
STATE OF MARYLAND
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

March 1, 2023
10:02 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

SEAN POWELL

Deputy Secretary, Department of Transportation

JOSH KURTZ

Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

THOMAS HICKEY

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

JACOB DAY

Secretary, Department of Housing & Community Development

LISA GRIGSBY

Recording Secretary, Board of Public Works

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PROCEEDINGS

GOVERNOR MOORE: Well, good morning, everybody.

Welcome to today's meeting of the Board of Public Works. I'd love to go ahead and get started with the business of the day, so first, Secretary Gontrum, good morning. And it's good to see you and please proceed.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Thank you, Governor. Good morning.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Good morning, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller. There are 13 items on the Secretary's Agenda this morning and one report of an emergency procurement. I am withdrawing Item 12 at the request of the St. Mary's College of Maryland. We do have one request to speak. It's from Delegate Bob Long on Item 8, that's the Department of Housing and Community Development loan for the Merritt Station II project in Dundalk. I'm not seeing Delegate Long in attendance yet. So the Board --

GOVERNOR MOORE: He's probably on the floor --

SECRETARY GONTRUM: -- other items, perhaps.

GOVERNOR MOORE: -- I guess he can do virtual, I think he'll do it down virtually.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: I'm not seeing Delegate Long on the virtual attendance list. So I can let you know when he arrives.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay. Wonderful. All right.

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Mr. Governor, may I just make a quick comment?

GOVERNOR MOORE: Please.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I just wanted to comment, and sort of commend DHCD and the developers of these projects. Several of them that are listed here all discuss the sustainability of the projects, the high efficiency HVAC units, Energy Star, and that they all meet national green building standard guidelines. So it's great to see that when we're doing this work with Rental Housing Works programs, we're doing them for the long term and in a sustainable way. Thanks.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Hear, hear. Hear, hear. And so with that, I'd like to call up Items 6 through 8, which are requests from the Department of Housing and Community Development to award more than \$10.4 million in loans through the Rental Housing Works Program, and \$3 million through the Partnership Rental Housing Program to support three projects in Dundalk, in Hanover, and also in Edgewood. Both the Rental Housing Works Program and also the Partnership Rental Housing Program are absolutely critical. They have been critical, they have been effective State initiatives that really do provide funding for projects that create preservable and preserve affordable housing rental units in communities all across the State. And joining us to speak about this today is our fabulous Secretary of Housing and Community Development, Secretary Day, who has been just an incredible and innovative leader in this space well before becoming the Secretary. And we are glad that we now have his leadership on a statewide level to continue to push this work forward. So Secretary Day,

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great to see you, and please proceed.

MR. DAY: Governor Moore, it's a pleasure to be here with you, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer, it's a pleasure to be with you this morning. Thank you as always, Governor, for your comments. And it's very nice to see the three of you in these roles.

So I'm joined virtually today by Mr. Ed Barnett, Director of Rental Lending for the Community Development Administration of the Department of Housing and Community Development virtually. So he may have more information if you have detailed questions, but I'll do my best.

This morning I have three items to present for your consideration. Each is an award of loan funds to close a gap enabling the financing of development of affordable housing units. The first of these items is Agenda Item 6. This is the Eagle Park Senior Vistas. This is part two of a two-part development project in Hanover, Maryland. As you can see, there are two phases to this project that the State is involved in, that we propose to be involved in. First is an order of \$3.5 million from the Rental Housing Works Program. The second is a Partnership Rental Housing Program loan of \$3 million. The two of these vehicles simultaneously are used in many projects to enable closing that gap that exists in many of these projects.

As the Comptroller pointed out, there are insurances that this project will be sustainable, sustainably developed. Would you like me to go through each of the three before taking any questions or --

GOVERNOR MOORE: Absolutely, please do.

MR. DAY: Okay. The second of these projects is Merion Village

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Senior Apartments in Edgewood, Maryland, Harford County. This is a \$3.4 million Rental Housing Works Program loan. \$3.5 million is the current cap in the asset so the \$3.5 million you see in the first is at the maximum. The \$3.4 million obviously very close to it. This is a total budget \$24 million project. As you can see, the previous was a \$25 million project.

And the third of these is in Dundalk. This is the Merritt Station part two development. This has been an ongoing project that the State has been involved with. And the loan amount for this one, also Rental Housing Works Program loan, is \$3.5 million. I'm happy to take any questions that you have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much, Mr. Secretary. Do we have any questions for the Secretary?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Important program. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful. Thank you so much. Thank you so much. And great work.

MR. DAY: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great work. I appreciate it. I believe we do not have Delegate Long on the line, that's correct? Okay. So if that's the case, we'll move on, if that works for you, Mr. Secretary. And as we move on, before we go on to any further items for discussion, I just want to acknowledge somebody, and that's Mr. Daquan Wallace and also his mom, who was, you know, one of the people that we'll be hearing about in a second for his settlement. But I just want to say it's great to have you here and great to have you both here, and thank you so much for being here with us.

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May I have a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

TREASURER DAVIS: If I can, I wanted to ask a question on Item 13.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Item 13 is the settlement request from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (indiscernible) and Mr. Wallace. We have Assistant Attorney General Mullally available to speak with. We also have Secretary Scruggs available.

TREASURER DAVIS: Right. Who should I direct any questions to?

SECRETARY GONTRUM: It depends, Mr. Treasurer. So if it is questions about the underlying legal matter, the facts of the case, or the specific matter, I believe Assistant Attorney General Mullally is going to be the best --

TREASURER DAVIS: I'll tell you what. I'm going to just start talking and then both can jump in as, if it's their item, or under their jurisdiction.

So here we are again, \$7 million. \$7 million. Do you remember a couple of weeks ago when I was here and I was saying we were on pace for \$750,000? I was wrong. We're on pace now for about \$42 million. Granted, this isn't going to happen. But this is not a new issue. This is a long standing problem in which no one is really being held accountable. Let me ask my first question. We have read the facts of the case and I guess I can start with the Attorney General's Office. In the analysis of the plaintiffs' claims, this says we do not believe that the defendants were transferred at the behest of them or any other improper purpose, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera. But then when I read the rest

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of the case, it said that things were not properly documented, etcetera, etcetera. It seems to totally contradict what the analysis said. And it also says that they do not believe that anything was done inappropriately or intentionally, that these officers did anything. But if my information is correct, at the time that this occurred, 21 were already under federal indictment for corruption. So am I wrong to assume if you are under federal indictment for corruption that I'm supposed to believe anything else you say? But the question on this is, why do we believe that this didn't happen the way it is being reported, that everyone acted properly in this case? And also, it goes on to say that we do not believe a jury would believe that. Why would a jury find something different than what we believe? That the State believes?

MS. MULLALLY: Good morning, Governor Moore, Treasurer Davis, and Comptroller Lierman. I'm Laura Mullally. If the question is directed to me, because I authored the letter to the Board of Public Works, I'm happy to answer your question.

One of the matters is that in the State jury trial, in which I represented the State of Maryland, the jury concluded that State officers, and in this case it would have been the same officers that are charged in the federal case, Jackens Rene, Tamara Patterson, and Lisa Portee. The jury concluded that they did not act in concert to assault or batter Daquan Wallace. That is one piece. We have a jury of 12 people that concluded that, although they also concluded that the State was negligent in its training and supervision of officers and that State employees engaged in unconstitutional customs and policies and were deliberately indifferent under the State Constitution to Mr. Wallace.

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Walking through -- I'm sorry, did you want to ask a question, Treasurer Davis?

TREASURER DAVIS: Yes, those things sounded contradictory right there. On the one hand, they are saying, and I mean, I'm not even really talking about the jury. I guess I'm talking about the State's position. But on the one hand, we're saying that all sorts of things weren't followed and so forth. But there was no coordinated effort or -- how can both of those things be true? Either something happened or it didn't.

MS. MULLALLY: Well, we know that inmates, other inmates, attacked and injured Mr. Wallace. There are a few different reasons why that could have happened. But I think, Mr. Treasurer, what you are doing is you are asking a question about negligence versus deliberate indifference versus intentional or grossly negligent conduct. And certainly there was plenty of negligence in this case. The jury found that -- there was nothing in the record that I can dispute in terms of negligence. In terms of gross negligence, what my concern was, and remember of course that the federal case has not been tried. We had a trial date of January 9th. Because the parties reached a settlement in principle, it was taken off the court's docket. But if the settlement is not approved, the matter will go back on the court's docket. So there are federal claims that have not been resolved.

But it is harder to prove deliberate indifference, gross negligence, and intentional inflicting of emotional distress. And I think it comes down to, and it boils down to the intent of the officer. You can be negligent and not necessarily intend harm to another person. Having worked with the officers, having sat with

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them during their depositions and having sat with them through a trial, and I don't believe that there is evidence that they were -- well, we know that they were not linked to the corruption in the jail in 2013. None of these officers were indicted, nor were they drawn into those criminal cases. And to me, it's just a question of what inferences will a jury draw about the federal case? And you can start with Mr. Wallace, who is severely injured, and work back to whether or not the actions were grossly negligent, deliberately indifferent, or intentional infliction of emotional distress. Have I answered your questions, sir?

TREASURER DAVIS: Yes. And let me make clear, this isn't about, my questions really aren't about whether or not this award should be made. Yes, I am yes with that. So I want to be clear. But how do we, and I know it's not even for you, although I do have an additional question that maybe you or someone else can answer. But we keep ending up here. And so, see, and when I think of corrections again, for years when I was in the General Assembly, I heard complaints from that department and its representatives that we need more money, we need raises, we need, we need, we need. Here is your raise right here. Here is your additional personnel right here. We keep spending taxpayer money, money that could be going for more productive uses, and this isn't even, normally these things come out of the budget. Apparently this is coming out of the general fund. So we're taking needed resources, and my office is going to have some relevant information coming out next week where we will show that we need this money. But instead, we are paying it out for improper, unacceptable behavior. And it's okay. I'm curious, were any of the officers disciplined for this gross negligence and negligence or whatever we want -- was there any type of

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discipline? Or did they just get, close the jail, transfer them to another unit, and it was business as usual?

MS. SCRUGGS: So if I may, good morning, good morning Governor and good morning, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller --

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning, Secretary.

MS. SCRUGGS: -- all of the officers involved have since retired.

TREASURER DAVIS: No, at the time that it occurred in 2014.

MS. SCRUGGS: I'm with you. And me reviewing the case from 2014, there was no evidence of disciplinary action for those officers. However, we are clear that there were some improper use of standard operating procedure that may have precipitated to the result with Mr. Wallace. I do want you to know that in this administration and going through, we are holding people accountable. We have expanded our intel and investigation division to do more thorough investigations. We are actively disciplining these people at all levels, from counseling, to suspension, to termination based on inappropriate actions. And we will not stand for inappropriate action within our department. We want our department to be known as a department of professionals. And, you know, remove the stigma that has been put on our correctional officers. Because one or two does not represent our entire 6,000-some officers that we have that do a good job on a day to day basis. So know that going forward, while I inherited this and I take responsibility because it is mine now, going forward with this administration it is my goal that you will not see things like this.

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you. And I want to be clear, I'm not even, I'm not blaming this administration. This actually occurred before

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Governor Hogan's administration.

MS. SCRUGGS: Yes, it did.

TREASURER DAVIS: So I'm, it, at some point, it's not, we've got to get beyond, well, it's the Secretary's fault, it's the Governor's fault. No. These are individuals who know better, who know better. And we have to, they have to be held accountable. We're not going to rake the Secretaries over. They didn't do anything. These folks know better. They are the ones that are -- and I know the job is difficult. But they are, they accepted that responsibility and you have to have a certain level of accountability as a worker. And you can't hide behind the bosses or the union or whatever the case may be. This is on them and they have to be treated as such. And if they are aligning with certain criminal forces, then they need to join those forces as guests of the State, as far as I'm concerned. But and I'm going to let it go with this. My real reason for pointing this out is because this isn't going to keep happening. I'm going to keep bringing this up at every meeting, every time it happens. I figure the more I talk, the more they write. The more they write, the more people learn. And at some point, people are going to get fed up with this and then the blame is going to go where it is supposed to go, on those individuals. And I think if the spotlight starts getting on them and their actions and they are held accountable, then maybe we have a chance to stop wasting needed taxpayer dollars. So that's where I'm coming from. And every time something like this happens, I'm going to point it out so, again, so we can bring attention and a spotlight to it and try to clean this mess up. Because it's just, it's not acceptable.

MS. SCRUGGS: I agree with you, sir. And understand that

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moving forward, the department plans to move with integrity at all levels of the department. And some of the things that have been put in place since this occurred was extensive background checks now for correctional officers so that we can ensure the type of individual that we're getting to work inside of those facilities, and continual training, confrontational avoidance training is being done as part of in-service as well as part of the academy, and (indiscernible) is being done in both areas. So we are trying to ensure that we mold that correctional professional into just what we want them to be, professional. Understanding that these are human beings just like their loved ones that they are dealing with every day. And I expect them, they know the expectation of me is that I expect them to handle them as such with dignity and respect.

TREASURER DAVIS: I'm sure you are doing a great job. Believe me, my comments were not directed at you in any way, shape or form. So I wanted to be clear about that. You just happened to be at that podium. But by no means or matter was I referring to you or your team or this administration. As I said, I was talking about those individuals. They know better.

GOVERNOR MOORE: I can tell you, Mr. Treasurer, your frustration is shared. And your frustration I know is also shared by the Secretary. And I'm thankful because these types of issues, and being able to address these things, were of the highest priority in the process of, you know, first speaking with Secretary Scruggs about this. So we're thankful for the fact that, you know, in this time and in this moment, these types of issues can and they will be addressed. Your frustration is shared.

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you.

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GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. I have been made aware that Delegate Long from the 6th District is actually on the line right now. Oh, he's actually in person, in person. Even better. In 3D. Delegate, good to see you. And I know you'd like to speak in support of Item 8?

DELEGATE LONG: Yes, sir.

GOVERNOR MOORE: So please, please join us.

DELEGATE LONG: Thank you --

GOVERNOR MOORE: It's a bit of a maze to get in there.

(Laughter.)

DELEGATE LONG: -- a little different from the last time I was here.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning, Delegate.

DELEGATE LONG: Good morning, how are you?

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding.

DELEGATE LONG: It's a wonderful day. I want to thank Governor Moore, Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Merritt property II (-- my glasses on, it might be better). A new housing project that is proposed; it is Merritt Station II LLC. This project is in my district. We have a problem with overcrowding right now with schools and the roads. And I mean, there are several different conditions that we have. And I understand that this is for senior citizens, am I correct? Fifty-five, it's going to be age restricted? Am I correct?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes, it is an age restricted community.

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DELEGATE LONG: Okay. I wasn't quite clear, and that's why I'm here today, because I want to make sure that, you know, we don't put any more strain on our infrastructure. And you know, I figured, you know, our seniors definitely need help. They need housing, that's for sure. So I'm just going to be short and sweet, and I just wanted to share my constituents' concerns and make sure that, you know, to speak up about it.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much, and thank you for being here in person to be able to share your thoughts.

DELEGATE LONG: It's a pleasure.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you, Delegate. Any questions?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I'll just say, Delegate, it's nice to see you. We shared an adjoining boundary in our districts for eight years. And I'm certainly well aware of, you know, the need for schools and infrastructure, and also the need, the desperate need for more affordable housing in your district and my district, for senior housing, in every region of the State. So I am very excited to see these projects move forward and excited to see more affordable housing projects coming to the Board of Public Works under Secretary Day in the future as well. Because people need a place to live. So thank you.

DELEGATE LONG: If I might share, if this is going to be an age restricted project, will there be a covenant in the deed? So in other words, they can't change in the middle of the road, that we're going to rent it out to whatever? Because that creates a real problem for my district. Again, as you all know, our schools are overcrowded. And we want to make sure it is for age restricted only. And for, you know, just to make sure my constituents are protected.

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

DELEGATE LONG: Thank you. Thank you. Now, how do I get out of here?

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: 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. So let's move on to DNR Real Property Agenda. Secretary Kurtz, good morning. Good to see you. I saw you late last night and now early this morning, so I don't know when you were sleeping. But you are indefatigable and we have already seen that in the work you are pulling together. So thank you so much for joining us this morning.

MR. KURTZ: Thank you, sir. And it was a pleasure seeing the Comptroller and the Treasurer last night as well. Getting the tutelage on the BPW process was fantastic. Thank you very much for having me, Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, my name is Josh Kurtz, the Department of Natural Resources Secretary. The Department of Natural Resources is presenting five items today for your consideration. We have agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Please proceed.

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MR. KURTZ: All right. So we've got a set of playground work all across the State, as well as a few State side projects protecting property. They are in Anne Arundel County, Frederick County, as you see in Item 1 and 2. Item 3 is in Harford County. Item 4 is in Charles, Item 5 is in Frederick. That is a really exciting one, because we are actually matching some federal CREP property with our State side, so a lot of bang for the buck on that one.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And the landowner will be donating almost eight acres of property himself, too, I see.

MR. KURTZ: Yes.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: That's great. Exciting.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay. Are there any questions for the Secretary? These are great projects, Mr. Secretary. Thank you. May I have a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Mr. Secretary, great work. Thank you so much. Next up, University System of Maryland Agenda. Good morning, Mr. Hickey, good to see you.

MR. HICKEY: Good morning, Governor, good morning, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller. Tom Hickey, representing University System of Maryland. There are four items for your consideration this morning and we're happy to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Please proceed Any additional questions?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Just on the Frostburg State, I understand, I guess it's not a question but more just really excited about the public art and hopeful that in the future we can find public art from Maryland.

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MR. HICKEY: We actively seek local artists for all of our projects.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes, I know you do. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Hickey.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Only one question on the Coppin State piece. Is there a timeline that they have laid out for that for completion?

MR. HICKEY: I don't believe I have that information with me today. And typically for these general miscellaneous items we don't have folks on the line. I did for the Frostburg item because I thought there might be questions about the public art project. But I'd be happy to follow up with you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Thank you. May I have a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you very much.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much. Next up, the Maryland Department of Transportation. Deputy Secretary Powell? Good to see you.

MR. POWELL: Good to see you as well, sir.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good to see you.

MR. POWELL: To see all three of you. Good morning, Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, Sean Powell, Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation. We have 15 items today that we are presenting. We also have a supplemental item, 15-GM-MOD. We also have three contracts on our Agenda to be awarded to small, minority, or

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disadvantaged business enterprises for about \$1.5 million. I would like to highlight one of our items. It has a 24.1 percent veteran owned small business enterprise goal. So that was really exciting when we saw that. Normally it's like the one and two percent range, so it was a really good deal. So with that, we do have representatives available with any questions you may have and I'll turn it back to you, sir.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Well, thank you so much. And I'd like to briefly call up Item 15.

MR. POWELL: Okay.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Which is a request from the Maryland Aviation Administration to enter into a month to month lease agreement.

MR. POWELL: Sure.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And that is for Fraport Maryland to continue management of the airport retail and concessions and program at BWI Marshall.

As I mentioned last week, the MAA in the next coming weeks and months will be developing and releasing a new RFP and really establishing a process that is going to encourage robust competition, fairness, and provisions that align with our administration's values, as well as our short term and our long term economic strategies. I know, and (indiscernible) it's good to see you and the folks that are out here. I know that Treasurer Davis and also Comptroller Lierman and I, that we are in agreement that concerning the requirement for a labor peace agreement. And that also I can commit today that such a requirement will be a part of this new solicitation. That the, you know, when you think about the work of the Airport, you think about the work of BWI Marshall, it is an absolutely critical, absolutely critical economic engine for our State and also for our region. And the retail and the concessions program at the Airport, it is going

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to be a very key element to the growth and success of the Airport, and the growth and the success of the Airport, and I'm -- Ricky, it's great to see you. That the growth and success of the Airport is a critical part to Maryland's growth. And so being able to do that in conjunction, being able to get that coordinated, is going to be an important part for how this administration is going to move. It's, you know, the busiest commercial airport in the D.C. metropolitan region. And we need to make sure that we are being thoughtful. We need to make sure that we are being deliberate. We need to make sure we are being transparent about the RFP and its entire solicitation process. And so I want to thank my colleagues on this Board for their partnership and also for their patience as we conduct the new solicitation for this project.

With that said, are there any other comments on this --

TREASURER DAVIS: Since I have gotten on a roll here, one thing I am curious about, and is the month to month. How long do we think it will be before we get the next procurement out on the street, if you will?

MR. POWELL: Well, I'm not sure we have an exact timeline. We want to make sure that we nail it properly and get --

TREASURER DAVIS: Ballpark?

MR. POWELL: Ballpark? We don't have a ballpark at this time. Can I get back to you?

TREASURER DAVIS: No, that's fine. The reason why I bring it up is because I was just curious. There are 26 businesses that at the end of this month, their lease is up. And if I were them, and it's a month to month thing with Fraport, if I find another place where I can get more than a month to month lease, as we all say in business, or as I always hear, they want certainty. And at month to month, there is no certainty. You can certainly get 60 days' notice and be told we no longer want your business. So when you sort of have that hanging over

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your head, that at any point in time you can get that notice, if I can go to Reagan National or Dulles or someplace else, I'm probably going to do that. Because I can get certainty there. So I guess my point is, if it's a couple of months then it make sense. But if this thing is going to get anywhere close to a year, then why not do six-month leases or something that provides a little more certainty about, you know, for the business group. And that's all I really had to say.

MR. POWELL: And understood, sir. And you know, those are discussions that we have been having and Ricky -- hey, Ricky. Ricky is here.

MR. SMITH: Good morning, Governor, Madam Treasurer, Comptroller. I'm Ricky Smith, Executive Director of the Maryland Aviation Administration.

So to your question, sir, there are three subleases right now that expire over the next month or so. We certainly plan to have this issue resolved well before the other subleases come for expiration. We have worked very closely with our subtenants. We went through a pandemic with them. We gave them extensions. We gave them a lot of contract modifications. So I think they are pretty confident in the administration's support for them and I don't see them vacating because of the month to month.

TREASURER DAVIS: Okay.

GOVERNOR MOORE: I mean, it's a, I will say, Mr. Treasurer, I think it's a fair flag and I think it's something that this team also has been all over as well. Because you are right. While, you know, we want to make sure that we are doing this process and redoing this process accordingly and fairly, we are making sure that we are also staying on top of the unintended consequences of increased vacancies and what that could also mean in terms of measuring uncertainty. So it is an important flag.

TREASURER DAVIS: Well, they are the experts. And if they are

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comfortable with that, then I am fine.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And Mr. Governor, I just also want to applaud the actions that you are taking. You know, it's not ideal, of course. But I certainly recognize that this extension is a critical step to ensuring that the services continue to benefit the thousands of passengers that travel through BWI Marshall, the busiest airport in the region and also the best. And but also will express, you know, for the past eight years have been dealing with sort of frustration with Fraport's refusal to work with workers who want to be union and to have labor peace at the Airport. So I'm really thrilled that we're all partnering together to make sure that the new procurement solicitation include a provision on labor peace to ensure that all the hardworking men and women have a right to organize for better wages and working conditions. So thank you, Governor.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, both. Thank you both very much. Thank you both very much. May I have a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: All right. Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you, Deputy Secretary. Thank you. Thank you. And let's conclude with the Department of General Services Agenda. Secretary Chaudhry, good morning. It is great to see you this morning. Again, after a, also after another late night last evening. So great to see you. Thanks for your leadership and hard work.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Thank you, Mr. Governor. It's great to see everyone last night at MBE night. It was a great turnout. I was very, very excited and encouraged by that. So it was a great event. Good morning, Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, I am Atif Chaudhry,

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Secretary of the Department of General Services. Today, the department is presenting 35 items on our Agenda. We are withdrawing Item 30-IT, Section 3.1, and providing revisions to Items CGL-3 as well as CGL-19. Our Agenda features over \$20 million in capital grants and loans, including \$10 million for renovations for Sinai Hospital's emergency department, and \$3 million for Historic Annapolis to renovate the historic Brice House here in our beautiful Downtown Annapolis.

I also want to recognize that yesterday we wrapped up Black History Month and our Agenda today has three capital grant items that support African American history and culture in the State. That includes \$2 million for the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum in Baltimore City, \$200,000 for the African American Heritage Center in Frederick County, as well as \$300,000 for the International Black Firefighters Museum in Baltimore City.

We have agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have, and I'm happy to provide any detail as needed.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Well, first let me say on those final items, as a person who has not just visited but a fan of all of those, this is a great, great investment, great development. So thank you so much, Mr. Secretary. And it is also my understanding that we have one speaker signed up in support of Item 18-CGL, which is a \$500,000 capital grant for Riverdale Park, the Purple Line project. Kate Mazzara for the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation is joining us today as well. Ms. Mazzara, it is great to see you. Great to see you. Good morning.

MS. MAZZARA: Thank you, Governor, Comptroller, and Treasurer. And I'm just here on behalf of Prince George's County to say thank you so much for considering us for this capital grant improvement. It is going to make a difference in the Purple Line area of Riverdale Park. We are going to add some additional sidewalks to give those communities the access to the Purple

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Line that they really need. So we are very thankful for your consideration.

GOVERNOR MOORE: It's an important project.

MS. MAZZARA: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And we are talking about something that has the potential of not just having immediate, but generational impact on the State. So it's an exciting project. Is there any further discussion on the DGS Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes, Mr. Governor. On -- is Administrator Lamone or somebody from the Maryland State Board of Elections here?

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yes, thank you so much, Ms. Mazzara. Thank you.

MS. LAMONE: It's Linda Lamone, Administrator of Elections.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Hi, Madam Administrator, great to hear you. This is Brooke, you probably know that. So my understanding is that during the renewal period for this, for our current election system, and this is Item 29 on the DGS Agenda, that the State Board of Elections intends to draft an RFP to reprocur these services. Is that correct?

MS. LAMONE: We are going to be issuing an RFP for a new voting system, yes.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes. Great. Terrific. And you and I have discussed this before. This is nothing new. You know of my support and interest in ranked choice voting and frustration that our current system is unable to handle rank choice voting. And I just, you know, wanted to reconfirm with you that we have your commitment that that RFP will ensure that any future voting systems and election administration systems that are brought to us will have the ability to handle rank choice voting in the future?

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MS. LAMONE: Yes, you have my commitment, Madam Comptroller.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Great. Perfect. Thank you so much, Administrator Lamone for being here today and answering that. Thank you.

MS. LAMONE: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thanks so much for that. May I have a motion to approve the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: All right. Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: All right. Thank you all very much. We will see you at the next meeting of the Board of Public Works on Wednesday, March 15th in the Treasury Building. We are adjourned. Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 10:40 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)