**

Recording Secretary, Board of Public Works

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# PROCEEDINGS

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Good morning, everyone.

ALL: Good morning, Governor.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Welcome to the Board of Public Works.

I hope everybody had a great Fourth of July holiday weekend. We had a terrific time at parades all over the State. The Comptroller and I were out there getting some exercise.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: You may have noticed when you came in this morning that the Governor's Reception Room looked a little more ornate and --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Mm-hmm.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: -- there are some beautiful new window treatments that are hanging over here on these windows. And Doug Jones, the DGS Superintendent of the Annapolis public buildings and grounds, discovered these beautiful draperies sitting in a storage unit gathering dust. They were made a decade ago, back in 2007. And Elaine Bachmann and Catherine Rogers and folks at the Archives really felt strongly that they should finally be installed here in the Reception Room. I think they look terrific. But this is a place where we exercise fiscal responsibility. So we didn't want to spend time or taxpayers'

money to put these drapes up. So, two members of my senior leadership team actually donated the money to have them installed. And they insisted on remaining as anonymous donors but I'm going to out them anyway and thank them. It's former Senators Marty Madden and Bobby Neall, both of whom I --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah.

(Applause.)

GOVERNOR HOGAN: You know, I believe, I'm not sure, but I believe that both those Senators were here back for the first session in 1772.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR HOGAN: And they said that they remember window treatments similar to this back then when they first started serving. Is that right, Marty?

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR HOGAN: But also joining us this morning are a couple of other special guests, a couple of good friends of mine. We have Sandy Brock and her husband Senator Bill Brock are in the front row here. Sandy was the original designer for these beautiful draperies. And Jean Herman, who did the fabrication of them. They're all here this morning. So thank you very, very much. Because these finally deserve to be --

(Applause.)

GOVERNOR HOGAN: They did a tremendous job. And it may be a decade late, but I think they look terrific. And I just want to thank everybody involved in making this happen. I think we classed up the joint a little bit.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: So thank you very much. We're going to get moving because as you can notice there's only two of us here this morning. We didn't do away with the Treasurer permanently. She's just unable to join us this morning.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: So we're going to move forward. And we may have some deadlocks, it might be one and one.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: But I'm happy to start out with giving the floor to my colleague, my good friend the Comptroller, for any opening remarks.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Thank you, Governor. And I really appreciate Senator Madden. I served with him for many years and I introduced him, unbeknownst to this announcement, this morning to my staff as one of the finest elected officials I ever worked with.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Wow.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: And Senator, thank you for your generosity. And come on over to my office, will you?

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(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: But and Senator Brock, thank you for all your contributions to the United States of America. And God bless you. I'm delighted that you're here.

The Governor mentioned the Fourth of July parades. I was lucky enough in the Dundalk parade to be positioned directly behind Governor Hogan. And trust me, he had a very positive interaction with the public. And those of you that know Dundalk, well, it can sometimes be a little bracing for a Democrat to walk through the Dundalk parade because they are not bashful. But I think that the fact that the Governor was ahead of me helped me out quite a bit. So, thank you.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Yeah.

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah. It was followed by Towson and Arbutus and Catonsville. It was a hot day but it was great to see so many families line the parade routes and enjoy the various festivities and events in their communities, particularly Catonsville was just jammed with people. And anyway, obviously they were painstakingly planned and executed by countless dedicated volunteers who are committed to making the Fourth of July celebrations very special and enjoyable for their friends and neighbors. And also it's something where we can recognize the active servicemembers and veterans and

their families. And the July Fourth holiday is a great opportunity for us to give a pat on the back to the veterans. And boy, there were quite a few of them with World War II hats, Vietnam War hats, Korean War hats. And it was a pleasure for us to be able to greet them.

So I give recognition to all the hardworking community leaders and volunteers who spent countless hours planning and raising funds. Every single year they do this to provide a meaningful and enjoyable experience for all Marylanders on our nation's birthday. These volunteers are unsung heroes who devote their time, energy, and talent without seeking any recognition or praise. But I think we can all agree that they deserve our gratitude for the contributions they make our communities.

Governor, it's a privilege to be here with you. And gee, maybe we can do something controversial here if the Treasurer is --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: What do you want --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I don't know. I'm trying to think of something.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Maybe we can rush something through.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Maybe by the end of the meeting we'll come up with some ideas. But let's go ahead and get started with the Secretary's Agenda. Secretary McDonald?

SECRETARY MCDONALD: Good morning, Governor, Mr. Comptroller. We have 17 items on the Secretary's Agenda this morning. We're prepared if you have any questions.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Well I'm pleased to see several items here from the Maryland Department of the Environment.

SECRETARY MCDONALD: Department of the Environment. I believe --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: And I don't have questions. But I just wanted to touch on some of the great things that are happening here this morning.

Just a few weeks ago I was elected as Chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Regional Commission, which is made up of five states and the District of Columbia. And we're proud to be leading the way in enhancing water quality and air quality and protecting our environment and the Chesapeake Bay.

Our administration has already invested \$3 billion into the protection of the Chesapeake Bay and we are fighting to protect \$73 million in federal funding as well. But the items that we have on our Agenda here this morning, we're hoping to approve a total of more than \$90 million in additional new investments, State investments, in water quality, including \$46 million to Baltimore City for the enhanced nutrient removal project at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant; \$17 million to Baltimore City for three overflow projects, three projects to reduce sewer overflows; \$15 million to upgrade onsite

septic systems with best available nitrogen removal technology; and \$4.7 million for wastewater treatment plants in 19 counties. And these investments are just a part of our continuing investment to protect the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

So I want to thank the Department of the Environment and strongly recommend approval of these projects. Any other questions on the Secretary's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: No. Move approval.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: I second --

SECRETARY MCDONALD: Thank you.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: -- and it's two-nothing. I like the way it works.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Now we're going to move on to the DNR Real Property Agenda. We have Deputy Secretary Joanne Throwe is sitting in for Secretary Belton this morning. Good morning. Welcome.

MS. THROWE: Good morning, Governor, Mr. Comptroller, good morning. So I am sitting in for Secretary Belton. It is my first time in front of you so thank you for this honor. We have four items on the Agenda today, on the DNR Agenda. I'm happy to answer any questions you have.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: I don't have any questions.

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COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Second. Two-nothing. There's no DBM Agenda today. I think it's the first time in two and a half years I've seen no DBM Agenda. So you're getting off easy.

MR. BRINKLEY: Thank you.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: You guys have just been goofing off, or -

-

(Laughter.)

MR. BRINKLEY: No we got everything through for the end of the fiscal year.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Enjoying the holiday?

SECRETARY MCDONALD: Happy New Year.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Okay. Good. We'll move on to the University System. Good morning, Joe.

MR. EVANS: Good morning. Joe Evans, representing the University System of Maryland. We have five items on the Agenda. We're here to answer any questions.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Questions?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Second. Two-nothing.

MR. EVANS: Thank you.

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GOVERNOR HOGAN: Move on to Information Technology.

MR. LEAHY: Good morning, Governor --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Man, it runs a lot smoother when the Treasurer is not here.

(Laughter.)

MR. LEAHY: -- Mike Leahy, Acting Secretary of the Department. We have four items on the Agenda this morning and we have folks here to answer your questions.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: I bet you have questions on this.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I do have a couple of questions.

MR. LEAHY: Absolutely, sir.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: And thank you very much for being here. Item 3-IT.

MR. LEAHY: Yes, sir.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: So we're being asked to approve a request from the State Board of Elections to modify a contract with Elections Systems and Software, adding \$1.618 million to the first two-year renewal option which runs through March 2019 at a total cost of \$9,307,000. So based on what you guys gave us as background -- Ms. Lamone, thank you for being here.

MS. LAMONE: You're welcome.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: And I've seen you in the news lately, so it's good to have you here. Based on our background information this modification request appears to result from the Board of Elections miscalculating the number of hours needed to perform the necessary specialized services. When this contract was up for Board of Public Works approval, the estimated number of hours was set at 1,000 for the 2018 election cycle. According to this request that number should have been 4,000 hours. How does that kind of mistake happen?

MS. LAMONE: Well --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: One thousand to 4,000?

MS. LAMONE: Hi, Linda Lamone, Administrator of Elections, for the record. When we did the RFP for this contract we inserted, asked all of the bidders to let us know the cost for 1,000 hours. And we did that because we wanted to be able to compare apples to apples among the different responses to the RFP. But when we did that we didn't realize that once we accepted one of the bidders that that became part of the contract and we could not then just alter it from 1,000 to 4,000 hours without modifying the contract and coming before this Board for approval. So it was our mistake in the way we drafted the RFP. It was not a miscalculation. We knew we needed more hours. We just were trying to be able to compare the responses to the RFP, as I said, apples to apples.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Okay. So just to prevent us in the future from signing onto things that have to have this kind of 400 percent increase, what can we do to avoid that?

MS. LAMONE: Well we're working with the procurement people to make sure that we have a better way of doing comparisons when we put out the RFPs that don't then result in the contract which can't be modified after the fact except by your approval.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Okay. So we modified this contract by \$525,000 in August of last year. And now we've got a half million dollar, that half a million, plus \$1.6 million today. Are you anticipating any additional modifications to this contract?

MS. LAMONE: Yes, we do, for equipment.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: How --

MS. LAMONE: Some of the counties have come in and asked for additional equipment on, several of them are because the law mandates that they have additional early voting centers for next year's election.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Mm-hmm.

MS. LAMONE: Your election. And then the Baltimore County request for additional scanners across the board.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Good. Let me just ask about Baltimore County, since you brought it up. Because I was up there at the election

last time and there were people just beside themselves, voters coming out of the polls, saying that they obviously got in, they voted, and then they had an up to two-hour wait for the one scanner at each voting area, I guess, to reproduce, Xerox their ballot. And they were, those folks in Baltimore County were just beyond being upset.

MS. LAMONE: And rightfully so.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: And I got a, I think the Governor got it, too, the Treasurer and I and everybody I guess received a letter from the Baltimore County House and Senate delegations requesting urgent financial assistance to prevent a recurrence in 2018 of the terrible problems that occurred in Baltimore County. So their senators and delegates are all concerned. What, I guess the question, I did bring this up in May, but you I think then told us that you were working with the local boards to make sure they have enough equipment, especially in Baltimore County. Why doesn't Baltimore County do what every other county does and have at a busy poll not one but maybe two, three, or four scanners?

MS. LAMONE: That's --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: And why do we have to get involved with their Xerox machines?

MS. LAMONE: Well it's the scanners. And that's what they are planning on doing, is adding additional scanners to have a minimum of two at

each polling place. And the reason why we, you and I and the State, are involved is because by law the State, it's the State's contract that we have to procure the equipment under and the State has to pay for half of it.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Okay. Well I have no problem with that. But why are we having to deal with this situation? Why isn't the administration up in Baltimore County doing what every other county does, which is assess and actually manage their voting areas? So that for example when I went to the poll in Montgomery County I think there were three scanners set up. Because somebody had looked at it and said, you know, we're not going to make our people go off the deep end they are so outraged at having to wait in line for two hours after you vote to have your ballot counted, I think. So is there, it just seems to be it would be a complete anomaly. And it's what tears apart people's confidence in local government, frankly. So I hope that there's a deadline for you to get this additional equipment worked out with Baltimore County. I, if I were in charge of Baltimore County I'd right now pay entirely for the new scanners and apologize to the voters up there for what happened last time. But are you, you told us last time it was all taken care of, or going to be taken care of. Is it going to be taken care of this time? Are we going to now have, oh, we decided just to put one extra one?

MS. LAMONE: As far as I --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: So we only had two but we still had an hour wait.

MS. LAMONE: As far as I know, Mr. Comptroller, the county is addressing the issue. At least that's what I've been told.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: So there's no, you don't know why this particular county seems to be the one that had all the problems?

MS. LAMONE: It was, it was the county's judgment call before the election that one scanner would be enough. We offered additional equipment, and you in fact approved additional equipment for several of the other counties because they were concerned with the two-page ballot that it would take longer to scan the ballot. And so they wanted additional scanners. Baltimore County decided not to do that.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: But now they realize they made a mistake and --

MS. LAMONE: Now they realize it, yes.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: -- it's typical for the State to pay half the cost of those?

MS. LAMONE: It's by law, yes.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah, no, I'm happy to support whatever you think is necessary. But apparently there is some kind of disconnect up there between normal rational administration and management and what's

needed. So could you please get involved? And if all they are saying is, oh, we're going to go from one to two, for the most congested polls that's not adequate at all.

MS. LAMONE: Yes.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: So just sticking up for the sanity of voters, I'd like to get you back --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Yeah, I guess we'd like to get your recommendation --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: -- on what you believe is necessary there and then the county is willing to, you know, pay half and we get the other half paid for and let's get them done --

MS. LAMONE: Yes.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: -- so we don't have problems coming into the next election.

MS. LAMONE: Governor, we're working on it.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Great. Thank you.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: So if I could, while you're here, Madam Secretary, I just wanted to make a comment on the so-called Presidential Commission on Election Integrity.

I want to thank you, Ms. Lamone, for the way that you handled this request. My office reached out to you based on our serious concerns but lots of people did. And I want to thank you for being responsible and helpful. I also want to thank you for referring the request to the Attorney General and for swiftly acting upon Mr. Frosh's sound legal opinion, if it was a legal opinion, that the request would violate Maryland law. I'm glad that Maryland, along with more than 40 other states, has decided not to comply with the Commission's request to use voter data for purposes.

And Governor, I'm very pleased that the Deputy Secretary of State has done the right thing and decided to step down from the Commission. I think that that, those kinds of commissions that have ulterior agendas strike right at the heart of the integrity of our democratic process and I don't think it has anything to do with partisan politics. I just think it's a, you know, we have enough problems without questioning whether or not the ballot has integrity. And it does, thanks to you and your peers all around the country who handle these issues at the State level. So hats off to you, and obviously the Governor, and so I'll just leave it at that because if I get going on the subject of what's going on in Washington I might say something that's too --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: It might take a while.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- yeah, I think it will take a while. And but I think the whole resolution of this for Maryland has been

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excellent. I'm glad to see our taxpayer dollars are not being spent on something which -- obviously there are people that are deceased who are on our voting rolls. That happens. Obviously there are people who have lived in Maryland and registered to vote here and have moved to other states and might be on several states. But that is not a reason for waiving some bloody shirt up there that there is somehow voter fraud. There isn't.

MS. LAMONE: I agree.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: And thank you for following through on that. And maybe you could let us know at some point what all the other states are planning on doing.

MS. LAMONE: I will certainly do that. I am obviously following it fairly closely and thank you very much for your kind remarks. I appreciate them very much.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you.

MS. LAMONE: Thank you.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Thank you, Governor.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Any other questions on Information Technology?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I have one on Item 4.

SECRETARY MCDONALD: Secretary Fielder is here from --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: This is Higher Education. Good morning.

MR. FIELDER: Good morning, Governor, Mr. Comptroller.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: So we're being asked to approve a one-year contract with four one-year renewal options to Gold Bridge Partners for maintenance and enhancement of the Maryland College Aid Processing System for a total of just more than \$1.1 million for the five years. I understand how complicated the financial aid process is. I'm the last person to get involved in interfering with people who have to wade through the forms in order to get their scholarships. My problem is that we are halfway through 2017 and we are within one contract of the single bid contracts that we approved last year. I believe we did 29 last year and this is the 28th one this year. So I'm wondering if, Governor, we could approve this for one year and perhaps have the renewals, suggest that you guys try to find a second bidder? And this has nothing really to do with you guys right now, but it has everything to do with us doing what the Governor and I have indicated is doable, which is significantly reduce the number of single bid contracts. I think they used to be up around 100. Now they're down to around 30. But I guess this would be number 29 or 28.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Is that going to cause any significant problems --

MR. FIELDER: Yeah, let me address -- first to introduce Donna Thomas who is our Director --

MS. THOMAS: Good morning.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Good morning.

MR. FIELDER: -- of the Office of Student Financial Assistance. What you see before you is a very specialized piece of software. This particular vendor has the same contract in a couple of other states. When we first put the RFP together it was circulated to eMarketplace, to 459 vendors. We went back. We only got one bid and that's the current contract or the one that's before you. We then worked with DoIT to say, okay, what can we do to modify the contract, to look, to go back out and see if we can capture some more vendors? Capture might not be the best word, but solicit more input. We modified the contract. We even contacted the original people that bid on the contract in 2007. They declined to bid. So we've completed two RFPs.

I concur with your idea, let's look at it as a one-year contract and give us the capability and ability to actually study it further and see how we can broaden it, look for other refinements, and see if we can capture or at least get some more bids from other companies.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Terrific. And if it's --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Okay. Great.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- sole source, if it's some kind of proprietary or unique software, bring it back as a sole source. But these single bid contracts, I think we've got them by the throat here. And if we can just keep it down to around 30 a year, that would be a significant improvement from my first two terms here. So --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: So I believe there is a motion on the floor by the Comptroller to make it a one-year bid without the options. And I'll second the motion.

MR. FIELDER: Thank you.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: And it's approved two-nothing.

MR. FIELDER: Thank you.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you.

MS. THOMAS: Thank you.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Man, this is a smooth day.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah, no, this is a --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: We don't want to screw it up. Is there anything bad coming up?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: How long is the Treasurer going to be away?

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: No, kidding.

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GOVERNOR HOGAN: Okay. Is there any, we have to do the balance of the DoIT Agenda.

SECRETARY MCDONALD: Right. One through three.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I would move approval.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Second. Two-nothing. Now we're going to move on to the Department of Transportation.

MR. RAHN: Good morning, Governor, Mr. Comptroller. I hope I can keep the --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah.

MR. RAHN: -- flow here.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Not so fast.

(Laughter.)

MR. RAHN: For the record, I'm Pete Rahn, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation. MDOT has three items before you for your consideration and is withdrawing 2-M-OPT.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Great. I'd like to talk about Item 3. I have a question if maybe if Jim White could come up to the podium? Jim, thank you for being here. Thanks for joining us. First of all congratulations on your continued success at the Port. I couldn't be more excited about it. It seems like we've come to expect every month record breaking success. And, you know, now you really have set the bar high, you'd better not drop one month so we're going

to be surprised. But last month the Port was named the fourth fastest growing port in North America by the *Journal of Commerce*. And we had a record setting year in 2016. I know we're breaking records in the first quarter, and even ahead of where we were last year. So for first quarter, 2.5 million tons of cargo; and I think last year for the first time in history we hit 10 million tons.

MR. WHITE: Yes.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: And I know you're poised for another tremendous year. So with the new expansion at Breezy Point, I think it's going to help continue to grow jobs and grow the productivity of the Port. And I'm going to just stop buttering you up for a second.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR HOGAN: I was just getting you warmed up here because I do have a question. And on this item, you're seeking approval to add \$4.8 million to a contract for operations and maintenance at the World Trade Center. And our backup materials say that when you exercised the second renewal of the option back in 2013, you stated that you believed that we had sufficient funds. And now we're saying we didn't recognize the need for this additional \$4.8 million? So I'm just wondering, you know, what exactly was the cost? How did this happen in your budgeting process? Was it just something you missed? Or did the costs really change that much? Or why is it \$4.8 million more now than you thought it was going to be?

MR. WHITE: Governor, simply we took our eye off the ball there. The contract amount when we entered into the contract with Meridian was based over a five-year initial term and two three-year options for a total of 11 years. Here we are in year ten and we're not going to overspend the contract. It's going to be about \$43 million total spending over the 11 years. It was approved by the Board of Public Works for \$53 million on the high end.

I will say that the building is a challenge. It was built approximately 30-plus years ago. We've worked our way through some ADA challenges in outfitting the building. But this is one where we missed our marks on this one.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Mm-hmm. So it's just, it was just sort of an oversight? Or --

MR. WHITE: Yes, Governor.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: All right. I don't have any other questions. Do you --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah, no, that's, a candid response is --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: I like the honesty.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- very unusual --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: You know, Jim White, hey, we screwed up.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- yeah. So yeah. And I wish more people would be straightforward like that. But Jim, I want to compliment you also. Obviously the Governor appreciates what you are doing right now with the Port. But I understand how complicated this is and how, what a relationship driven exercise managing the Port is, these big international companies that are global and who we depend upon for our contracts. It's very difficult to negotiate with them. I think you do a terrific job based on your knowledge of the people. And Mr. Secretary, thank you for overseeing the Port of Baltimore. It's --

MR. RAHN: It's quite a chore.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- an economic engine. Along with the Airport it is, you know, those are two enormous catalysts --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: We're making records there, too.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- yeah. And so hats off to your leadership, Mr. Secretary, and Governor Hogan. This is not easy because you can, you can tamper with this and think you're doing something really good and all of a sudden you're, the Port is headed in a different direction. So Jim, thank you.

MR. WHITE: And I would like to thank the Board again for allowing us to move forward at Point Breeze. Based upon the accelerated growth we've seen since the opening of the new set of locks at the Panama Canal, for the last two quarters of our fiscal year we're up 9.6 percent. All indications are that

we're going to continue that aggressive growth, as you said, Governor. But if we weren't fortunate enough to move forward with Point Breeze, we probably would have been out of space based on nine, ten percent growth by 2023. Acquiring Point Breeze now allows to continue to grow the Port and our container business till 2030. So I would like to thank you again for --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Well and when, we're still pushing the federal government pretty hard on joining in our public-private partnership to get the Howard Street Tunnel done so you can double stack those trains. And that might add a little bit to your bottom line, too. We're going to get that one done. So thank you very much.

MR. WHITE: Thank you.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: I appreciate it. Any other questions on Department of Transportation.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Well I hesitate to say this but we're on track for a record short BPW meeting --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Yeah.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- so I would move approval.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: I'll second it. Two-nothing. And now we're going to move on to Department of General Services.

MR. REICHART: Good morning, Governor --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Good morning.

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MR. REICHART: -- Mr. Comptroller. For the record, I'm Nelson Reichart, Deputy Secretary. Our department has 15 items on our Agenda. We're withdrawing Item 3-M-OPT. I'll be glad to answer any questions. And thank you for your kind words about Doug Jones. He does a great job.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Great. I don't have any questions.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Second. That concludes our Board of Public Works in record time. I love it. We're not going to blame this on the Treasurer.

(Applause.)

(Whereupon, at 10:40 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)