STATE OF MARYLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

August 2, 2023 10:06 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

EMILY WILSON

Program Manager, 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. Please take a seat. All right. Good morning.

ALL: Good morning.

GOVERNOR MOORE: It is wonderful to be here with all of you, and I also want to give a shout out, and I know we're joined here by a few Delegates and members of the Legislature. It is wonderful, wonderful to see you back in your house, and also really nice to be able to see how you guys continue to make things beautiful downstairs as well. So we're very, very excited for January, too.

And also, I'm seeing over there friends Mayor Becker and Greg Pecoraro. It's great to see you both and thank you for being here as well.

And so, with that, we'd like to go ahead and get going with the Agenda. So Mr. Secretary, good morning, and it's great to see you. Please proceed.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Thank you, Governor. Good morning to you, and good morning to you, Mr. Treasurer and Madam Comptroller. There are 17 items on the Secretary's Agenda this morning and one report of emergency procurement. I'm happy to assist with answering any questions.

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No comment. GOVERNOR MOORE: If not, may I have a motion to approve? COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the Secretary's

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Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And is there a second? TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much, Mr. Secretary. Thank you. And we will proceed with Department of Natural Resources. Ms. Wilson, it is wonderful to see you. I know Secretary Kurtz is sick and probably watching this. So hello, Mr. Secretary, and Ms. Wilson it is wonderful to see you here and please proceed.

MS. WILSON: Good morning. Thank you, Governor, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller. Emily Wilson with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. We have eight items on our DNR Real Property Agenda today. I'll be happy to try 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 questions.

TREASURER DAVIS: No.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And if not, may I have a motion to

approve?

Agenda.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the DNR

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Ms. Wilson --

MS. WILSON: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: -- thank you so much. Thank you. And

next up, University System of Maryland. Mr. Hickey, good morning, good to see you.

MR. HICKEY: Good to see you. Good morning, Governor, Mr.

Treasurer, Madam Comptroller. Tom Hickey, representing the University System of Maryland. There are six items for your consideration this morning and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Thank you so much. Any questions? Is there a motion to approve?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved. GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second? TREASURER DAVIS: Second. GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Mr. Hickey --MR. HICKEY: Thank you very much. GOVERNOR MOORE: -- thank you so much. Thank you. And

we'll proceed with the MDOT Agenda. Ms. Radomsky, great to see you. Good morning.

MS. RADOMSKY : Governor, good morning. Good morning, Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, I'm Valerie Radomsky, Chief Procurement Officer for the Department of Transportation. Today we are presenting 14 items for your consideration. We have representatives available to answer any questions you may have pertaining to our Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Perfect. Thank you so much. Any comments or questions?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I have a couple of comments. GOVERNOR MOORE: Please.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you so much, Ms. Radomsky. I just wanted to note on 1-E-MOD, I know it's a modification, but I just wanted to highlight how important it is for the MAA to invest in this green infrastructure. I'm really excited about these EV buses and I think at the Board

we're all committed to ensuring that the power of the procurement process moves the State closer to its net zero goals and commitments. And MAA investing in the tools and training to support those battery electric bus purchases is really key to transitioning their entire fleet. So good luck to MAA and its staff. I'm sure MAA staff can then, you know, we'll be able to learn in our other modes as well, like when MTA moves to its EV bus fleet can learn from MAA and the training that they did. So that's great to see.

And I just had one other comment, 4-AE, the Maryland Port Administration. I just wanted to make a couple of quick comments about Items 4 and 5. I was surprised to see a relatively low MBE participation goal for these items. I recognize that these were solicited under a previous administration. You know, thank you for allowing us and, you know, working with, MTA shared with my team the justification for the goals and that they received sign-off from both the MTA Office of Fair Practices and the Procurement Review Group. We certainly rely on the knowledge and expertise of our procurement officers. But also we want to make sure that we aren't settling and that we're pushing to do better in this area. I don't want agencies, you know, to be scared to miss a higher target or that a higher goal would be a stretch. We need to stretch if we're going to change and change the culture here. You know, most primes aren't going to go above and beyond the stated contract goals. So we have to find the right balance, right? We have to set that balance. We can't rely on our primes to do it. So we have to set that balance between determining what is achievable and aspirational to keep pushing the envelope. So I hope that all the modes at MDOT will take that seriously in moving forward with our RFPs and appreciate your responses to our requests.

MS. RADOMSKY : Yes, absolutely. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you for that comment, too.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Sure. GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much. Are there any other comments for the Agenda? May I have a motion to approve? COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve. GOVERNOR MOORE: And is there a second? TREASURER DAVIS: Second. GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much. Thank you, Ms. Radomsky. And we'll conclude with the DGS Agenda. Secretary

Chaudhry, good morning.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Good morning, sir. Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, I am Atif Chaudhry, Secretary of the Maryland Department of General Services. Today the department is presenting 21 items on the Agenda. Our Agenda features over \$11.7 million in capital grants, including a few I want to just highlight here. I wanted to highlight Item 1-CGL. It provides \$500,000 in support to parking lot repavement and infrastructure improvements to the Bowie Baysox Stadium in Prince George's County.

I also wanted to highlight Item 3-CGL, which provides \$3 million in State funds to support the partnership between Baltimore County and Tradepoint Atlantic to build a very well needed new county park in the Sparrows Point area. This will result in a new 22-acre park, which would include a 16,000square foot community center with a double court gym, two community accessible activity rooms, and concession areas, a full size synthetic turf field with LED lighting, a 10,000-square foot playground, ADA accessible fishing pier and kayak launch, and a scenic walking path.

Item 5-CGL provides \$650,000 to support the Howard County Veterans Foundation for the Howard County Veterans Monument for Vivian C.

"Millie" Bailey Park on the Downtown Columbia lakefront. Vivian Bailey served as a first lieutenant in the United States Army during World War II. She attended the Adjutant General's School at Fort Benning, Georgia and she was one of only two African American women in that class. And it was the only time she served in a non-segregated environment during her term and time of service. This item brings total State support for this monument to \$900,000.

We've got two capital grants also for our State's community colleges. One is Item 7-CGL, which provides \$1.1 million to Cecil College for constructing a second multi-lane entrance to the campus to connect the campus core for vehicular and emergency service access, bringing the total State support for this project to \$10 million.

And also, lastly we're going to highlight Item 8-CGL, which provides \$2.1 million in State support to Montgomery College in Rockville to renovate the first three floors of the Macklin Tower, which houses their campus library. It is a full interior renovation and reconfiguration with modernization upgrades that is well needed.

Keeping an eye on MBE participation and goals, our Agenda also includes two contracts with new awards or modifications, two contracts with MBE prime contractors, totaling over \$16 million.

We've got agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: That's great. Thank you so much, Mr. Secretary. And you know, I'd like to actually highlight a couple of items on the Agenda.

First thing, I just want to give a quick shout out on Item 2-CGL, which is \$175,000 in capital funding to the legendary Mack Lewis Gym in Baltimore. And I know a place the Comptroller also knows very, very well.

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Since 1951, this gym has been producing champions. And you know, when we say champs it's folks like Vernon Mason, Hassam Rahman, and also even Muhammad Ali even trained there. But it's also just about the impact that it has had on the community. It's about the fact that, you know, it has served as just such a core foundation for so many of the kids who have found their way inside that gym, that have given them not just a great boxing experience but also just tremendous life skills. They have given a wide range and they have a wide range of programming inside of Mack, to include programs focusing on the arts and, you know, how to deal with Post Traumatic (Stress) Syndrome and folks who are dealing with tremendous levels of violence inside, but also knowing that there's ways of targeting that, pushing that. And you are really coming up with a safe space for people to be able to grow and learn and families to be able to just to flourish. And so I wanted to highlight that and say thank you for that.

I also want to give a special shout out to one that you just highlighted. But I want to just add on another hear hear on there, and that's Items 7-CGL and 8-CGL, and those are the capital grants to support both Cecil College and Montgomery College. And I know that I am very biased, because anything that comes up about community colleges always holds a very special place in my heart, being also a two-year college grad. But this is, these are really, really important grants. Especially because these institutions play an incredibly vital role inside of our communities and an incredibly vital role within our society. I know earlier this week, our Lieutenant Governor, Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, met with the Maryland Association of Community Colleges to underscore the administration's support for the 16 community colleges and learn more about their priorities and things that we can do to work together. We should be very proud as a State, that we have 16 community colleges in our State, many of whom will actually educate more than even the four-year institutions, educate more

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students than the four-year institutions within the State of Maryland. And we also could not be more proud that for MHEC, which is led by Acting Secretary Sanjay Rai, has held several community college leadership roles and is the first ever, first ever, Acting Secretary of MHEC to come from a community college. And so we think that is an incredibly not just important statement, but his perspective brings a unique level of leadership and insight into that role. And so I know that for the administration, for my colleagues on the Board, we are proud to continue to support and partner with our community colleges, to support and partner with their students, and to make sure that they have the resources that they need to be able to continue to educate us going into this next era.

The final piece I would like to call up is Item 10-C. It is a \$4.2 million contract to the Berg Corporation to demolish the Bard Building, which is located in the heart of Downtown Baltimore and is owned by Baltimore City Community College.

It has been 14 years since BCCC shut down its operations at the Bard Building. And during that time, this building has fallen into significant disrepair. And so today, this Board is taking a critical step to be able to finally demolish the vacant building, allowing BCCC, under the absolutely visionary leadership, by the way, of President Debra McCurdy, and great to see you, Madam President, who really has a real clear vision as to how we are thinking about the future of that site and what it's going to mean not just for BCCC, but also what it is going to mean for Baltimore as a whole. And as the planning for the post-demolition use of this property progresses, my administration is committed to working in partnership with President McCurdy, with BCCC, with members of this Board, this Legislature, this City leadership, and other critical stakeholders to make sure that we are actually advancing the plans that are going to strengthen BCCC's mission of providing quality, affordable, and accessible

education for generations to come. So we are very excited to see what is in store for this property; the role that it's going to play in Downtown Baltimore; and to continue the dialogue and the engagement for many, many years to come. And we are delighted that President McCurdy is here today, and so Madam President, we would love to invite you to come up and to say a few words, if you would like, about the importance of this project for BCCC and also Baltimore as a whole.

DR. MCCURDY: Good morning. Good morning, Governor, and Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis as well. It's our pleasure to be here. We can't tell you how thrilling it is for us to be here. And Governor, for you to also speak so fondly about community colleges and how near and dear they are to your heart. I was aware as well that you were also a graduate of a two-year institution, and where would this State be without the 16 two-year institutions?

But I arrived at Baltimore City Community College in 2019, right in the middle of transitioning the Bard Building to I think higher ground and taking a good look at what needs to happen. It is very clear that the building needs to be demolished and we need to move forward with the vision and the options and the opportunity for Baltimore City Community College to serve the youth who are here, the City, State. We are the community's community college and we certainly make that very clear. But certainly I have to express my very strong appreciation to DGS and Secretary Chaudhry, at this point as he transitioned very quickly to assist with the DGS team and to move this project forward. And we just can't be more thrilled to move forward and then to begin to introduce to this community I think the larger vision for what could happen at the old Bard site as well. So things are moving along. I think that we have done well with the community. We have done some outreach with the community. We intend to continue with those dialogues as well about this property. And in the interim as the site will be moved to a green site, which certainly will help the

vision of what has to happen on that corner.

So we are very pleased that this 160,000-square foot property will now be demolished and we can move forward to that next phase for Baltimore City Community College as well. So we do thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you, Madam President.

DR. MCCURDY: Are there any questions? We do have staff who are here as well, or I will be very pleased to answer any questions that you have.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you. Thank you so much for coming, President McCurdy. Thank you for being here. Thank you for your leadership of such an important institution to our, not just to our City, but to the region and to the State. Now, I would, you know, proud to be a Delegate from that area. I literally passed that site every single day. So I'm really excited about reimagining it and I really appreciate your commitment to working with partners and the community around next steps, and look forward to supporting you and the needs of BCCC going forward. So thank you for everything.

DR. MCCURDY: Well, we thank you. And our office has had a great deal of contact with your previous office, as you represented many of the students in the community and had direct conversations with us. So we do thank you for that as well. But Governor Moore, we can't express our very, very strong appreciation for your leadership and for the vision that you are bringing into the State as well.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Well, bless you.

DR. MCCURDY: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Bless you. Thank you so much, Madam President. Thank you. Thank you. Is there any further discussion on the DGS Agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: Two items, please. First of all, I'm sorry, I

should have -- 14-S, can we pull that to the, can we defer that to the --

GOVERNOR MOORE: The DGS --

TREASURER DAVIS: Yes. It's Item 14, 14-S.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Yes, DGS respectfully requests withdrawing

Item 14-S.

TREASURER DAVIS: Yes.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay.

TREASURER DAVIS: And then the second one, I just had a

question. What is the Love Wins Movement? I want to see where we're going with this.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Yes, sorry. Yes, Item 4-CGL?

TREASURER DAVIS: Yes.

MR. CHAUDHRY: I believe we've got Deirdra Bell on the line virtually that chime in (indiscernible) on this particular project.

TREASURER DAVIS: I mean, I was just curious as to what it

does. I don't have a problem with it. I was just wondering what it does.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: I am not seeing Ms. Bell online.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Not seeing her -- oh, well, we're happy to

follow up with you off the line --

TREASURER DAVIS: Sure. That's fine.

MR. CHAUDHRY: -- and provide some background on this particular project.

TREASURER DAVIS: -- keep going.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay. Great. So the Agenda, sans 14-S,

is there a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes, and I just had one other

comment --

GOVERNOR MOORE: I'm sorry --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: -- and then I will move it forward for sure. I just wanted to highlight the good work that Tradepoint Atlantic is doing. We have two, you know, two pieces in here. First, of course, the park. And then the money for dredging to accommodate the demand for larger ships, which is so important because it will give a significant strategic advantage to Baltimore as a world class destination port. So I wanted to highlight that, thank them for their work, and also make a quick point, you know, about the park. I'm really excited about the park that is going in. Not a huge fan of artificial turf. So I'm just going to put that out there for all the county execs. The women's soccer team that is playing right now demanded that they not be forced to play on artificial turf, and so, you know, would love to see us really thinking through our decisions about the field. I say this as a mom of kids who are playing on turf as well. So I hope that we'll make sure that we're keeping the health of our kids for, you know, at the forefront of this decision making and not necessarily the economics always. So but thank you so much and I'm excited to approve these items --

MR. CHAUDHRY: Thank you --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: -- with that, I will --

MR. CHAUDHRY: I just wanted to give the Treasurer a quick update. For the Love Wins Movement, it is an organization that provides support and housing for women in recovery.

TREASURER DAVIS: Oh, okay.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: That's great.

MR. CHAUDHRY: -- some additional background --

TREASURER DAVIS: That's fine. That's fine. And I just hadn't heard of it before and was wondering what it was.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And I move the DGS Agenda, without Item 14.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

Well, that concludes today's BPW meeting. And the next meeting will be on

August 23rd. Have a great day, everybody. Thank you so much.

(Whereupon, at 10:26 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)