
STATE OF MARYLAND
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

June 21, 2023
10:07 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

JOSH KURTZ

Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

VALERIE RADOMSKY

Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Transportation

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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CONTENTS

Subject	Agenda	Witness	Page
Maryland State Library Agency Grants to Various County Public Library Systems	SEC 12, p. 18	John Gontrum Weston Young	4
DNR Agenda	DNR	Josh Kurtz	8
USM Agenda	USM	Tom Hickey	9
DOT Agenda	DOT	Valerie Radomsky	10
Grant to Board of Directors of the Garrett Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 10,077, Inc. and Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Friendsville	DGS 1-CGL, p. 98	Atif Chaudhry	11
Cybersecurity for Small Business Pilot Program Mitigation/Remediation	DGS 18-IT, p. 134	Atif Chaudhry	12
Cybersecurity for Small Business Pilot Program Scanning	DGS 19-IT, p. 137	Atif Chaudhry	12
Grant to Board of Governors of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, Inc.	DGS 37-CGL, p. 194	Atif Chaudhry Liz LaCorte Kristen Greenaway	12
Pharmacy Benefit Management Reverse Auction Platform and Professional Services	DGS 21-IT, p. 142	Atif Chaudhry	14

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PROCEEDINGS

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning.

ALL: Good morning.

GOVERNOR MOORE: It is great to see everybody here for our Board of Public Works meeting. And so without further ado, we'll go ahead and get started. Mr. Secretary, good morning. It is great to see you, and please proceed.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Good morning, Governor. Great to see you as well. And good morning to you, Mr. Treasurer and Madam Comptroller. There are 16 items on the Secretary's Agenda this morning, although at the request of Morgan State University I am withdrawing Item 14, leaving 15 items total on the Secretary's Agenda for the Board's consideration this morning. I'm happy to assist with answering any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful. Thank you very much. And so just briefly, I want to highlight Item 12, which directs \$9.4 million to support the capital projects for ten county public library systems across the State, and that also includes the construction of three new libraries in Anne Arundel, in Calvert, and also in Garrett Counties.

I wanted to highlight these just because of the important role that public libraries play, that public libraries, they serve really as a heartbeat of our communities. They are completely woven into the fabric of our State and the fabric of our society, and where each and every day you have Marylanders of all ages that are using the wide range of resources that are available to everybody. That they are collection spots, that they are meeting spots, that they serve as job retraining and job reskilling centers, that they serve as food distribution, that they

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serve as the place where people go and apply for jobs. They really serve as our community hubs and they really are just the crown jewels of our communities.

And I tell you, I have personal stories around the importance of libraries, where I was a kid who really wasn't that into reading when I was younger. Frankly, and I don't say this with a great deal of pride, but I was one of these kids who just was not reading at grade level. And it wasn't because of a lack of comprehension. It was a lack of interest in the comprehension, frankly. And my mother knew that I was very much into basketball and not much into reading. And so, she figured that a solution was that she went to the library and she found a book called *The Fab Five*. I don't know if you all know, but *The Fab Five* was a book about the University of Michigan basketball team. I don't talk about it a lot because now they are a Big 10 rival --

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: -- but they were a legendary team. Where it was the first time that you had the top five players in America all go to the same school. This was back in the day when freshmen didn't play, where freshmen sat. And they watched the upperclassmen play. And not only did these five freshmen play, they all started, and they took the team to the national championship in their freshman year. And they played with a swagger that looked very familiar. Because, you know, when I really learned how to play basketball from my friends in the Bronx. And when you looked at the kids, the guys from the Fab Five, Jalen Rose, Chris Webber, Jimmy Jackson -- Ray Jackson, Juwan Howard, and Jimmy King, they all had shaved heads and they all had baggy shorts and they all talked trash. And it wasn't the familiar college basketball that people were used to. But they were outstanding. And my mother got me this book from the library and I went through it in two days and she was shocked. And like when she would ask me questions about it, she would literally

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ask, like I was offended, like no, Jalen Rose wouldn't say that. Like I knew Jalen Rose. But I was like defending these guys, right? And then she knew she was onto something, and then she kept on getting me books. And then eventually, that turned into, you know, Whitman, and James Baldwin, and Coelho, and Younger, and Coates. And it inspired this passion, and frankly this insatiable desire for learning. And she got it from a library.

And so I just cannot say enough how important these institutions are to our communities, to our families, and frankly to our societal well-being. And so I am very proud of the investment that the Board is making today. It is incredibly important and I want to thank the Maryland State Library Agency for their continued leadership, for their continued partnership, with our local jurisdictions, and also just the incredible public servants that serve in our libraries every single day. So Madam Comptroller --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Oh, sure. I can't rival that story. I did spend a lot of afternoons after school at the Tenleytown D.C. Public Library and the librarians were very patient. But that's a fantastic story about reading. And but I think, you know, I just also wanted to echo everything that Governor said. This is an incredibly important initiative. And these ten grants totaling almost \$10 million will help provide really important updates and renovations to essential services that we offer to the public. And I think when we invest in public buildings like these, it really demonstrates to the kids and to members of the community where our values as a State are. And so we can show them that we value reading, we value learning, we value our public spaces by investing. And so I commend State Librarian Irene Padilla for her dedication to overseeing the County Library Capital Project Grant Program, and I'm excited to see the renovations come to life. Thanks.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Amen. Amen. And I know we also have

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the Worcester County Administrator Weston Young, who is joining us as well, and who is speaking in support of the new Pocomoke City Library. And I know Senator Carozza and Delegates Hartman and Otto have also written to the Board to express their support of this new funding. But Mr. Young, it is great to see you and we are very pleased to have you here.

MR. YOUNG: Hey, thank you so much. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. For the record, I'm Wes (Weston) Young. I'm the Chief Administrative Officer for Worcester County. With me, I have the President of our Commission, Chip Bertino, and we have some representatives from our delegation here as well.

In Item 12, there is a sentence about deferring one project and that is the Pocomoke Library. I'm asking, I'm before you today to ask that you do not defer the funding for the proposed Worcester County Library in Pocomoke City.

When we originally started this project, we planned to build the new library where the current over 50-year old library is now. After discussions with Pocomoke City leadership, we tried to do a win-win and put it where they have an old armory building. The old armory building is beyond repair and also when it was transferred from the State, contains a reversion clause. So it has to maintain a public use after if they do demolish it.

Unfortunately, the city has failed to obtain funding for demolition of the armory building and the county also has some concerns with the prior use, military and police purposes, of that site that we feel upon construction we may hit more snags. So with that, we wish to no longer delay the project and we are moving back to our original site.

The design of the building perfectly fits on both sites. So we are not losing any time in the design of the building. That is the bulk of the design time. Parking lot, stormwater management, that can move around. But that is

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fairly minor. Our design team firmly believes that the funding allocated by the State, as well as the county's match, can be adequately disbursed within fiscal year 2024. We mean no, absolutely no disrespect to the Maryland State Library Agency. We appreciate their support of this project and other projects. And if we hadn't started with this original location in mind, and if we had to redesign building, I get a deferring being prudent. But in our case, we feel we can move forward and spend the money adequately.

Pocomoke City is a disadvantaged community. They need a new library and we and the commissioners ask that you do not delay this project by deferring funding. So thank you for your consideration and I appreciate your time.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much. Thank you for being here and we look forward to working closely with you to get this project moving. So thank you.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Any other comments? No? May I have a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. So thank you so much. And next up, the Department of Natural Resources. Secretary Kurtz, as always it is great to see you, and good morning.

MR. KURTZ: Good morning, Mr. Governor, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller. For the record, my name is Josh Kurtz. I am the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. And today, the department has 13 items for your consideration. My staff and I are available to answer any questions you

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might have. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Is there any discussion for the DNR Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No questions. Thank you.

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Move to approve.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: All right. Thank you so much, Secretary Kurtz. Next up, University System of Maryland. Mr. Hickey, as always, good morning. It is good to see you.

MR. HICKEY: Good to see you, Governor, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller. Tom Hickey, representing University System of Maryland. We are presenting six items for your approval today. Item 7 is being withdrawn at the request of Senator Rosapepe.

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved, Items 1 through 6, is that right?

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yes.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay. Perfect. Thank you so much, Mr. Hickey.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you.

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GOVERNOR MOORE: And let's proceed to the MDOT Agenda.
Ms. Radomsky, good morning, it is great to see you.

MS. RADOMSKY : Good morning. Great to see you. 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 17 items. MDOT is withdrawing Item 18-M at this time. We have representatives available to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Move to approve.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: This is going way too well.

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: I could have stayed home.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: No, you couldn't.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much, Ms. Radomsky. And you too, Mr. Treasurer. As always, last but certainly not least, we will conclude with the DGS Agenda. Secretary Chaudhry, good morning.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Good morning. We want to keep this momentum going.

(Laughter.)

MR. CHAUDHRY: Good morning, Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, I am Atif Chaudhry, Secretary of the

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Maryland Department of General Services. Today, the department is presenting 37 items on our Agenda. We are withdrawing three items, Item 6-AE-MOD, Item 24-IT-OPT, and Item 29-IT 1.1. Our Agenda features \$2.7 million in capital grants and loans. I just want to highlight two very quick ones.

Item 4-CGL provides \$1 million to the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Company in Montgomery County for the purchase of a new pumper engine firetruck. \$150,000 was previously awarded through a capital grant for this purpose. And they will be using the remaining funds to make this purchase of a new firetruck, desperately needed.

And Item 37-CGL, which provides \$1 million to Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum for the purpose of a new multipurpose facility in Talbot County. This new multipurpose facility will be an energy efficient, fully ADA-accessible building. And the facility will double the amount of space, usable space, and house the museum's welcome center, the museum store, and three exhibition spaces.

And as we keep an eye on our awards to MBE providers, whether they are subcontractors or primes and MBE compliance, our Agenda also includes seven contracts with awards to MBE prime contractors totaling over \$7.4 million.

We have agency representatives available to answer any questions you may have.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Mr. Secretary, did you say you are withdrawing 21-IT, the pharmacy benefit management --

MR. CHAUDHRY: No, it was 29-IT, just 1.1.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Great. Thank you. 1.1, okay.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. And Mr. Secretary, there are a couple that I just want to call attention to. One is Item 1-CGL, the Garrett

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Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars and the design and repair and the renovation of the veterans memorial. I just wanted to flag that and also to say, you know, how important it is, especially, you know, for areas that we just continue to remind folks of the sacrifice that people are making and the continued debt that we owe.

I also wanted to highlight 18-IT and 19, which are the contracts being entered into by the Department of Commerce, and that is six certified small businesses to provide a wide range of cybersecurity risk assessment services, and all qualifying as small businesses within Maryland.

I want to highlight that because last year the Department of Commerce was pleased to be awarded the Cybersecurity for Small Business pilot program. And that is funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration, which is supported by an initiative within the Department of Commerce. Each qualifying small business will be eligible to receive up to \$10,000, and that is for scanning, assessment services through this initiative. And this is at a time when we continue to see that cybersecurity threats and attacks are increasing, where every single day there are new reminders of the importance of making sure that we are vigilant and that we are being aggressive. And this is a partnership, and this partnership with the USSBA is just absolutely critical in order for us to be able to accomplish that mission. And so I wanted to commend our colleague Secretary Anderson as well, and his team at Commerce, for the leadership on this initiative. Because there are many programs like this that are tailored toward small businesses that are going to be important for not just economic growth, but also for larger security implications.

And we also have a speaker request in support of Item 37-CGL, which is a \$1 million capital grant for the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. And along those lines, we have Liz LaCorte, who is the Chief Advancement

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Officer at the Maritime Museum, who is joining us virtually today. There you are. Hi Liz, good to see you.

MS. LACORTE: Good to see you, too. We also have with us our President Kristen Greenaway. I think she is popping on right now. She might be having trouble getting on. But I did want to say, thank you very much for the opportunity to say a few words today. Governor, it was an honor meeting you when you were here back in August and we really enjoyed the two-page spread in the *Star Democrat*. We hope you will come back and visit. And we do hope that, Comptroller and Treasurer, that you will come and visit us as well at some point.

This welcome center is incredibly important to the success of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, and we are very grateful to the State of Maryland for your support of this facility. And I wanted to let you know, these funds were critical to this new facility. We had to pre-order the necessary steel, which during the height of COVID was double, \$2 million, the cost. And we pre-ordered it with these funds at a time when manufacturing was slowing and shipping was problematic at best. So this has been a true game-changer for us and we are incredibly grateful. Now I see my boss is here, so I will turn it over to Kristen Greenaway. Oh, Kristen, we can't hear you.

MS. GREENAWAY: -- on mute. Governor, Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis, many thanks, as Liz has mentioned, for your support. Secretary Chaudhry as well, thank you very, very much. We are extremely grateful. As Liz mentioned, these funds were absolutely critical to the construction of the museum. It gave us the ability to be able to pre-order the steel for the facility, because (indiscernible) actually at the beginning of the pandemic, the cost doubled overnight and we were able to get the steel delivered a couple of months before we actually needed it. So it's a key component, this welcome center, in meeting our five-year strategic objectives of doubling admissions

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(indiscernible) to be the major economic and community driver for the State of Maryland and out of state business and in our local communities. We are not just a museum doing education work, but we do the shipyard apprentice program and the other programs that we offer like that, that's what distinguishes us in many respects from many other communities in the United States even. So again, many, many thanks for your support.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. And thank you both for making time. Thank you for your leadership. Thank you for the example that this is setting. And we really are, we're very excited to partner with you on this exciting capital project and beyond. So thank you both. Thank you.

MS. GREENAWAY: Thank you very much.

MS. LACORTE: Thank you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I just wanted to say, I love the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. I went there on my honeymoon, which I spent in St. Michael's. So it's great to see you. I'm excited about seeing what you have done. It has been a little while. So thanks for all your leadership in this space.

MS. GREENAWAY: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. Is there any further discussion on the DGS Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Just one item. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Governor, 21-IT, that's why I was like, are you taking it out? I wanted to just highlight because it is the first key step in implementing the Maryland Competitive Pharmacy Benefits Manager Marketplace Act, try to say that three times quickly, which I was really pleased to support. And I believe the Treasurer supported in 2020. I want to commend Secretary Grady and the Department of Budget and Management for working through this RFP and selecting SkySail

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Concepts, which will be the State's technology partner, to conduct a reverse auction for pharmacy benefits management. And I think the goal is that this new process will help to contain prescription drug coverage costs by moving away from the current complicated system to one that requires benefit managers to bid against each other for the lowest cost proposal. And so I want to thank Delegate Bonnie Cullison for her, for co-sponsoring this, for her leadership, and I'm excited to see Secretary Grady and DBM really start helping to fulfill the promise of this legislation, hold SkySail, you know, accountable to make sure that this works and to make sure that we are moving forward and lowering prescription drug costs for Marylanders. So thank you. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much. Mr. Treasurer?

TREASURER DAVIS: I just wanted to acknowledge my former colleague from the House of Delegates, Delegate Tiffany Alston, who is with us today.

(Applause.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: We also have a few other delegates here, if you all want to just stand up or wave or something.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: It's like we're calling the General Assembly here.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: This is not a special session.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. Bad joke, sorry. Is there a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

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GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much. Thank you. And this concludes today's BPW meeting. The next meeting will be on July 5th, so thank you all so much for being here. Meeting adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 10:28 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)