
STATE OF MARYLAND
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

April 5, 2023
10:09 a.m.

PRESENT

HONORABLE WES MOORE

Governor

HONORABLE DERECK DAVIS

Treasurer

HONORABLE BROOKE LIERMAN

Comptroller

JOHN GONTRUM

Secretary, Board of Public Works

ATIF CHAUDHRY

Secretary, Department of General Services

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

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning, everybody.

ALL: Good morning.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Hello everybody, hello. Happy Home Opener Eve, for all those who celebrate. We are very excited to be here. And thank you all and welcome to today's Board of Public Works meeting. Why don't we go ahead and get started with the business of the day, and so first up is the Secretary's Agenda. Mr. Secretary, it is good to see you again. Good morning, and please proceed.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Good to see you, Governor. Good morning. Good morning to you, Mr. Treasurer and Madam Comptroller. We have 16 items on the Secretary's Agenda this morning and four reports of emergency procurements. At the request of Morgan State University I am withdrawing Item 16, leaving 15 items on the Secretary's Agenda and the four reports of emergency procurements for your consideration this morning. I'm happy to assist with answering any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much. Thank you Secretary. I just want to call quick attention to Items 14 and 15, and that's MES. And I'm not sure if Mr. Glass is here. But if not, I just want to call attention to the fact that now going on two straight years, MES has actually not just hit, but actually exceeded its procurement goals for MBEs. And I want to just give a special shout out to them, because not only is it good, because now we know that they are going to hit it again this year because they have shown how it's done, they are also setting a really important example to all of our departments and to all of our agencies about the fact that this work is not only important, but it can be

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done and it can be accomplished.

Oh, there he is. We're just giving you a shout out.

Congratulations. And I'll say it, that's how Alphas do it too --

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: -- but we were saying congratulations on two straight years of hitting the MBE goals and showing, again, not only are we excited that you all are going to hit and exceed it again this year, but also showing that it can be done. And what that looks like. And so we just wanted to first start off and just to say, just to say congratulations and thank you for the leadership. And keep holding the light high, Mr. Alpha, keep holding the light high.

DR. GLASS: Thank you so much, Governor.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. Is there any other discussion for the Secretary's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: All right. Outstanding. So next up is the Department of Natural Resources. And before I recognize -- Secretary Kurtz, you can start moving up. Before I recognize Secretary Kurtz, I want to note that today, April 5th, is also the 140th celebration of Arbor Day in Maryland, and the 151st anniversary of National Arbor Day. And thank you to Manny, for the tie for the acknowledgment of it as well. Arbor Day encourages communities to plant trees to expand our green spaces and to learn more about the care and the cultivation of Maryland's beautiful forest lands. And so today, seedlings and

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potted plants from DNR's Maryland Forest Service, and so the Maryland Forest Service will be planting almost a half a million seedlings over 1,000 acres this spring to help create a brighter future for Maryland's environment. You've got a lot of work, but really exciting work. And our State is truly proud to partner with natural resource industries and small businesses that contribute to the production of Maryland's growing economy. And also, equally important, we do also want to acknowledge and thank the efforts and the commitment of the Maryland Forest Service in ensuring that Maryland forestry remains an absolutely thriving industry and an important one here in the State of Maryland. And so when we conclude today's BPW meeting, the Comptroller, the Treasurer, and I will present Secretary Kurtz and his team with a Governor's Proclamation proclaiming today as Arbor Day in the State of Maryland. And so with that, I'd like to recognize Secretary Kurtz to present the DNR Agenda. Good morning, and it's great to see you.

MR. KURTZ: Good morning, Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, my name is Josh Kurtz. I'm the Department of Natural Resources Secretary. Today, the department has 13 items for your consideration. Before I touch on them, I just want to just briefly touch on Arbor Day.

An incredible opportunity for us to work with communities. I mean, the list of partners we have, I couldn't even begin to go through. We would be here all day. It's schools, it's nonprofits, it's businesses, it's some of our largest corporations in the State that we're able to actually get so many of these trees out into the landscape, into communities.

The trees you have here are Eastern Red Buds, a native species, beautiful. I've got some in my yard, they actually have a little bit more of a purple bud, so red bud is a little bit of a strange name for them. Big heart-shaped leaves, fantastic understory, you'll see a lot of birds in those.

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So on the Agenda, I just wanted to call your attention briefly to three items. For 1A, for the City of Frostburg Parris Glendening Recreation Complex, this is a really exciting one for the department. We worked with the Maryland Small Business Direct Install Program from First Energy to actually get rebates for some of the upgrades that we're doing to the system there for their light complex, for their recreation complex. And it was a significant cost savings for the State. I'm really excited about that one.

Also, I want to call your attention to 6A in Howard County. This is an important project and something we really like to focus on with our local governments. That's connecting pieces of parks. And so this is a much longer term plan that we are working with them on to really connect.

And the last one, because it is Arbor Day, that I wanted to call attention to is 10A. This is in Allegany County in our Greenridge State Forest. This is an incredibly important place for the trees of Maryland. And a really interesting history in that this was very subdivided into small parcels, parcels for orchards, parcels for timber. And so what you have here is a 10-acre parcel, which was originally an orchard parcel, that we're bringing into the Greenridge State Forest system. So we're very excited about that. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No discussion. It's great to see the General Assembly moving forward with the Forest Conservation Act as well. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Any discussion?

TREASURER DAVIS: No, we're good.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Thank you. And may I have a

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motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much, Mr. Secretary. Next up, University System of Maryland. Mr. Hickey, it is good to see you again, sir. Good morning, and please proceed.

MR. HICKEY: Good to see you. Good morning, Governor, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller. Tom Hickey, representing the University System of Maryland. Two items for your consideration this morning, and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No questions from me.

TREASURER DAVIS: None for me.

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you very much.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. And let's proceed with the MDOT Agenda. Ms. Radomsky, good morning. It is great to see you. Thank you so much.

MS. RADOMSKY : Good morning. Great to see you as well. You're welcome. Good morning, Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, I'm Valerie Radomsky, Chief Procurement Officer for the Department of Transportation. Today, the department is presenting 13 items.

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MDOT is awarding three contracts valued at approximately \$3.4 million to certified minority, small, and veteran owned small business enterprises. We have representatives available to answer any questions you may have about our materials.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Do you have comments?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes, I just, thank you so much, Ms. Radomsky. I just, I don't have any questions or concerns. I just want to talk for a little bit about last month's work zone accident along Interstate 695.

You know, first and foremost, I think we all agree that our hearts go out to the families and the loved ones of the six Marylanders whose lives were tragically lost as they were simply doing their jobs on behalf of the State. We know that from 2017 to 2021, there were 7,521 work zone related crashes in Maryland, and last year 11 people lost their lives working for us.

You know, critical initiatives like the Maryland Safe Zones Program and Move Over Law are supposed to keep our motorists and workers safe on Maryland roads, and I know that Administrator Smith, with emails, they know he is working on examining additional ways to improve work zone safety and I fully support those efforts to prioritize the safety of our roadway workers.

And as we prepare for National Work Zone Awareness Week later this month, I just want to ask Marylanders to slow down. You know, these people have lives, they are doing work on behalf of the public. You know, the alternative is to shut down entire roads so that we can keep people safe. But this can't just be a cost of doing business in the State of Maryland. So just please show down. It's better to arrive late than not at all. And thank you to SHA and our contractors for working to keep our workers safe. Thanks.

MS. RADOMSKY : Thank you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you, Governor.

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GOVERNOR MOORE: -- Thank you, Madam Comptroller. And you know, and I know that for this administration, for Ms. Radomsky, for Administrator Smith, and this entire administration, we absolutely share your concerns on this, about roadway safety, and particularly when it comes to construction sites and for our workers. I had the opportunity to speak with the families of the six workers who passed away due to this tragedy, and our Lieutenant Governor had the chance to attend the funeral services for the victims. And you are absolutely right. It's not just a heartbreaking tragedy. It served as a very unneeded reminder about the fact that we've got to do more and there is more work to be done to make sure that the roadway is safer for both the workers and also the motorists there. And so we are grateful, we're grateful not just for your comments, but also for the fact that this administration, I know, is moving swiftly to be able to deal with this exact issue. So thank you so much.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: With that, is there any further discussion on the MDOT Agenda? Okay. May I have a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much. And let's conclude with the DGS Agenda. Good morning, Secretary Chaudhry, great to see you.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Great to see you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Please proceed.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer, for the record, I am Atif Chaudhry, the Secretary of the Maryland Department of General Services. Today the department is presenting 42 items on the Agenda. Items 36-IT-MOD, 36-IT-1.1 (37-IT-1.1), and 39-GM have all been

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revised. Our Agenda features over \$7 million in capital grants and loans. And I did want to highlight Item 13-CGL, that provides \$2.5 million in needs assessment and critical planning renovations at the Kennedy Krieger's LEAP Program, which is Lifeskill and Education for Students with Autism and other Pervasive Behaviors. And this program serves students aged five to 21 years of age with the autism spectrum disorder and/or cognitive and behavioral challenges for these individuals across the State of Maryland. Agency representatives are here and available to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thanks. Great work. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. And I would actually like to call up Item 41-RP, which is a request from the Maryland Military Department to declare the Pikesville Readiness Center as a surplus property. And it is my understanding that we have two individuals who have requested to speak in support of this item who are here today, Ms. Shelly Morhaim and Mr. Barry Williams, the President and Vice President of the Pikesville Armory Foundation. Ms. Morhaim, good to see you.

MS. MORHAIM: Good to see you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: It's good to see you. Welcome and please proceed.

MS. MORHAIM: Thank you, Governor, Madam Comptroller, and Mr. Treasurer for letting us speak. I'm Shelly Morhaim from Baltimore County, the President of the Pikesville Armory Foundation. And just to give you very briefly, the Armory is a 14-acre campus with over 200,000 square feet in several buildings on the campus, right in the heart of a mature neighborhood and an ailing commercial corridor in Northwest Baltimore County about a half a mile from Baltimore City.

In 2017, after the Armory was decommissioned by the Maryland National Guard, Governor Hogan appointed a Commission on the Future of the

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Pikesville Armory, which included elected officials, community leaders, and different groups in the community. And out of that, that was like a three-year process that included community meetings, focus groups, interviews, and an online survey that had over 1,500 respondents. And from that emerged a unanimous vision of keeping the Armory as a public asset as a community center for the people of not just Pikesville, but the whole northwest area, City and County. Out of that came the Pikesville Armory Foundation, which was founded in 2020 from a coalition of nonprofits in the community, the Boys and Girls Club, the Veterans of the Pikesville Armory, the local regional chamber of commerce, the 1,000 Friends of Pikesville, and the local rec council. And we have been working with our local, State, and federal officials. We have thus far been granted \$12 million towards the project and today's declaration of the Armory as surplus is the first step, really, in the Armory transformation. So we're very excited about it. And let me introduce Barry Williams, our Vice President.

MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning, Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. My name is Barry Williams. I'm the Vice President of the Pikesville Armory Foundation. I come in support of the Pikesville Armory becoming surplus. The release of this property is the first part in fulfilling a need and for many a dream for community members in Northwest Baltimore. As a member of the Pikesville Armory Foundation Board, I am excited with the possibilities the Armory has with this 14 acres and six buildings that it will provide for a community that is lacking in so many services available to most other communities in Baltimore County. The multifunctional Armory Place, as we envision it, will service the County and the City in the northwest area. A lot of listening to community members and careful thinking, along with the community driven Governor's commission, has gone into the planning. We have selected Thibault Manekin of Seawall to be the developer to help realize our

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goals. Speaking for the community, we are eager to get started. I extend an invitation to all of you to take a tour of the facilities and see through our eyes the many possibilities for this property. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: I know this has been a very real priority for many groups, for local leaders, for community groups, for Statewide officials. And it's not just because of the merits of the project. It is because of how you all have gone about this. This has been a truly community engaged process, where you have brought the community together and heard ideas, thoughts, concerns, hopes, aspirations. And what is being presented here is a fulfillment of that. And so I know I'm excited about this. Our administration is deeply excited, and we are grateful that you all came to Annapolis today to talk on behalf of it. Thank you.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

MS. MORHAIM: Thank you.

TREASURER DAVIS: I would also like to say to Ms. Morhaim, say hello to my favorite doctor, one of my favorite doctors.

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: And sir, could you say hello to my favorite Speaker?

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Congratulations on all this work and amazing persistence. So it's really exciting. Thanks.

MS. MORHAIM: Thank you.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thanks.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you both very much. And we have one additional speaking request in support of Item 8-CGL, which is a \$1 million capital grant to Baltimore County for the South Marlyn Avenue project. And

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representing -- good morning -- and representing Baltimore County government is Ms. Lauren Buckler, who is the Deputy Director of the Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation. Ms. Buckler, it is great to see you and please proceed.

MS. BUCKLER: It's great to see you. Thank you, Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. It's great to be here. I bring thanks from Baltimore County, from County Executive Olszewski. We are very excited about this opportunity. This project came from our data driven approach from Baltimore County staff, where we get a whole bunch of agencies together and look at challenges and try to find solutions. So we had some areas in Baltimore County where we've had a whole lot of challenges that overlap in a certain area and we have had all the departments trying to figure out what can we do to move the needle in that area and make it better. So from the Department of Public Works, we had the opportunity for this one section where you can tell there is a high density residential area. There is no connectivity across the highway to get to where there is shopping centers and transit. And people have made their own path, but that path is not the most welcoming path. There is not lighting, there is not a sidewalk, it is trash strewn. So this is an opportunity to really connect this community to opportunities. And we're really excited for your support. We are also optimistic about the future and further support for this project for the construction moving forward. So this phase will be the design and the real estate acquisition. So thank you for that.

And thank you for the other projects that we have listed, Highland Trail, which is six miles that will connect Guinness Brewery to the Patapsco Light Rail Station, so you will have the opportunity to be safe and visit the brewery. Also, the Eastern Boulevard Streetscape Project is another opportunity to help some areas of our community that have had some challenges and revitalize that

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community with some maintenance to that area. And the County Home Park is a turf field for our rec and parks, and Dogwood Park is an opportunity for mountain bikers in a certain area of Baltimore County where we don't have those opportunities currently. So thank you all for your positive consideration of these items.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Well, we are -- thank you for being here. We are excited about this initiative, about how this continues to, you know, how it continues to making sure that these types of assets are just open and available to everybody within the County. And so the State is excited to support the South Marlyn Avenue Project and other projects on the Agenda, and also please give our best back to the County Executive.

MS. BUCKLER: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Are there -- well, before, are there any other comments on the DGS Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Oh --

GOVERNOR MOORE: On this specific --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Not on this specific --

MS. BUCKLER: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Any other comments on the DGS Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I just wanted to, thank you, Mr. Governor, just call out DGS Agenda Item 17. I'd like to offer my kudos to DGS. This is of course the architectural and engineering services for our new Maryland Supreme Court Building. And for those who didn't notice or didn't see, there are some really amazing changes to this building and to the project, which is removing natural gas from the project and making it all electric heat source. And, you know, I just think this really demonstrates the State's commitment to

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achieving our sustainability and climate resiliency goals through our capital projects. So I thought it was worth calling out. Kudos to you and the team. You know, I think we at the Board of Public Works want to continue to encourage our State agencies to share progress on your efforts to build climate resilience and sustainability into our buildings so they last for generations to come. Thank you.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Thank you, Madam Comptroller. We're actually working towards all of our capital projects, shifting them to electrification for these new major renovations and construction projects so we get off our dependency on fossil fuels.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. Any other discussion on the DGS Agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: I'm good.

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the DGS Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Thank you so much. That concludes today's meeting of the Board of Public Works. I would like to ask Secretary Kurtz and the DNR team to stick around for a photo and with the members for the Arbor Day Proclamation. Happy Arbor Day to everybody.

(Whereupon, at 10:31 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)