
STATE OF MARYLAND
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

July 6, 2022
10:01 a.m.

PRESENT

HONORABLE LARRY HOGAN

Governor

HONORABLE DERECK DAVIS

Treasurer

HONORABLE PETER FRANCHOT

Comptroller

JOHN GONTRUM

Secretary, Board of Public Works

ELLINGTON CHURCHILL

Secretary, Department of General Services

JIM PORTS

Secretary, Department of Transportation

JEANNIE HADDAWAY-RICCIO

Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

LISA GRIGSBY

Recording Secretary, Board of Public Works

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PROCEEDINGS

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Well, good morning, everyone.

ALL: Good morning.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Welcome to the Board of Public Works. I hope everyone had an enjoyable Fourth of July holiday. Before we get started with the Agenda, I just want to make a couple of remarks.

Nearly four months ago, Maryland became the first State in the nation to suspend the State's gas tax and I want to reiterate my calls for the Legislature to come back in an emergency special session to address the increase in the gas tax.

This Friday, as families began to prepare for travel for the Fourth of July holiday, they likely experienced some significant sticker shock at the gas pump, in spite of the fact that nationally the gas prices appear to be decreasing, at least minimally. But there is an automatic tax increase that was passed by the Legislature, which I proposed to eliminate. And it now requires us to pay an additional seven cents per gallon as of July 1st. So the Legislature has the opportunity to fix this gas situation. I'm prepared to immediately sign a gas tax suspension into law so that we can provide much more needed relief for these crushing costs which are burdening families and small businesses.

For months, I have also been calling on President Biden to freeze the federal gas tax and I'm very pleased that he has finally agreed. But so far nothing has happened. So I continue to call on Congress to take action to immediately pass legislation to temporarily suspend the federal gas tax. There is no real reason why we can't come together in a bipartisan way to lessen the pain at the pump for Marylanders and for the rest of America.

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On a lighter note, I am very pleased this morning to have the opportunity to recognize an outstanding State employee who recently retired after serving our great State for more than 46 years. Patricia Bennett was a dedicated State employee who started working for the State on April 2, 1975. And in addition to that, she spent more than 21 years serving on the State's Optometry Board. So Patricia, congratulations on a well-deserved, well-earned retirement. And to congratulate you on your tenure and your career, I would like you to come up here so I can present you with a Governor's Citation to thank you for your service.

(Applause.)

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Oh, yes, come on –

(Laughter.)

(Citation presented and photographs were taken.)

(Applause.)

GOVERNOR HOGAN: And with that, I'm going to turn it over to my colleagues for any opening comments. I'll start with you, Mr. Treasurer.

TREASURER DAVIS: First of all, I want to again welcome everyone here and start with last week I had an opportunity to meet Ms. Fran Burns in person. She is the great granddaughter of former Treasurer John Dennis. She stopped by to visit the office on June 29th and she brought along a commemorative plate that Treasurer Dennis had received in 1941. I was going to keep it, but staff wouldn't allow me --

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: -- talking to the folks over at Archives to ensure that it's preserved. We talked about his work as a dairy farmer, President of the Maryland State Fair. And he was Treasurer on two separate occasions, from 1916 to 1918, and from 1920 to 1935. I won't be able to match those feats, I

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promise you. But it was truly an honor just to meet her and hear some of the stories. So that was definitely a treat for the office.

Thursday, for those of you, I will spread the word, obviously, that's when we start early voting. It doesn't matter who you vote for as long as you participate in the process so please do that.

I thought about something you said, Governor, and not to dispute it or debate it. That's not what I'm doing. But rather I was thinking about the whole situation with the gas tax and so forth. But I think the reality of it is it's not the tax that's the problem. It's the commodity itself --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: I agree with that.

TREASURER DAVIS: -- is definitely the problem. And so when I look -- but it's also, if we're being honest, it's us too. In that gas, like most commodities, there is a certain elasticity of demand with that. And the more that we keep driving, which is kind of amazing when there is almost universal working from home, now. But we're using the demand as if we aren't doing that. So because supply is limited worldwide, and we haven't changed our consumption habits, that was driving up the cost. Either that or I wasn't paying close attention, as much attention in econ as I thought. That could very well be the case. But I've noticed, we must have hit that tipping point, because now it's starting to go down the other way, despite the fact that we had that seven cents or eight cents, I'm not sure what it was, increase.

So I guess what I would say to my fellow Marylanders as well, and certainly I learned this from some of my colleagues when I was in the House, you know, when we're talking about interfering with the marketplace and so forth, what is driving this up is not the taxes. You're talking about if you add it all up it's about 50 cents. I remember this time two years ago, when everything was shut down and everybody was home, we were paying \$1.79 in my old

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neighborhood for gas. Now it has just dipped below \$5.00 a gallon. So what did that? The tax is only responsible for 50 cents of it, if I've got all of that added right and with the new stuff. The other \$3.00 that has driven it up, that's a supply and demand issue that we need to address. And I think it's a great opportunity. You know, we keep talking about getting off fossil fuels and you know, electric vehicles and so forth. I put that in my to-do list. It will be a while before I buy another vehicle, but when I do, I've got that firmly in my sights. So I would ask that we keep that in mind.

And then lastly, what I would just like to say, moving forward, and it's just what is going on again, and I know I've touched upon it previously, is just the gun situation in our country and how we are, we as Americans are dealing with that. You know, I hear a lot about the Second Amendment and I'm not a constitutional scholar. But I keep, it's kind of like with other like let's say religious books, where we pick certain parts of certain chapters and we roll with that without putting in the other part to give it context. And see, when we keep talking about the right to bear arms, when we read that, the first part of that says a well-regulated militia. See, that's part of that Second Amendment too that we don't discuss. And if you really drill down on that part, it doesn't say a regulated militia, it says a well-regulated militia. So our Founding Fathers that we point to when they use that term, when who was it? Madison, that wrote that. A well-regulated militia, they are expecting heavy regulation, unless we have another definition of what well-regulated means. So if they are talking about a well -- and I think that runs counter to Jefferson's, what, life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. And there is a lot of life and happiness that we're losing. Here we are celebrating the nation's birthday on July 4th, and we have a mass shooting, a mass shooting on our nation's birthday.

That has become the symbol -- you know, my good friend Elijah

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Cummings used to say a lot, and I rarely disagreed with Elijah, he was a mentor when I got down here, used to say we're better than that. No, we're not. We may want to be better than that. But that is who we are. Time and again, we are not protecting our children. We are not protecting our seniors. There ought to be a way that we can have those arms and still protect our young people, our seniors. You know, that moral test that Hubert Humphrey talked about in government. But somewhere we are not, you know, those two things seem to be bumping heads. So I'll leave that alone. I really didn't mean to get that far into this. But it just keeps happening. And you know, they are talking about in the papers, you know, strollers and lawn chairs and so forth where people have parades, and they are just abandoning them and talking about, you know, all the sounds of gunfire. That's what our holidays and so forth, our traditions, are now being reduced to. It's just gun play, violence, and we hope and pray that no one is injured or, you know, the loss of life is kept to a minimum. So anyway, Governor, like I said, I didn't mean to go there. But I just hope everyone sort of stops and thinks, you know, when we're talking about our rights and so forth that we're reading the full context of what was said and not picking and choosing the parts that we like.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Treasurer. Good morning, Mr. Comptroller. I hope that you are recovering and feeling better?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yes. No, yes, I'm fully back on the trail and appreciate it. And I actually have a solution for both your statement and the Treasurer's, which is let's have a special session and do what's needed, both on the gas tax holiday, which I strongly agree with you, Governor, is absolutely critical, and I'll talk about that a little bit in a second. But also agree with what the Treasurer said about the Second Amendment and about the need to take some action now that the Supreme Court has made its decision about carry

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permits. But really what we are talking about out in Illinois was the fact that someone used a high speed, military type assault weapon on innocent people. And these are not just injuries that when you get wounded by one of these weapons. I was in the military. I trained on these weapons. They are high speed rifles. And they are used -- their purpose is to kill people. And because they are such high speed, they literally when they hit someone blow them up. I think that's something that we recently experienced on, as the Treasurer was mentioning, out in Illinois.

So here's a solution: why doesn't the Legislature come back and do some gun safety issues, and the gas tax holiday. And let me just get back to the fact that inflation, which is, which this is not, Mr. Treasurer, this is not just the gas tax situation. The gas tax is really a signal to the future. It's a signal of what's going on out in the economy right now. The earnings guidances by major corporations, public companies, like Target and Restoration Hardware and Amazon and others, are literally being rewritten as we speak because consumer spending is dropping so rapidly. Part of that is due to the price of gasoline, because that has created this inflationary pressure. But to simply suggest that we should weather this and that it's just an unpredictable or disruptive economic condition and that we're only experiencing it for a short period of time, that's not right. We are in a recession. The question is whether it's going to be a soft recession lasting several months, or whether it's going to be a long term, year-long recession that's a significant deep recession. We want to avoid that. And the way to avoid it is to do some small amount of stimulus work.

As the Federal Reserve is pouring cold water on an overheated economy and bringing interest rates up, that has a cooling effect. But the State of Maryland needs to do something which is mildly stimulus. And that's what a gas tax holiday would be. It would be 61 cents, combined with the federal. And I

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strongly support the Governor's suggestion that the Legislature come back and consider that. Because if we were able to pass that, plus you mentioned remote working, if we could encourage our companies to be increasingly and continuing generous on that provision. And then if we do \$2,000 emergency survival checks to the 500,000 Maryland families that we know are low wage earners and are struggling right now. For them, you know, all of us, we have made minor adjustments to our spending habits. For them, it's a matter of just great significance. And a large number of them, particularly our low wage earners and small businesses, are, you know, suffering this financial disruption that is going on right now and increasing -- I emphasize here this is not just the price of gasoline. This is something that is affecting our groceries, our shopping, our rents. Everything is going up at a very, very steep level. And these families are going to have trouble over the next year staying afloat. So for many of us it's not whether or not we can afford the summer vacation we've got planned. It's being forced to make a decision between buying a gallon of gas or a gallon of milk. And for our small businesses, the vast majority of whom were just beginning to rebound from the economic devastation brought about by COVID, they are seeing their margins decrease as global supply chain issues and soaring costs of goods -- these are all goods, because transportation affects everything -- continue to disrupt business operations.

On Monday, I was reading in the *Post*, a huge front page story above the fold talks about how inflation is worsening our nation's already horrific homelessness crisis. Gas prices, food, rent, just to name a few necessities, are soaring. But in this *Post* article I mentioned, it talks specifically about a Maryland woman who has been living in hotels in Harford County with her two sons since their lease was terminated in early March 2020. She struggled to pay her rent when she was evicted at the outset of the pandemic, and now with higher

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costs of gas and groceries she can no longer afford the rising cost of nightly rates at hotels. So what is she doing? She is spending more nights in her car while her kids, ages eight and 13, stay with family. This is one of the many, many stories of our fellow Marylanders. This person is one of us. We're the wealthiest state in the wealthiest country in the history of the world with a historic budget surplus, and somehow we lack the political will to meet this crisis with the urgency and magnitude it demands.

We somehow, for the life of us, can't figure out how to get a special session to address not just the soaring prices of gas, but also the gun issue, which the Treasurer so admirably mentioned. And we somehow can't use some of that surplus money that we have to issue survival checks to Marylanders who need it most. I find it unfortunate, really unfortunate, that we as a State -- we can't obviously, as the Treasurer was mentioning, control the global economy. But that's not an excuse to sit here and say, guys, we're not going to do anything. We're not going to come back and even try on both of these critically important issues. People, you know, are tired of finger pointing going back and forth. I'm not going to do that. I'm suggesting that there is agreement among the three of us, let's get a special session and make things happen immediately that people will see as a form of relief. And we need to demand action because we have been entrusted with great responsibilities by the public. And I agree with the Treasurer when he quoted Elijah Cummings, also a great friend of mine and someone I served with. You know, we are better than this. We can do better. And I hope we do shortly. Because what is happening right now is that there is a cliff that is being, these big public companies are indicating that they are going to fall off of. And this is highly unusual. And all I can say is, I hope we're not going to look back in six months and say, boy, I wish we did the gas tax holiday and some of those other provisions, because now we are locked into a years' long stagflation.

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And that will really affect not just low wage earners. That will affect everyone in the State of Maryland because of a much slower economy. Thank you very much.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you, Mr. Comptroller. We're going to start with the Secretary's Agenda.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Good morning, Governor, Mr. Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. There are 23 items on the Secretary's Agenda. Item 21 from the Maryland Historical Trust has been revised to clarify grant recipient project information, and Item 22 from St. Mary's College has been updated to include the contract term and renewal option award amounts. We have a supplemental item, which is Item 23, the Stadium Authority bond issuance deferred at the June 8th meeting. I'll be happy to assist with answering any questions.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Are there any questions on the Secretary's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: If not, I would move approval. But defer to the Treasurer.

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Three-nothing on the Secretary's Agenda. We'll move to DNR Real Property Agenda.

MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: Good morning, Governor, Mr. Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. For the record, Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. We have seven items on our Real Property Agenda for which we are seeking approval. We're happy to answer any questions. And I would just quickly point out, thank you for just approving Item 14 for Franklin Point State Park. Delegate Seth Howard was here in support of that item so I just wanted to take a moment to recognize that.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you very much. Any questions on

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DNR?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval if appropriate.

TREASURER DAVIS: There never are any.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR HOGAN: All right. Three-nothing. Someday we'll have a tough question for them.

MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: Hopefully not.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: We're going to move on to the University System Agenda.

MR. HICKEY: Good morning, Governor, Mr. Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. Tom Hickey representing the University System of Maryland. We have three items on our Agenda this morning and we're happy to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you. Good morning. Questions on the University System?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval.

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Three-nothing.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: I think your luck is going to run out --

MR. PORTS: I'll try not to --

(Laughter.)

MR. PORTS: I'll try not to screw it up, Governor.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Let's go to the Department of Transportation.

MR. PORTS: -- Governor, Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. For the record, my name is Jim Ports, Secretary of the Maryland Department of

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Transportation. And the Department of Transportation is presenting 13 items for your consideration, one being a supplemental. I'll be happy to answer any questions.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Questions on Transportation?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Actually, if I could, is Administrator Arnold available?

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Administrator Arnold?

MR. PORTS: No, this is not on the Agenda.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Not on the Agenda?

MR. PORTS: I don't think so.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Well, let me just ask Secretary Ports, since he used to head this division up. What is the issue with Light Rail services and fares?

MR. PORTS: So are you talking about the reduced service?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- yeah, this is --

MR. PORTS: There she is.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah, terrific. There's Administrator Arnold. So I read recently that the fees are going up for Light Rail in Baltimore. And obviously, every increase in costs is something that we want to be particularly careful about, particularly for folks that are using mass transit. And it's attributed to the operator shortage. How do you, what is going on there as far as the rate increases?

MR. PORTS: We can see you, Holly.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah.

MS. ARNOLD: Good morning, Governor, Comptroller, Treasurer. I apologize. My internet is not very good this morning. So you were asking --

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COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- me refresh, restate my question. Because this is Item 4-AE. And it's about Light Rail service. And apparently, beginning July 10th, four days from now, you all are going to reduce Light Rail schedule on weekdays due to operator shortages?

MR. PORTS: Mm-hmm.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: And I understand this is a temporary reduction. I'm obviously deeply concerned that something like that would happen just when we're trying to get people back to work. And I guess what I'm, my question is, what is MTA doing to address this operator shortage? And how long do you realistically anticipate it taking to get the trains back on schedule? Thank you.

MS. ARNOLD: Yes, absolutely. So good morning. For the record, my name is Holly Arnold. I'm the Administrator at the Maryland Transit Administration. You know, absolutely, Comptroller, we did announce recently that due to an operator shortage we are initiating a temporary service adjustment to our Light Rail. So MTA's operators are great. You know, I appreciate them. I want more of them. Unfortunately right now we are suffering from the similar nationwide shortage as everyone else. So we are down about 26 Light Rail operators out of a total of 79. So we are missing about a third of our operators. What that means for the riders is unreliable service. You know, as a rider, I can tell you that reliability is the most important thing. The most important thing that MTA can do, especially to rebuild our ridership, is to show up when we say we're going to show up. We need the bus to show up. We need the train to show up. And so this service adjustment allows us to really kind of stabilize the service and provide a schedule that our riders can rely on, while in the background we're going to focus, and we already are, very hard, on hiring, on training, and retention efforts.

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So in terms of hiring, we have now opened up hiring to outside of the agency. Previously, you had to already be here and you had to be a bus operator. We have now changed that and so we can hire directly from outside of MTA. If anyone is interested, I encourage them to apply online. We have doubled the number of training classes so that we can bring in more people from the outside and internally who want to go through that training. And we are continuing to focus really hard on employee retention and make this a place where people want to work and where they are happy to work. And we are committed to restoring full service, you know, as soon as possible. You know, we are going to reevaluate it with our fall service change. I can't give an exact date, unfortunately, because it depends on, you know, if other people leave. You know, if other operators take other jobs or retire. I don't have a specific date. But we are committed to restoring full service as soon as we possibly can.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Excellent. Thank you very much. I appreciate that. I have one other item --

MR. PORTS: Mr. Comptroller, just one second, I do want to add just a little bit --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Go ahead --

MR. PORTS: -- I will say, Holly has done a great job --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- I'm about to praise you so --

MR. PORTS: -- I'll let you do that, too. But one of the things that occurs, and I think one of the reasons for the lack of operators, is because as Holly mentioned, to be an operator on Light Rail, you had to first be a bus operator. And what happens is, you have seniority in the bus operations and then when you go to Light Rail, you lose your seniority. And a lot of people don't like that. And so then they go back to bus operators. And it was a union rule, or a union negotiation, that you had to be a bus operator before you could be a Light Rail

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operator. So when they go back, then we have a lack of operators for Light Rail.

Now I will say Holly has done a terrific job in working with the unions, and we want to thank the unions for working with Holly, to now allow us to go outside and hire people from the outside and train them. But it takes about 12 weeks for the training and that. And Holly and I spoke about this a lot. As you know, I did run transit in Harford County and so I understand reliability is more important than trying to put out a service, a massive service, and not be able to perform. So it's more important for our constituents to have that reliability and so that's the decision that we made. So I just wanted to give you just a little extra information on how that occurred.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Thank you very much. I'm very, very aware of that and I appreciate very much, Mr. Secretary but also Administrator Arnold, the update. And please keep an eye on it. And I do have something shifting to good news. Item 3 on your Agenda, Secretary Ports. This is a very significant project. I just want to give my strong support and sincere appreciation for the federal and State partnership that has brought the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Economic Restoration Project to fruition.

Similar to the successful restoration of Poplar Island, the State will use dredged material from our shipping channels to restore the James and Barren Islands located off the shore of Dorchester County, creating new stable Bay and wildlife habitats as well as offsetting erosion of vulnerable shoreline. And I just want to applaud the steadfast support of Maryland's current congressional delegation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a collaborative project that underscores the importance of the Chesapeake Bay. But I particularly, in addition to the numerous environmental benefits the project will generate, it is also a great economic tool for the State, supporting the continued growth of the Port of Baltimore. So I know it's always unusual for me to praise my good friend

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Secretary Ports, who I served with in the Legislature. But job well done.

Governor Hogan, thank you for your administration's efforts on this. I know it is expensive. I know it is significant. I know it is multi-year project. But years from now, people will look back and say thank you for having done this.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Comptroller.

MR. PORTS: Thank you.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Any other questions on Transportation or is there a motion?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval.

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Three-nothing on Transportation and last but not least, we'll move on to the Department of General Services.

MR. CHURCHILL: Good morning, Governor, Mr. Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. For the record, I'm Ellington Churchill, Secretary of the Maryland Department of General Services. Today the department is presenting 24 items on our Agenda, including one supplemental. We are withdrawing Item 17. DGS is seeking approval for contract action support for one minority business and (indiscernible) small businesses. I want to note that we have one request for public comment for the Crownsville Hospital property transfer. We stand available to answer any questions the Board may have.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Very good. Thank you. I'd like to call up Item 21 first, the transfer of the Crownsville Hospital Center to Anne Arundel County. It's another historic step forward with the Maryland Department of Health's master facilities plan. It's the first master plan in nearly 20 years. After listening to the citizens of Crownsville and discussing it with the county executive and leaders in the county, we all agree that the Crownsville Hospital Center property would be most appropriately managed by the county. This property has

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been deteriorating and is in disrepair, has been for decades. And this transfer will allow the county to transform the property, including the Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park. Today's transfer of nearly 460 acres of the total 544-acre campus will include a government purposes only restriction. It will include the existing nonprofits that are currently on the property, including the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. And today's action will end almost 20 years of speculation about the fate of the Crownsville Hospital property, giving that choice to the people most familiar with the land, which is the Anne Arundel County residents. But I think this is just one more way that we are changing Maryland for the better. I am very pleased and excited to support this and to approve the transfer today. And we're pleased to have with us signed up to speak Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman. County Executive?

MR. PITTMAN: Thank you, Governor Hogan. You just gave my remarks so --

(Laughter.)

MR. PITTMAN: -- thank you for all of that. We wholeheartedly, and thank you Treasurer Davis, and Comptroller Franchot, I don't know if you can see me but I can see you.

Yes, this is something that I feel very passionately about. I think a lot of the residents of our county feel very passionately about. Just going back a little bit in the history, it was 2016 that the legislative committee completed its report. My budget officer, Chris Trumbauer, who is here, was representing that area on the County Council. And the primary recommendation was that the State transfer Crownsville Hospital Center, the property, to the county. The county executive at the time said no, and I can see a lot of reasons to say no. I believe that we have a team now in the county that can handle this. Sometimes, you know, be careful what you wish for. We know there is going to be a lot of hard

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work to do here. But then it was in this last session of the Maryland General Assembly that folks around this building saw that this is all that I was really talking about and my team was talking about. We were going to, the leadership and our delegation, we were all united, bipartisan, to get some funding to help with the remediation. So we came out with, thank you for the \$2.5 million we started with to get the ball rolling, Governor Hogan. And then we ended up with \$30.5 million that is going to help us to get, make it possible to open up this site, make it safe, to turn it into the first thing we are going to do there is Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park. And it's going to cost more than that. We are going to be putting in our own county money. We have seen that in our budget already. But we are well on our way.

I do want to note that there are over 40 letters from community based organizations, environmental organizations, historic organizations, the actual Generals Highway Council of Communities that represents all the neighborhoods in that area supporting this transfer. And I want to thank both my staff and State staff, General Services as well as Department of Health, and particularly Ms. Scott-Napier behind there. Thank you for all of your work with my team, and Mr. Ye and Mr. Chaudhry from the Health Department; and then of course, my team; Rec and Parks and Central Services; Matt Power, our CAO who is here; Chris Trumbauer and Hannah Dier for their work. It takes a lot to get ready to receive the keys, and we hope that is what is going to happen today. We are ready to start cutting grass. We are ready to take over the security. We know that there is a lot of work in this and we are prepared.

In terms of the future, for what we expect to be doing there, I think the Governor talked some about the vision that we have with the park. I want to note that the Crownsville Cemetery will have a memorial, thanks to the hard work of Janice Hayes-Williams, who is here, and who with her team has done the

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research and identified 1,722 names of people who are buried there at Crownsville. And there will be, thanks to her work with Senator Reilly and Delegate Bagnall in particular, and our whole delegation, we will be creating a memorial with the names of those people at the cemetery. And we all every year go to the Say My Name Ceremony. If you haven't been, come next time. Janice will make sure you get an invitation.

And in addition to that, Rec and Parks is ready to open up the property and do some low impact recreation there, make it possible for the community to go there. It's going to be a geographic part of our county and there will be trails and we will make it safe. Over time, we've got about 68 buildings. Some of them are definitely historic and they have been assessed and they will be preserved and we will redevelop that part of the developed part of Crownsville. Some of the buildings will have to come down. They are not of historical significance and they have deteriorated beyond repair. And then finally I want to mention that there are now four organizations that are there doing both treatment for addiction and mental health crisis counseling, as well as our Anne Arundel Food Bank that you mentioned. And it has become a place for nonprofit organizations. You could almost say that the very soil of that place is dedicated to healing. And mistakes have been made in the past in how that healing was done, but we see it happening already. We have assured those organizations that they will remain there. They can remain there as long as they want to. And we've even got a nonprofit incubator that is in the works that will help to be the place from which we turn this into a center for healing. And so we expect a lot of the redevelopment to be organizations, not just local but across the country, that help us confront the mental health challenges that we think that this country has not adequately addressed and Crownsville Hospital in the heart of our county will be the place for all that to happen.

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So we are beyond excited for this and look forward to getting the keys. Thank you very much.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: Thank you, Mr. County Executive. Any questions on this item or any other of the DGS items?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Could I ask, please, if I could just ask the Secretary, is, am I correct that there is language now, language in the agreement that should the property in a future administration in Anne Arundel County, for example, down the road, if any of the property is ever sold by Anne Arundel County, that it must first come back to the Board of Public Works for approval? Is that language in there?

MR. CHURCHILL: Mr. Comptroller, that language is in the agreement, yes.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Excellent. Governor and Treasurer, you may recall when this item came before us on March 9th I was the sole dissenting vote on the decision to surplus the 458-acre property and transfer it to Anne Arundel for a dollar. When I voted no, I asked why MDH's facilities master plan failed to consider whether the State or any other State agency could potentially use the site. I asked why the State couldn't do what the county is proposing to do. Why couldn't we preserve the property as park? Why couldn't we use it as a hub for industry and nonprofits, or create affordable housing for veterans? I asked for the rationale behind surplussing the property only then to pay, apparently the State is now paying or committing a significant amount of money for remediation. And finally, I just asked, is this the best deal for Maryland's taxpayers?

I came to the decision last time that it was not in the best interest, but I listened very closely to what the County Executive said and I'm going to vote in favor this time. And my opposition was not because I thought that Anne

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Arundel County won't do great things with the property, but because I think State agencies should be, should have been consulted and should have answered whether they wanted to have any chance to put this property back into service for new uses that benefit citizens that the State of Maryland oversees. So with that caveat, I will move the Agenda and thank the County Executive for his excellent testimony.

GOVERNOR HOGAN: So there is a motion on the whole Agenda. Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: I'll second. Just a quick question though, Secretary Ellington. I'm just curious. With the covenants that were put on this agreement, has all the opposition now been mitigated? Or is -- I mean, at least the formal opposition, perhaps, mitigated to the best of your knowledge?

MR. CHURCHILL: To the best of my knowledge, it has. And of course there has been a great deal of support. But I would always defer to the folks that have been getting the direct calls. Assistant Secretary Wendy Scott-Napier, just affirm yes, have we --

MS. SCOTT-NAPIER: Yes.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: If you could go up to the podium, please?

TREASURER DAVIS: You're going to make her come all the way up to say yes?

MS. SCOTT-NAPIER: It's all right.

(Laughter.)

MR. CHURCHILL: I can say yes for Wendy. That's all I wanted to know. Wendy?

MS. SCOTT-NAPIER: Okay. Good morning. Wendy Scott-Napier. Good morning, Governor, Comptroller, and Treasurer. And yes, we

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have.

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: That was very well done. You really did make her come up to say yes.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: It's regulations. It has to --

GOVERNOR HOGAN: So there is a motion, a second. I also vote in favor. Three-nothing. And thank you all very much. That concludes the Board of Public Works.

(Whereupon, at 10:41 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)