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BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
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PRESENT

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Treasurer

HONORABLE PETER FRANCHOT

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PROCEEDINGS

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Well Good morning. Mr. Comptroller, Madam Treasurer, it's great to see both of you today and at another virtual meeting of the Board of Public Works.

With the announcement from the State House Trust that we're going to be opening the State House effective Friday, this is probably going to be our last virtual meeting, unless we get to the winter and have a snowstorm because now we know we can do this virtual as long as we have power in our homes. So we can still have a meeting if we -- let's say a snowstorm. I don't want to say a hurricane because then the power is usually out. So we'll be welcoming everybody back to the State House probably for our next meeting, I would expect.

Let me just give a brief update on COVID-19 and the vaccination progress. To date, there have been more than 5.6 million doses of the vaccine administered across the State. Right now, 66.6 as of yesterday, I think it was, 66.6 percent of adults 18 and older have received at least one shot. Our case rate and positivity rates are both at the lowest levels they have been since the beginning of the pandemic. The positivity rate is at 2.2 percent statewide, case rate is 6.2 cases per 100,000 people. Our hospitalizations are down, you know, so progress is taking place and it shows that the vaccines are effective in stopping the spread of the virus.

And we believe that the vaccinations are critical to returning to the pre-pandemic life that we have all once enjoyed.

Maryland is now administering the Pfizer vaccine to young people 12 and up who want to get vaccinated. This is in line with the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And I just want to say it's, you know, we're trying to encourage as many people as possible to get vaccinated. We're really in a race against the variants. And the more people that we, who are able to get vaccinated, the better protected we'll all be and the less this virus will spread and potentially mutate.

So anyone who is watching this livestream this morning who hasn't gotten vaccinated, please do. And if you know someone who is holding out, ask them to reconsider and please get vaccinated. That's the best way for us to get back to a sense of normalcy. It is easy. You can get vaccinated at many of the walk-in mass vaccination sites that we have around the State, as well as through appointments. There are 13 mass vax sites around. There are some 300, I'm sorry, more than 700 pharmacies, hospitals, local hospitals, the county health departments, all are providing vaccines and as well as primary care doctors are providing it as well. People can go to covidvax.maryland.gov to get information on vaccine providers near them or they can call 1-855-MDGOVAX to get that information as well.

Before moving to the Agenda, I want to present a Governor's Citation and I want to just take this time during the meeting to recognize a State employee and first responder who displayed extraordinary heroism this month on the Chesapeake Bay.

On May 6th, a 30-foot boat capsized. Three people were pulled from the water by Anne Arundel County and Annapolis fireboats. When Natural Resources Police Officer 1st Class Brian Hunt arrived, he was told that there was a fourth person, the ship's captain, who had knocked on the hull and could still be alive. Officer Hunt went into the water without a wetsuit in hopes of saving the individual's life. He found the person was conscious, helped him, you know, he helped him to find an air pocket, gave him a piece of scuba equipment, and took steps necessary to physically pull him out of the boat where he was trapped. Officer Hunt saved the life of this man. The individual was taken to the hospital with symptoms of hypothermia and released the very next day.

So I'd like to present a Governor's Citation to Officer Hunt and it reads, "Be it known that on behalf of the citizens of this State, in recognition of a grateful tribute to commend you for your courageous response to a life threatening emergency situation on May 6, 2021 upon arriving at the scene of a capsized boat in the Chesapeake Bay, in honor of your deliberate actions and disregarding your own safety by immediately diving into the water to find and free a man who was

trapped below the water's surface. And as our citizens join together in expressing our deep appreciation for your heroic efforts during this successful rescue, we are pleased to confer upon you this Governor's Citation," signed this day by Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., myself, as well as the Secretary of State. So I just want to, again, say thank you on behalf of a grateful nation and Officer Hunt, we will get this to you so that you can hopefully put it in a nice place and be able to tell your family and friends and remind you, you know, of the appreciation of the State for all that you did.

TREASURER KOPP: A terrific story, terrific. Two weeks ago, to save someone's life, that's the greatest reward. But this is, I remember reading in the paper, this is extraordinary. I mean --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: It's like what you see in the movies or on television, you know, where someone dives in and, you know, pulls someone out of a capsized vessel. I think all of us except for the Secretary remembers the old TV show *Sea Hunt*, with Lloyd Bridges.

TREASURER KOPP: Mm-hmm.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: But --

TREASURER KOPP: That's --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: -- Madam Secretary, thank you. And please give our best regards to Officer Hunt.

MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: Thank you very much. And he's actually on the line.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Oh, okay. Great.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Hey, could he, yeah, I was going to ask that. But could he describe what exactly he did, also?

OFFICER HUNT: Lieutenant Governor, can you hear me?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yes, we can.

OFFICER HUNT: Okay, great. I appreciate you having me. First of all, I'd just like to humbly say I appreciate the recognition and award, although I believe the actions made and deemed heroic and courageous, I would like to save that definition of hero for the men and women in uniform who have paid the ultimate price for serving. And they are the true heroes. So there was a lot of other departments and officers out there that day. And I just happened to be at the right place at the right time, and thank God that, you know, the actions of everybody saved a life. You know, being a member of the dive team for NRP for over five years, I've seen a lot of tragic things. And to finally rescue somebody, you know, was pretty good. Ninety-nine percent of the time, we're recovering, and that's just a negative part of the business of what we do. So I just wanted to say thank you and I humbly appreciate this on behalf of our department. And it's a pleasure to put the uniform on every day and to serve the great people of Maryland. I'm a

lifelong resident of Maryland and I've been on the water all my life. And it's just, it's great to give back to the State what I've taken from it. So thank you very much for letting me serve.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Thank you.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Officer Hunt, yeah, this is Peter Franchot, the Comptroller. So did you actually dive under the water and help this individual? Was it something that was out just floating capsized? Or --

OFFICER HUNT: Yes, sir. What I didn't know was there was actually a boat collision in the middle of the Bay. If you can just imagine being, just for a second, just imagine being someone trapped in an overturned boat for at least 50 minutes in the cold water. So anyway, I was all the way down in Deale at the time and, Deale, Maryland, and I made my way to Sandy Point, where I had a boat waiting for me. And on the way, I passed Anne Arundel County Dive Team, which was en route. And I thought to myself, well that's strange, I thought they would have been out there by then. But they were on the way, and I knew it. But I got to Sandy Point. I jumped on a boat. I had enough common sense to grab a tank and a flashlight.

And when I got to the scene, the Fire Department had the boat secure. It was capsized. Three-quarters of it was under the water. And they said they could hear the person knocking on the hull of the boat. So I said, well, I'm

going to get in the water. I dropped my gun belt, jumped in with my uniform on, and put my tank on, and my flashlight and went underneath. And I could see that he was in a dire position. He literally, like you said, just like the movies, had about six inches worth of air he was holding on to life. And I got up beside him, and the best I could do, I gave him my second stage off my scuba PC and I felt him take air from my tank. So I knew he was alive and he was conscious. I was holding his hand.

And luckily, he was wearing a life jacket, believe it or not. I've seen so many tragic things and, you know, it's usually related to not having a life jacket. So I think the life jacket kept him up in that air pocket. And it took God's strength to pull him out, but when I did, at some point I think the regulator may have come out of his mouth but he shot right up to the surface. And Anne Arundel County Fire Board took over from there and we saved a life. So you know, I'm just trying to remain humble. I believe, you know, it's not one person's actions. It was definitely multi-agency. We have a lot, we have thousands of officers all over the State, every day, that put the uniform on and, you know, some of them don't come home at the end of the day. So it's very humbling.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Thank you for that. And Memorial Day is coming up and I appreciate your comments about folks in uniform.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yes --

OFFICER HUNT: Thank you for having me.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Well, thank you.

It's truly inspiring. And the effort, I was going to ask if you were in gear, but you were in your uniform, you dropped your belt and then dived in. Did you still have your boots on when you went in?

OFFICER HUNT: I did. I did. The water was a cool 63 degrees and luckily I have plenty of experience diving in cold water at the Plunges. So it all paid off. I'm very thankful for the training that I've had. This department has allowed me to do something I love to do. And I'm just looking forward to every day that I put this uniform on. I appreciate it.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Well, again, thank you very much. And we'll get this Citation out to you to make sure that you, you know, at a later point, years from now, you'll look back at it when some memories start to fade and you can remember, you know, how much the State and the people of Maryland appreciate your efforts and really the efforts of all law enforcement officers who go beyond the call of duty almost every day. So thank you.

OFFICER HUNT: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. I appreciate that and I appreciate the other comments from the panel. Thank you for having me.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Thank you. All right. With that, I'll turn to my colleagues. Madam Treasurer?

TREASURER KOPP: Good to be here. I look forward to two weeks, if we are together then, that's terrific. I think we've learned a lot in the last year and I hope, Governor and Comptroller, as we go back together again, we don't lose some of those lessons. What is really essential? What functions are really essential? How we all really are, I believe, in the same boat, even though we might have come on different ships. I hope we don't get immersed in the way it used to be. But still, looking forward to it and I wish you a Happy Spring.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Happy Spring. Mr. Comptroller?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yes, thank you, Lieutenant Governor. I certainly associate myself with your remarks about vaccines. I'm trying to think of something that rhymes with taxes, and I think of vaxes. So we have to have more vaccines. And hopefully people will respond to your message and Governor Hogan's and everyone else's, and does the right thing.

Madam Treasurer, I agree with you. I think there are lots of lessons learned from the year-plus that we've experienced. I wanted to mention to both of you that, and please pass along to Governor Hogan, I think you are aware that last month I announced the creation of the Comptroller's Workshop on Pandemic

Spending. And we're going to provide oversight and a full accounting of the billions of federal dollars that have been funneled through Maryland over the last year. And I bring that in under the title that you kind of referenced, Madam Treasurer, which is what lessons have we learned. And that's the whole point of this workshop on pandemic spending.

The unprecedented infusion of federal aid was critical, in my opinion, in staving off economic calamity. It was literally a lifeline to hundreds of thousands of Marylanders who found themselves out of a job, on the verge of losing their homes, struggling to put food on the table. So I know, Lieutenant Governor, that our staffs have met. I want to thank you and your team, Madam Treasurer, also your folks who are involved, for the commitment to work together on this very important initiative. As fiduciaries, I know everyone across State government agrees on the critical importance of oversight, accounting, and transparency, especially when we're talking about the expenditure of billions of dollars during an unprecedented emergency.

Tomorrow the workshop will hold its first meeting. We'll receive briefings from Deputy Secretary Marc Nicole of the Department of Budget and Management on the various pandemic relief programs established with State and federal dollars. I think this is going to be one of the first fully comprehensive reports by the Department of Budget and Management. We're also going to hear

from Andy Schaufele, the head of the Bureau of Revenue Estimates, on the economic impact of State and federal pandemic relief programs in our State. Once again, I emphasize that we are focused on lessons learned. What worked? What didn't work? What can be improved? What can we do better should we ever get in this kind of a situation again? And as the Treasurer noted, I know she was referring to something else, which was kind of personal mental health and happiness, I guess. But hopefully we'll learn some things about practices that we might want to continue that improve the situation from a fiscal standpoint.

Anyway, I look forward to hearing the insights that they are going to share with us tomorrow and I encourage everyone, if you have some spare time, to tune in on tomorrow's meeting. We will be conducting it virtually, but this will be our last virtual meeting. From here on out, after this one, we'll be in person. But tomorrow's meeting can be accessed via the Comptroller's Office social media web pages. Good luck finding them if you're like me and not particularly fluent. But call me if you need help getting on the exact page. But Lieutenant Governor, thank you for that. And thank you again for the administration's assistance in this. It's something the Legislature mandated so we're doing it. And I know the Treasurer is interested and involved from a distance.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: All right. Thank you. Thank you. Transparency is always good. And you know, and always, you

know, process improvement is something that I feel is very important, that you look at your processes from time to time, see where you can improve, and so you have to sometimes look back at how things were done to see how you can do it better. That's one of the benefits, just on a very side note, when I was first an appointee in the federal government, I felt that, you know, the benefit, and really when I came into DGS, the benefit of the transition is hopefully to bring people in who ask the why questions. Why do you do it this way? Because, I mean, you're coming in fresh. You don't know the business, per se. You don't know it to the detailed level as the subject matter experts. But you ask the why questions. And I had a little placard at DGS that said, if you answer, "Because that's the way we always did it, you should get your head shaved immediately". But if you, and then I would say to them, but if you say, this is the way we always did it because, that's okay. This is the way we've always done it, but I don't think that's the best way, that's even better. You know. So it's, you know, it's good to look at this and so ask those why questions. With that, I'll turn it over to Secretary Gontrum for the Secretary's Agenda.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Good morning, Governor, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. There are 15 items on the Secretary's Agenda and five reports of emergency procurements. Item 5 on the Secretary's Agenda is being

withdrawn at the request of the tidal wetlands license applicant. I'm happy to assist with answering any questions.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: All right. I only want to point out Item 8, the budget amendment. It's in reference to reimbursement for media buy for the senior call check program. That is a very good program administered by the Department of Aging and Secretary Kramer, that you, you know, individuals can sign up for it, that where you have a senior who lives by themselves, if there is someone that just calls to check on them, you know, to see how they are doing. This was particularly, or is particularly important, during the time of the pandemic where you had so many people who were isolated. And so it's just checking on their well-being, both physically, but probably more so psychologically and mentally. So I just wanted to commend the Secretary for, you know, the program and the success that it has been. Any questions on the Secretary's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I did have one comment on A3, if I could. Mr. Gontrum, is Mr. Gleason with us today, I hope? Bob Gleason, the --

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Yes, Comptroller, I believe so.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: So, colleagues on the Board, I don't have any questions for this particular item. But it is an emergency contract coming to the Board six months late. I assume this might be an appropriate time to

ask Mr. Bob Gleason, the Chief Procurement Officer of the State, to provide a more detailed explanation to the Board concerning the use of emergency procurement and agencies' challenges in submitting those emergency procurements to the Board. This is something we brought up last meeting, Lieutenant Governor. And as you know, there is a 45-day statutory deadline. And I think I asked at that point, or indicated, that I thought it was a very serious problem and Mr. Gleason said he was going to think about some additional insights. And I'd like to let him, if he has some information to share with us, I'd look forward to it if he's on the -- oh, there he is. Hi, Mr. Gleason, how are you?

MR. GLEASON: Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Comptroller, Governor, Madam Treasurer. Good morning. For the record, Bob Gleason, Chief Procurement Officer. Yes. And thank you for that, Comptroller Franchot. We did go back and talk with staff and as I mentioned on the last call, it really sort of fell into the buckets of our processes as well as our training elements, what we do with our staff, and technology, perhaps, once we get a more mature system.

As you know, the pandemic created significant issues and challenges for us. Above and beyond the pandemic, we also had our normal routine day to day duties, which you had to fulfill. But since that time, we can report that DGS has completed all of its emergency reports. We have queried everyone in the

agency and no further reports are forthcoming at this time, and hopefully no further emergencies from DGS.

With regards to the agencies themselves, we don't have insight into the agency emergencies. And we can work on the processes and the training elements for the future. But looking backwards, you know, what was it the Lieutenant Governor said? Memories fade. And you know, trying to go back to March, April, May, June, July of last year, it was truly the fog of war as we were trying to battle through acquiring these goods and services. So the delays -- I'm not offering that as an excuse as much as just some context. And I think going forward, preparing for a pandemic type of response, we've got a lot of work to do. We've got to roll up our sleeves and figure that out. But I can tell you that we are working with our staff. We're going to be working with the Board's staff to try to address this in the future. And I hope that answers your question for the moment. But we're up to speed right now. We don't know what we don't know with regards to agencies that haven't reported. But as those come about, we plan to report those as quickly as we have them.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Can I interrupt just for a moment? Yeah. One of the things that we've been discussing here, and I hope, Bob, our staff has talked to you about this, is utilizing eMaryland Marketplace Advantage a lot more in terms of making sure that the agencies, because as you

said, DGS doesn't know about, say, the Health Department's emergency until it is provided basically to the Board and they send a copy to DGS, that using eMaryland Marketplace Advantage, eMMA, making sure that the agencies are recording that information on a timely basis or within a certain period of time. I'm proposing five business days that it be in eMMA, and then that way there can be a tickler system put in that, say, 30 days out, it alerts your office to say the Health Department has this emergency procurement out there, they have 15 days to get that into the Board of Public Works. So that then that way there is a report that comes out that you can see.

I know when we have, you know, pandemic type of emergencies, you may have a long list of these that come out. But at least we'll, you know, we have an internal process that alerts us, but we have to make sure the agencies are putting that information in, which quite frankly they should be able to do right away. You know, they make the award. They should be able to go to the system, at the very least, if they make the award at 5:30 in the afternoon, the next morning they should be able to go back on the system and record it into eMaryland Marketplace. But I'd be nice and give them five days, business days, to get it into the system. So I know that's something we've been discussing. I think Marc may have contacted you about that as well.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Excellent.

MR. GLEASON: Governor, if I could say one more thing very quickly. You know, building this into the system is something that we've been working towards. We're actually meeting I believe this afternoon with the Board's staff and trying to have an introductory meeting in terms of getting a handle on all of the requirements that we need to develop into the system. So this is going to be a journey, so to speak. But to your point, these were all data points and getting the agencies to be able to put that in there ultimately should be a solution. But in the meantime, Mr. Comptroller, I do recall that, you know, we can take 20 minutes and get it to you as quickly as possible. But we have to train the agencies to be able to, you know, to get that done. So that's where we are. Madam Treasurer?

TREASURER KOPP: You need agencies to follow the law, is what you're saying, I think.

MR. GLEASON: And we have a lot of laws, yes, you're right. We have to follow them and diligently and it's a training issue, it's a compliance issue. One of the things I'll note about technology, if you can build the rules into the technology and people have to use it to get what they need, the rules are automatically baked into that system. So it helps with the risk management perspective. Back to transparency, we have the reports and analytics that emerge from that. And then we have better assurance, you know, all the way around. So that's the path we're on right now.

TREASURER KOPP: That sounds great. But in the meanwhile, just following the law would be a good first step.

MR. GLEASON: Thank you, Madam Treasurer. Duly noted.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: At least, Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Gleason didn't say that's the way we've always done it.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: He didn't say that.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah, no, I'm delighted to hear that, that you're going to make progress on it. I know that the Lieutenant Governor really crafted a lot of the reorganization of State procurement and I believe there is a \$10 million budget and a personnel of 84 employees, Mr. Gleason, that you may be overseeing. If you need more resources, definitely ask. But I would urge exactly what the Treasurer alluded to. Which is, as far as the Board of Public Works and the State statute, that's a special piece of responsibility that I think people need to realize the importance of. And to the extent you're doing that, and the Lieutenant Governor, it sounded like that was a good technical fix also. Obviously, the status quo needed to be changed. It sounds like, Lieutenant Governor, the process is being changed --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Mm-hmm. Yes.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- in a positive way.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yes.

MR. GLEASON: We also have policies and we're having a procurement review group that are going out to the agencies to make sure and check their records to see that they are following the law and fulfilling the policies that we're putting in place.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Well, that's good. Because, you know, your office has been with us since October of 2019, thanks again to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislature. But don't mess with the Board of Public Works, please. That would be a good message to everybody. Just --

MR. GLEASON: Thank you, Mr. Comptroller. My message is I work with the Board of Public Works.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: There you go.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: All right. Well, thank you very much. I'm just going to point out one emergency, A1. It was Jericho Baptist Church. They now operate under City of Praise. It was an emergency to lease space there for initially a COVID testing site. Again, right there in the shadow of FedEx Field, where the Washington Football Team plays. And because of the efforts of the Governor's Equity Task Force, led by General Birckhead, the federal government and both HHS and the Office of the President, noticed what we were doing with regard to reaching out to minority communities and approached us to participate. And then through some of the efforts with a joint

contractor that the State has, as well as what the federal government is using, they were able to bring for the first time and use it as a model the monoclonal antibody treatment to the same facility. So the people who were being tested for COVID, if they were found to be positive, they could immediately, particularly if they have underlying health conditions, start the monoclonal antibody treatment right there. And the monoclonal antibody treatment has been found to be 70 percent effective in keeping people out of the hospital and potentially dying. And so they could start that treatment right then and there that could, you know, really reduce the negative impacts. And the federal government, the President's Faith-Based Office, wanted to use and are using this, you know, pilot as a pilot and a model for the rest of the country, what they want to deploy in other parts of the country. So I just wanted to point that out. It was really something that was exceptional. What started as just another effort on our part to reach certain communities got the attention of the federal government. And you know how large the federal government is. We get a call from HHS wanting to know about this and wanting to participate, and then a call from the White House Faith-Based Office. They are not talking to each other, but both are talking to us. And we say, hey, we got a call from your colleague in the other area. But they were very excited about what we were doing and brought in this additional treatment. So we are very appreciative that they were paying attention.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Lieutenant Governor, how many people have been treated? Is there any --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: You know, I need to go back and find out. I went there when it was first open, so I need to find out how many actually have been treated at that location with the monoclonal antibody treatment. But they were all set up and ready to go when I went over there and they had just started. So we can find that information out. And we'll get it back to you.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Excellent.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Any other questions or comments on the Secretary's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval, if appropriate.

TREASURER KOPP: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay, I think we're all in favor. Thank you. Okay. Department of Natural Resources?

MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: Hi, good morning again, Governor, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. For the record, Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. I just wanted to quickly thank you again for recognizing Officer Hunt and all of our Natural Resources Police Officers that serve such a unique mission and are such dedicated

individuals. Thank you very much for doing that today. And, with that, we have three items on our Real Property Agenda today and we're happy to answer any questions you may have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: I don't have any questions. I do want to thank you for joining us at Franklin Point State Park this past Monday with the American Federation on Suicide Prevention Maryland Chapter and their Hike a Park Program. I believe they are doing something today and I want to point out for those, I didn't mention it earlier, but May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and not just in Maryland but across the country. And so we had a nice visit with the individuals from the American Federation of Suicide Prevention, the Maryland Chapter, and we hiked at Franklin State Park, which is a little more rustic. Despite the fact that I sprayed the repellent, I did find a couple of ticks that evening. And so I hope I'll survive that. So just to let you know, if you do go to Franklin State Park, be prepared so --

MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: Yes.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: -- be overly prepared. Any other questions for Secretary Haddaway-Riccio?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval, if everyone is okay.

TREASURER KOPP: Three good projects. Second.

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. I guess we're all in favor --

MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: Thank you very much.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: -- okay.
University of Maryland.

MR. HICKEY: Good morning, Governor, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. Tom Hickey, representing University System of Maryland. We have four items for your consideration this morning and we are happy to answer any questions you may have.

TREASURER KOPP: Yes, could you, Tom, just touch briefly on the Wye (Aspen) Institute project?

MR. HICKEY: Yes, Madam Treasurer. That's Item 4-RP and it's a real property acquisition, 234 acres in Queen Anne's County. With me this morning by audio is Carlo Colella, who is Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer for the University, as well as Dan Ramia, who is retired Assistant Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the University. So they are available to discuss that.

TREASURER KOPP: I'm just curious. I understand the transfer, I think. But the use of the property, what will be done going out?

MR. HICKEY: It will continue to be used for agricultural research and it's also the location of the world famous Wye Angus Herd, which was a gift to the University. And there is an auction every year of the cattle. They can speak to that more than I can.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: The cattle? Or the gentlemen can speak to it? Which --

(Laughter.)

MR. HICKEY: No, Carlo and Daniel.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Oh, okay.

TREASURER KOPP: Are they --

MR. RAMIA: Yes. Thank you, Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, and Treasurer. The land is currently leased. We currently lease that land through the University from Aspen Institute, which was part of --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Can you identify who is speaking?

MR. RAMIA: Oh, I'm sorry. This is Daniel Ramia, retired Assistant Dean from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Thank you.

MR. RAMIA: So the closed herd is currently occupied on the lands now that are leased by the University from Aspen Institute. And with Aspen

Institute dissolving their operation there in Queen Anne's County, they are gifting 330 acres to the University to continue the preservation of this closed herd, one of the only closed herds there are for genetic research. And the additional lands that we have before you for purchase are needed to continue to do the environmental research as well as the herd research, because those are lands that we are currently using. It will also continue to keep those as an open space agricultural lands and they are along the Wye River so it protects the natural resources of the Wye River as well. And I believe back in March, on the 23rd, you approved two conservation easements that are in effect on these lands currently.

TREASURER KOPP: So essentially, it will be maintained going into the future as it has been used thus far?

MR. RAMIA: Yes, that would be correct.

TREASURER KOPP: Okay. And that's written in the law somewhere, or written into an agreement somewhere?

MR. RAMIA: Yes. There is an Agreement of Covenants and Restrictions which was a modification prior to Nina Houghton's death of the potential use of those lands. So they are through that document, as well as the MET documents, the conservation easements, they are protected from any subdivision or building in the future. The only buildings are two designated building areas, and

that would be for research purposes only, if we needed a cattle weighing station or something along those lines.

TREASURER KOPP: And the conference centers, what is happening with the conference centers?

MR. RAMIA: So there are two conference centers. One was the Houghton House and the other is called the River House, that is how they are identified. The Houghton House is in the middle of the two lands, what the University is being gifted as well as what we are hoping to purchase. And a Paul Newman nonprofit, the Hole in the Wall Gang, is in the process of purchasing those two conference centers. And what they do is they provide camping and natural resource experience for severely ill children. So they are looking to get into the area of Children's Hospital, also draw from Philadelphia. So that's why they are very interested in a presence in this area. And if any of you have been in that area, you know how beautiful those lands are.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yes.

TREASURER KOPP: Yes. Yes. Thank you. I appreciate that. That makes me feel, makes us all I'm sure feel much better about the future of the properties.

MR. RAMIA: It does, yes.

TREASURER KOPP: Thank you.

MR. RAMIA: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Any other questions on the University Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval.

TREASURER KOPP: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: All right. We're all in favor. Okay. Thank you very much.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Maryland Department of Transportation.

MR. SLATER: Good morning, Governor, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. For the record, my name is Greg Slater, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation. The Maryland Department of Transportation is presenting ten items for your consideration today. Item 10-S is being withdrawn, leaving nine for your consideration. Myself as well as representatives are here to answer any questions that you may have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Do we have any questions for the Transportation Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval.

TREASURER KOPP: Second.

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Yes, it sounds like we're all in favor, Secretary Slater.

MR. SLATER: All right.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: All right. Have a good day. The Department of General Services.

MR. CHURCHILL: Good morning, Governor, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. For the record, I'm Ellington Churchill, Secretary of the Department of General Services. Today, we are presenting 60 items for your consideration and we are withdrawing Items 12 and 42. Should it please the Board, we do have one offer of public comment for Item 1, and representatives are available to answer questions that you may have at this time.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Yeah. I do want to talk about 1-CGL. I believe Santo Grande has signed up from Delmarva Community Services, Inc. to talk about the intergenerational facility that is being built there in Cambridge.

MR. GRANDE: Good morning, Governor, and Comptroller, and Madam Treasurer, it's good to be here, Secretary Churchill.

We're very happy with your support of the project over the years and you have been very good to us. And the program and the building is coming into its final stretch. So we're hoping that it would be done by the end of the

summer and into September, and we're looking for a grand opening in September. We are right now doing a lot of the finishing work. We will do the punch list probably in August and we should be ready to go in September. But we're looking forward to inviting you all down to see the project. We really feel it's nice for people to come while it's being constructed because there are so many, you know, various contractors in the building, you know, doing all the fine work and everything. So we're really looking forward to having a beautiful building, a very special building that will serve children and seniors together. And we think it's really a magnificent way to begin the future in Dorchester County in Cambridge, Maryland. And we couldn't have done it without your support and we really, really appreciate all the support you have given us over the last two years with this project. It couldn't have been finished without your help. So thank you so much for everything you have done for us.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Well, thank you, Santo. I think I'm scheduled to come down there and see the progress that has taken place in another week or two. And but we'll definitely talk to you further about it and yes, I remember when you first brought this to our attention and your desire and plans to do it. And I know we ran into an acceleration of steel prices and a number of things that popped up in between. But I'm glad that it is, you know, rising and will be opening by September.

MR. GRANDE: We hope so. We know it will be completed by the end of the summer. So --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay.

MR. GRANDE: -- and we're looking forward to seeing you on June 7th.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: All right. Great.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Could I just chime in also, Lieutenant Governor? Because I was out visiting Mr. Grande's empire down on the Lower Shore, which is a fabulous accomplishment by Mr. Grande. But he also somehow had the wisdom to hire Andy Hollis, who is the former Administrator of Talbot County --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Oh.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- he is the father-in-law of our Secretary John Gontrum, and the father of my Board of Public Works leader right now, Emily --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: It sounds a little incestuous but --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah, no, it's all good. Because this is lots of talent. And Santo, I just want to say that this intergenerational community center that you are building is futuristic. And I hope that the State of

Maryland publicizes it not only to the other counties and other regions of the State, but also nationally. Because I think you are onto something with having older folks and younger folks collaborating together. And I think the benefit is not just to the younger folks from the experiences of the older folks, but the older folks get new energy and you know enthusiasm from being connected to the generations that are coming after them. Good job.

MR. GRANDE: -- work for our staff also, really, because --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah. I'm thinking of, I'm getting older myself, so I'm thinking of like joining at the --

MR. GRANDE: Well, we'll always have a nice meal ready for you to come down to and we'll serve you in our nice dining area that overlooks the woods and everything. So it's a beautiful setting. And we really are happy with it and we look forward to you coming down. Comptroller, you are always welcome. You know that.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Thank you.

MR. GRANDE: And Madam Treasurer, we would love to see you come down to Dorchester County someday.

TREASURER KOPP: We'll be there.

MR. GRANDE: Okay.

TREASURER KOPP: Thank you.

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MR. GRANDE: Okay. Thank you very much. And Lieutenant Governor, I look forward to seeing you in June.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Very good.

MR. GRANDE: And we're glad to have your support.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Thank you. I'm going to mention 27-CGL from the standpoint that I had the pleasure of going out to the Warrior Canine Connection facility in upper Montgomery County a couple of weeks ago, you know, holding the puppies that are there, to you know, assist the wounded warriors who come back and first responders, those who may be suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome. And they do wonderful work there. They are on Natural Resources property. And there is more work to be done in terms of physical plant, but it's, you know, they are doing great work. And in talking to a couple of the volunteers there, who in some cases have lost a child in the War and this is part of their therapy is to help other folks who come back and that may have some damage associated with their time in the War. So I just wanted to point out this, you know, worthwhile organization. And they do take volunteers and they do take support. So thank you.

Any other questions, or any questions for --

TREASURER KOPP: I would just like to say because I was contacted, as I think we all were, from the legislators from District 47A, Senator

Augustine, Delegates Fennell and Ivey about project number 16, the American Legion project in District 47A, that it is going ahead. It is strong and it's going to be completed soon. And I just wanted to thank them for their support, their encouragement, and the folks of Cheverly --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Oh, Cheverly, yeah.

TREASURER KOPP: -- who will benefit significantly.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Mm-hmm. Okay.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Thank you for that. I think I gave a William Donald Schaefer Award to the Canine Warrior group.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Are you trying to remember?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yes. Check out if it's still on the wall if you're visiting out there.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Sometimes they put those things in the basement. But I don't, I just wanted to comment on Item 35 and then very briefly on 38. Item 35 I frankly, you know, want to salute the Hogan administration for highlighting apprenticeship programs. I consider these apprenticeship programs around the State to be a pathway to the middle class for people to get out of just

dead-end situations that they are in and get on the path to stable careers and good paying jobs and etcetera, etcetera, especially now with the pandemic. They play a big role and I wonder, I'm not sure whether it's the Secretary of Labor or whether it's Secretary Churchill, but if somebody could just comment briefly on what the administration is doing, particularly if they are working with the building trades that are obviously good vehicles to partner with in this effort to broaden the middle class, I guess, is the way to describe it.

MR. CHURCHILL: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Comptroller. I believe we have Assistant Secretary Jim (James) Rzepkowski, who is part of the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning on the line, as well as Sarah Kaliush, who is Outreach Manager for that business unit.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: So the question would be, are you working together with the building trades in addition to the private sector as far as the apprenticeship programs? It's a friendly question.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Is Jim on? Jim?

MR. CHURCHILL: Jim, you are muted.

MR. RZEPKOWSKI: Unmute, there we go. Now can you hear me?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yes.

MR. RZEPKOWSKI: Thank you very much for the question and comment, Mr. Comptroller and Mr. Governor, Madam Treasurer. For the record,

Jim Rzepkowski, Assistant Secretary for Labor with oversight over the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning. And thank you, Mr. Comptroller for calling out this item. The Hogan administration is very, very proud of our scaling up of registered apprenticeship over the last seven years.

This particular contract item is our effort to continue to outreach to young people to show that there is an alternative career path. Something that they may only hear in high school is you have to go to college. We are planning, we received over the last six years over \$12 million of federal competitive grants from the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship, and we are continuing to outreach to individuals to share with them what registered apprenticeship is all about. It's a job on day one. It's related instruction. It's on the job training leading to very good, sustainable wages and great jobs, both in the traditional skilled trades such as construction, but also in non-traditional occupations, such as healthcare, cybersecurity, logistics, manufacturing. We currently have an all-time record high of registered apprentices in the State of Maryland, over 11,000, and that is the highest we've had on record. So we are very proud of our accomplishment.

And one of the interesting things here is we want to reach young people. Where do young people go? They go to the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration to get their driver's license, which is often one of the entry requirements for an apprenticeship program. And while MVA is very efficient, we

know they are going to be sitting there for at least a few minutes. And hopefully they and their parents will see this opportunity to a career path in many industries, not just the construction trades, but also healthcare, cybersecurity, banking, so many other industries that we have grown over the last few years.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Thank you for that. I appreciate it.

TREASURER KOPP: That's good. Very good.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I have one other question about Item 38-S. And this is a request from the Department of Human Services to retroactively approve a one-year contract with the Devereux Foundation of Florida to provide out-of-state residential childcare services for an eight-year-old Maryland youth. And obviously it's a unique placement. Frankly, I'm just a little concerned about not the child and the situation, but more with the company because it has a previous history of some unfortunate abuse and misconduct. And I hope that the agency has arranged for, I won't go into the details of what they are accused of, but if Secretary James is there, Deputy Secretary James, I assume you are aware of the allegations of the company and you are taking care to place this particular eight-year-old in a safe facility and you are going to supervise and visit and make sure that the proper care is received?

MR. JAMES: Good morning. Can everyone hear me?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yes.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yes.

MR. JAMES: Great. This is Greg James, Deputy Secretary for Operations at the Maryland Department of Human Services, for the record. Thank you for the question, Mr. Comptroller. I have with me this morning our Executive Director for our Social Services Administration, as well as our Deputy Executive Director Tennille Thomas. And I apologize, our Executive Director is Michelle L. Farr. And I believe she can speak to the process that we go through for vetting these programs as well as our regular and intensive oversight that we exercise to ensure the safety of all youth in out-of-state placements.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I guess not to interrupt, Deputy Secretary. Just, I don't necessarily, I understand the difficulties that you operate under. But were you guys aware of these allegations and have you dealt internally to just make sure that the kids are, this particular child that we're voting on today, or approving a one year contract for, that they are, they are not going to have any kind of physical, sexual, verbal abuse in any way?

MR. JAMES: So Mr. Comptroller, we do carefully screen all of our placements and review those and we make regular reviews after the placements are made to ensure that it continues to be an appropriate placement. Many programs have incidents in their background and what we look for usually is whether that

program took the appropriate corrective steps and how the hosting state, the licensing state, is viewing this program at this time since they were the ones that would have directly investigated the incidents. So I can assure you we carefully monitor all of these. Any time we see a report of the nature, and I have seen the reports regarding incidents at Devereux, we do carefully follow up and ensure that we are still confident that it's an appropriate placement for the child. And certainly, we do monitor it more closely when we have these types of concerns.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Excellent. Well, that's, if you could just keep us in the loop, that would be great.

MR. JAMES: Absolutely, sir.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Any other questions on the General Services Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval.

TREASURER KOPP: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. We're all in favor --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yes --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: -- Mr. Secretary, and thank everyone, all the Board members, Treasurer and Mr. Comptroller. I

imagine next time there is one of these meetings it will be in person here in the State House again.

TREASURER KOPP: You're saying, Governor, next month in Annapolis?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Next month in Annapolis, yes, yes, versus next year in Jerusalem. So thank you. All right. Well, thank you. Have a good rest of the day.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Same to you. Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 11:07 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)