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*STATE OF MARYLAND*  
**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
*ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND*

**April 19, 2023**  
**10:02 a.m.**

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# PRESENT

**HONORABLE ARUNA MILLER**

Lieutenant Governor

**HONORABLE DERECK DAVIS**

Treasurer

**HONORABLE BROOKE LIERMAN**

Comptroller

**JOHN GONTRUM**

Secretary, Board of Public Works

**ATIF CHAUDHRY**

Secretary, Department of General Services

**VALERIE RADOMSKY**

Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Transportation

**JOSH KURTZ**

Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

**THOMAS HICKEY**

Director of Procurement and Real Property Initiatives,  
University System of Maryland

**LISA GRIGSBY**

Recording Secretary, Board of Public Works

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# PROCEEDINGS

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Good morning, everyone. Please take a seat.

ALL: Good morning.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: So, good morning, everyone. I want to welcome you to the April 19th BPW meeting today. And I'm Aruna Miller, and I am pleased to be chairing the BPW meeting today on behalf of Governor Wes Moore. And if I could just take a point of personal privilege to really signify today's meeting. I think it has been since September 18, 2002 since the entirety of the BPW meeting has been a majority women. Right, Madam Comptroller?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: You're right.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: -- is not like the other.

(Laughter.)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: And I also want to say that today also in Maryland's history is the first time that a woman of color will be chairing the BPW meeting.

(Applause.)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: And so I say to all women and women of color out there, this one is for you. And to all Marylanders, thank you for giving me this incredible privilege to serve you. And I am so deeply grateful to be working with history makers to the left of me, to the right of me, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer, in doing the people's work each

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and every single day. It's a great honor to be here with the both of you. Thank you.

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: And they also pointed out to me, things just got a little bit fancier with me chairing because they got water bottles before --

(Laughter.)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: -- glasses. So, you're welcome.

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: --stepped things up --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: There you go --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: -- environmental --

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: I thought something different was in the glass but --

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: -- it's the same stuff.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: So let's go ahead and get started on today's meeting. First up is the Secretary's Agenda. So good morning, Secretary Gontrum.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Thank you. And good morning to you, Madam Governor, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller on this historic day. It's wonderful to be with you. The Secretary's Agenda has 20 items on it, and three reports of emergency procurements. At the request of the Department of Natural Resources and Morgan State University, I am withdrawing Items 11 and

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20, respectively, which leaves 18 items on the Secretary's Agenda for your consideration this morning and three reports of emergency procurements. Item 6 was revised to include the proposed year 2024 property tax rate following the Commission on State Debt meeting yesterday. I'm happy to assist with answering any questions.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Do you have some questions?

TREASURER DAVIS: Just at the appropriate time, I'd like to move to separate out Items 18 and 19.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay. We can move those now. Now, first I'd like to call up Item A3, which is a report of emergency procurement from the Department of Veterans Affairs for a baseline physical and wellness assessment for the residents of Charlotte Hall Veterans Home.

As everyone here is aware, the Moore-Miller administration terminated the existing contract with the long time vendor at Charlotte Hall after several reports of abuse and neglect, and after the Centers of Medicare and Medicare Services downgraded the facilities rating to a one star with an abuse warning, making it one of the worst run nursing home facilities in the nation.

Our administration, led by Secretary Tony Woods, has been working diligently to address this urgent crisis. As part of that critical effort, the Department of Veterans Affairs issued an emergency procurement to conduct a wellness assessment for all the residents. And Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer, the Governor and I, and our entire administration, continue to be grateful for your support and partnership as we work to resolve this crisis.

Secretary Woods is joining us virtually from Charlotte Hall this morning, his eighth visit to Charlotte Hall since taking office in January. Mr. Secretary, good morning, and it's great to see you.

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SECRETARY WOODS: Good morning. Thank you very much, Lieutenant Governor Miller, Treasurer Davis, Comptroller Lierman. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide an update on our ongoing efforts at Charlotte Hall, where I'm joining you from today.

Before I address the Secretary's Action Agenda Appendix Item A3, I'll briefly share that we are currently in direct negotiations with a highly regarded vendor with expertise managing and operating long term care facilities and veterans retirement homes, and hope to finalize a new management contract in the coming days. So we will certainly keep you apprised of that.

Concurrently, we have also improved our ability to provide real time quality assurance by contracting additional nurses to act as resident safety advocates. These nurses now provide additional coverage and are available to spot issues in real time and to provide immediate feedback to on duty nursing staff.

We are incredibly thankful to St. Mary's County Office of Public Health for their help in recruiting these additional resident safety nurses and remain grateful to the Maryland Department of Health, particularly Dr. Mary Beth Wade, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Maryland Legislature, this Board, and other critical partners as we work to resolve this situation urgently with great speed.

I have also had the pleasure of attending more resident councils, which provides me an opportunity to meet with the residents who live here and to hear directly from them about their feedback on the situation, and also to hear from long time staff who are also, many of whom are very deeply dedicated to serving our veterans here.

With regard to Secretary's Action Agenda Appendix Item A3, as you will recall, following the January 25th downgrade of Charlotte Hall's CMS

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rating to one star with an abuse warning to the public, I requested an emergency procurement to conduct a resident by resident assessment of individual well-being and care quality. Beginning on March 20th, we began calls to every resident's family or responsible guardian to obtain consents to conduct these wellness assessments of their loved ones. We received consent to conduct assessments from 213 residents, which were completed between March 21st and March 31st. Each wellness nurse was accompanied by a nurse employed by the management contractor. All individual reports were submitted to the management contractor for review, investigation, and where necessary, reporting to the Maryland Department of Health's Office of Healthcare Quality, or OHCQ, as required by federal regulations governing long term care.

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs has requested all documents to confirm thorough and credible investigations were conducted by the management contractor on all identified issues and reporting was completed as required by regulation.

Separate review by OHCQ is pending and we will report these findings with your offices, residents, family members, and responsible parties and the public as appropriate.

The total cost of the wellness assessments was \$24,804, which we believe was money well spent, and we are in the process of completing final payment with the two vendors that we contracted these with.

Thank you again for your thoughtful engagement and support as we continue to work to improve performance at Charlotte Hall and to create a home that truly honors the service and sacrifice of the veterans who reside here. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Secretary Woods. We are all grateful for your compassionate leadership and efforts to right

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the ship at Charlotte Hall and deliver the level of service and care that veterans have earned and deserve. And I know earlier this week, you also joined me in Carroll County as the Moore-Miller Administration's funding for the new veterans nursing home in Sykesville that will hopefully be up in the next couple of years. So thank you again for your leadership.

Any comments from my colleagues on this item before I proceed to the next one?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No. Thank you so much for your leadership, Mr. Secretary.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Now I'd like to highlight Items 7, 8, 9, and 10, which are items from the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide State support for projects that address affordable rental housing and homelessness. Now, Secretary Jake Day is joining us this morning and can tell you a little bit more about the projects and the impact our investments will make on these communities. Good morning, Secretary Day. Please proceed.

MR. DAY: Good morning, ma'am. It's an honor to be here with you. Good morning, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, my name is Jake Day, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Community Development. Let me talk to you a little bit about these four items on the Agenda this morning. Agenda Item 7 is Heritage Homes. This is a \$5.05 million investment of State resources through the Rental Housing Works and Partnership Programs into an approximately \$60 million deal. This is in Odenton. The project's sponsor is the Housing Authority of Anne Arundel County. This is an acquisition rehab of 182 apartments and it is a mix of affordable units targeting 60 percent and below AMI.

The second item, Item 8, is Bon Secours. This is a forgiveness

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request to forgive the interest that has accrued since the original forgiveness that occurred in 2020. That was approximately \$2 million of accrued interest on this very low income targeted housing project in Baltimore City. The accrued interest since that time is approximately \$268,000, so that is the request, plus whatever interest may accrue in the final months before closing, which would be a very small amount. But we are requesting that authority as well. The principal, I want to note that the principal is still being paid on this project. It amounts to 117 very low income apartments as part of the Bon Secours Hospital Housing Project in the City.

And the next item, Agenda Item 9, is Ascension Homes. This is also in Baltimore. \$742,000 would be the State investment into a \$2.7 million project in Baltimore City. This is a multisite shelter. This would be a forgivable loan from our Shelter and Transitional Housing Program. The project would include renovations, that would go from kitchen renovations, energy efficiency upgrades, ADA improvements, and would preserve 20 beds of special needs housing within Baltimore City.

The final item is the Morris Blum Senior Homes Project. This is a request for \$2.5 million into a \$54 million project. This is new construction in Annapolis City. The project sponsors are the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis and a company called the Community Builders. 154 units of efficiency, one- and two-bed apartments targeting between 30 and 80 percent AMI residents, and these are again senior apartments. Pending your questions.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Secretary, and our thanks to you and your entire team for your excellent leadership on this very important issue. Any comments from my colleagues on this item?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No. Thank you.

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay.

MR. DAY: Thank you all very much.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: All right. Thank you.

Secretary Gontrum, so maybe separate Items 18 and 19?

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Very good. Would the Board like to take a separate vote --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Do a separate -- yes.

TREASURER DAVIS: No, I was going to, if I could, Governor --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Yes, please.

TREASURER DAVIS: -- I just want to highlight Item 6.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay.

TREASURER DAVIS: That is the one on the Commission on State Debt's report that was done yesterday. We had a very long, arduous, difficult --

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: -- painstaking six-minute meeting. But, in all seriousness, the Comptroller and I as well as the other members, Secretary Grady was there as well, we were able to hold the line once again on property tax rates for I believe this is the 17th consecutive year. And hopefully, that will be beneficial in these difficult times for Marylanders to not seek an increase in that rate. So I just wanted to just highlight that for those who may be watching or covering. It was a quick meeting but one that we considered to, you know, to have been very beneficial.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you. All right. So, Secretary Gontrum, may we separate these items, and also 18 and 19 to do a separate vote on these two?

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Very good, Mr. Treasurer --

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TREASURER DAVIS: Please, so moved.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you. So on those two items, I vote yay. Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes, so they are separated out.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay. Great. Okay. So may I have a motion to approve the remainder of the Agenda? Is there a second?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: -- record Items 18 and 19 as approved two to one, the Treasurer in the negative. And the balance of the Agenda approved unanimously, correct?

TREASURER DAVIS: If we are doing that, then I would like to speak to why I am voting no.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes, I think that was one to 17. I think we were, we pulled out -- she was trying to vote on the remaining items, I think, one to 17. Is that what you wanted to do?

TREASURER DAVIS: My, let me, then that's my fault. My interpretation was the vote was just to separate those out. I didn't know we were actually casting the actual vote at that time. And so I wanted to explain why -- don't worry, it's not going to be my usual rant on it. Other than to just say this on those two items. I mean, you all know where I stand on that so I won't belabor that point.

But apparently, me commenting and putting details out, that is problematic in settlement discussions. So for just this one time, I'm just going to vote no as opposed to going into it. But I would like to say to our attorneys and

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so forth when they are negotiating settlements in the future, if me being quiet is contingent upon those agreements, then you might as well forget it. That is not going to happen. I sort of rely on my prior experiences, there is no way the House Appropriations Committee, or Senate Budget and Tax would be spending money without the public being aware of why and how this money is being spent. So the secrecy that it is all shrouded in in terms of settlement, the Board of Public Works is not a court of law and I am not an attorney. So those things, as far as I'm concerned, don't apply to me. And I'm going to treat it as such. So this is just sort of my heads up going forward, if secrecy and so forth -- see, we talk a lot about transparency but only when it is convenient. You know, this is not a time, if we want transparency, this is the time. Why is this money being spent? What happened? Who did what? You see, now, you know, we don't have transparency. That's not applicable in this case.

So for this time, I'm just going to let it go. But going forward, I want everyone to know, every time we have to spend money for deleterious actions, I'm going to speak on it. People are going to know why money that could be going to their schools and going to their roads and other things, why it's being diverted for other actions. I guess I spoke longer than I intended to. That's what happens when you just make it up on the fly and I'm not reading. So but that's where I am. That's why I wanted to separate those two items out.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Mr. Treasurer, thank you. We appreciate your authenticity and going off the fly here. Thank you for sharing your concerns.

Next up in the Department of Natural Resources, good morning, Mr. Secretary.

MR. KURTZ: Good morning, Madam Lieutenant Governor, Madam Comptroller --

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No baby.

MR. KURTZ: -- still no baby.

(Laughter.)

MR. KURTZ: Thank you for having me this morning. For the record, my name is Josh Kurtz, I'm the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. The department has 11 items for your consideration today. If I could take a moment to highlight 6A, please.

So I wanted to do that in honor of Maryland State Parks Week, which we are right in the middle of. I'll be leaving here to go to Sandy Point after this. But I wanted to call your attention to 6A, which is a State Side Program Open Space Acquisition for the South Mountain Inn. This is a property that will be a part of our South Mountain State Park and will actually become a new visitors' center there, so it will really help us with interpretation and helping people find the park and be able to enjoy it. So I just wanted to highlight that for you in the spirit of State Park Week, and my staff and I are here to answer any other questions you may have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Great. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Is there any discussion on the DNR Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Not for me.

TREASURER DAVIS: Nor me.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay. May I have a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you. Next up the University System of Maryland, Mr. Hickey. Good morning, please proceed.

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

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Hickey. Is there any discussion on the USM Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Just one comment?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Sure.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you, Madam Governor. Good morning, Mr. Hickey. Great to see you. I just wanted to call attention to an exciting new piece of public artwork that Coppin State has selected here and use this to just give a quick shout to Coppin State University for the public artwork and just take a moment as the newest member of the Maryland Public Art Commission to share a little bit of information about how our public art is chosen.

So when agencies put out or entities put out these calls and these RFPs, they get thousands of submissions from all over the country, which is really amazing. It also takes a really long time to look through. And so the Maryland State Arts Council has created a new, more inclusive and equitable process for pre-qualifying leading artists for public art projects. And there is actually an RFQ for artists out right now. So I just want to make sure that folks know that this RFQ, this request for qualifications for artists to apply for placement on this roster is currently open and applications are due by May 31st. So it will be a more efficient, more equitable, and a better way to I think choose art moving forward, which I am excited about. And of course, the Maryland State Arts Council is leading that effort. So thank you, Madam Governor. Thank you, Mr. Hickey.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you very much.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Madam

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Comptroller. So if there is no further discussion, may I have a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: So next let's proceed to MDOT Agenda. Good morning, Ms. Radomsky, please proceed.

MS. RADOMSKY : Good morning, Madam Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, I am Valerie Radomsky, Chief Procurement Officer for the Department of Transportation. Today the department is presenting 15 items. MDOT is awarding six contracts valued at approximately \$9.8 million to a variety of certified minority, small, and veteran owned small business enterprises. We have representatives available to address any questions that you may have about our materials.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you. Is there any discussion on the MDOT Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

MS. RADOMSKY : Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: All right. So let's go

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ahead and conclude with the DGS Agenda. Good morning, Secretary Chaudhry.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Good morning, Madam Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, my name is Atif Chaudhry, Secretary of the Maryland Department of General Services. Today the department is presenting 41 items on our Agenda. We have three items that are supplemental items, those are Items 39-IT, 40-IT, and 41-IT. We are withdrawing Item 19-S. Our Agenda features over \$7 million in capital grants and loans, including, and I wanted to highlight Item 2-CGL. It is a \$1 million grant to the Frederick County Crisis Stabilization Center. It is a really well needed and really important service to the community. This grant will support the renovation of a county owned facility to house a new crisis stabilization center for that area. This new Frederick County Crisis Stabilization Center is scheduled to open this summer and will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It will provide an alternate to hospital services for those experiencing psychiatric issues, substance use disorders, and other crises. And it will reduce the burden on both first responders, as well as hospital emergency departments. So very well needed and very important. So with that, I am happy to answer any questions you may have. We also have agency representatives available for some items as well.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Secretary Chaudhry. Is there any discussion on the DGS Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Madam?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Mm-hmm.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you so much, Secretary Chaudhry, for being here. I understand that the County Executive Fitzwater wanted to join us to highlight Item 2, and so thank you for sharing how important this stabilization center is to Frederick County. I know they have been working very hard on it for a long time, and I won't repeat everything you just said. But it

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certainly will fulfill Frederick County's collective vision I think of a continuum of care structure for those experiencing mental healthcare and substance abuse. So I'm excited to see that.

Mr. Treasurer, do you have any questions before I go to my next one?

TREASURER DAVIS: I do not.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. I do have some questions as well on Item 29, the security guards contract, if we could flip to that? Thanks. Lieutenant Governor, or sorry, Madam Governor, we are being asked to approve a two-year, \$43 million contract for three firms to provide armed and unarmed uniformed guard services at State facilities. I have certainly gotten to know the DGS guards at the Treasury Building, who are wonderful. And I just have a couple of clarifying questions for the Secretary.

So first, Mr. Secretary, my understanding after reviewing all the materials, and there was a lot, is that this is a contract that supports an established practice of the State to contract for these specific services. So in other words, these jobs are currently contracted out. These are not jobs that are currently held by State employees and we're outsourcing them. They are currently held by contracted security guards and this is just a new contract, is that correct?

MR. CHAUDHRY: That is correct, yes.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Can you explain how this contract is different than the previous contracts? I know in your item you talk about the fact that you believe a consolidation of some of the contracting provides for opportunities but also provides some cost savings from how it was contracted out before. Can you talk a little bit about that?

MR. CHAUDHRY: Absolutely. Thank you for the question, Madam Comptroller. So this, currently we have over 60 contracts statewide

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across all State agencies for these types of guard related services. And just to confirm, these services have been provided via these types of contracts for 20-plus years. So there's currently no State employees providing these types of services. So there is contract management, obviously, a lot of overhead and management issues managing 60-plus contracts. And any time there is performance related issues, there can certainly be opportunities and times that we have to do an emergency contract to fill the void when one particular contractor is not able to perform services. And a prime example of that is the last Board of Public Works meeting, we came with an emergency report for armed services for the Rosewood Center because that particular vendor was not performing.

So this particular item approves one statewide contract with three vendors that will provide for more efficient contract management for these types of services. And it will also help because any time there is non-performance with a vendor, we will be able to use another vendor to coordinate. And I do want to also make a note that we are not canceling all the existing 60-plus contracts. As those phase out over time, we will be shifting over to this particular contract.

So and this procurement was a small business reserve procurement. So there are three certified small businesses that are serving as primes. And one particular prime will be, is a certified MBE, so an MBE certified prime on this. And we will have a 15 percent MBE subcontracting goal for two vendors, and 16 percent MBE subcontracting for the third vendor.

And there are some cost savings here. So based on estimates for payroll, taxes, training, the offeror is estimating a cost savings to the State of approximately \$6 million a year.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Versus the current contract?

MR. CHAUDHRY: Correct. Versus the current 60-plus contracts.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Right. Right. Okay. Yes, that's

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helpful. Okay. And then I also want to be clear, though, that, you know, these are still, they are guarding State buildings, they are not State, they are not technically State employees. But you know, these, this is State tax dollars going to them and it's not a good use of State tax dollars to underpay people to not provide a living wage. So I do want to, I have the RFP, so I just want to be clear that living wage requirements do apply pursuant to § 4.28, and that there is a few other items, their guard uniform expenses, employers have to pay the cost, maintenance, and upkeep of their uniforms and cannot pass those costs on to employees as a deduction from wages. And then it lists holidays. And then I understand as well that they will be provided healthcare insurance, you know, health insurance and everything else that we would expect and that otherwise would, you know, end up being, you know, let's face it, when we don't pay people appropriately, it may look like a cost savings at the front end, but on the back end it means they are eligible for, you know, services, they are not getting paid what they are worth, they may not have good healthcare coverage, so it really behooves us to make sure our employees and our contractors are taking care of people who work through us and benefit from tax dollars. Is that, would you agree with that?

MR. CHAUDHRY: Absolutely. Here, employees will be entitled in accordance with the RFP to sick and safe leave benefits, full benefits, health, dental, life insurance, paid vacation and sick leave, employee referral bonus, FMLA, and other leave benefits as well, jury duty and other things. So all the benefits that we would typically want are included in this RFP and are required for these employees.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I appreciate that. And I know that you and other secretaries are looking at potential insourcing of some of these types of jobs in the future, correct?

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MR. CHAUDHRY: Absolutely, yes.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I appreciate that.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Yes, we are committed to doing sort of an assessment, a feasibility assessment over the initial term of this contract to sort of see what it would be for insourcing, and you know, the cost benefits, and do that analysis.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you so much, Mr. Secretary.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Absolutely.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Madam Comptroller. Sure, Mr. Treasurer?

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you, Governor. Mr. Secretary, I just wanted to I guess clarify or verify that we are still with our State agencies emphasizing the importance of MBE and so forth. Because as I was looking through the various contracts, and I know it can happen from time to time, it just sort of works out that way, almost all of these contracts have zero MBE participation in them.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Well, thank you for that question, Mr. Treasurer. You know, we are working very closely with all of our State agencies, with other partner State agencies, to look at where we can implement MBE requirements, especially for subcontracting. This particular example here, 29-M, is a prime example of that, where we've got 60 spread out contracts that we are consolidating to enforce that 15 percent MBE and 16 percent MBE requirement for this large scale statewide contract. So absolutely looking at different avenues. Consolidating, but at the same time taking a look at statewide contracts that we could break down into smaller contracts that could be more suitable for those small businesses as well as MBEs. So we are looking at that across the Board for

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all State agencies.

TREASURER DAVIS: And I appreciate that. I know sometimes it will, it is easier to just pick up option years and so forth and keep going rather than to go through the painstaking details of doing a new procurement. But as we have said repeatedly, MBE participation is a top priority for the members of the Board. And I just want to make sure that, you know, everyone knows that we are serious about that and that we're watching. Let me just put it that way, that we are, you know, we are hopeful that it is as big a priority for the agencies as they are for the members of the Board.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Absolutely. And DGS and the Office of State Procurement is absolutely committed to that and making sure that we are coordinating to do that. And we are also closely monitoring all procurements coming in for review to make sure that these RFPs, IFBs, etcetera, do include these types of provisions.

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you, sir.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you for raising your concerns, Mr. Treasurer.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: So may I have a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you. So just -- thank you, Mr. Secretary Chaudhry. And just another point of privilege, I just want to thank the entire BPW team for all of your excellent work that you do each

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and every day for the people of Maryland. And a special shout out to Manny Walsh from the Governor's Office for the exceptional work that you do as well. So that concludes today's meeting of the Board of Public Works. The next meeting of the Board is May 3rd. Thank you for everyone that has joined us today and we are now adjourned.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 10:34 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)