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# **BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

*ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND*

**October 25, 2023**

**10:07 a.m.**

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# 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

**LAURA HERRERA SCOTT**

Secretary, Department of Health

**JACOB DAY**

Secretary, Department of Housing and Community Development

**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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# PROCEEDINGS

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning, everybody.

ALL: Good morning.

GOVERNOR MOORE: First as we begin, I want to say good morning and welcome. But also as we begin, I just wanted to ask everybody if we could just take a moment to remember the bravest among us. Last night, I know it was a long and difficult night where we just got word that a second firefighter who was involved in the firefighting in Baltimore last week valiantly lost his battle though, last night. And so what we have seen over this past week, both the lives of Rodney Pitts, III and also Dillon Rinaldo, you know, these are people who served, who raised their hand, who did the job and did the work. And while they are with the angels right now, we know that they have an entire State who is grateful for them. Any loss is deeply tragic, but when you lose those who devoted their lives to serving the public, there is something very profound about that, about them, that they didn't just give their lives serving all of us, but they gave their lives doing something that they loved. And we are grateful to them and their families. And we know that they are all with us in our hearts right now. So if we could just take a brief moment of silence just to remember Rodney Pitts, III and Dillon Rinaldo.

(Moment of silence.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you and may God watch over their souls.

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We will begin with the Secretary's Agenda. Secretary Gontrum, good morning and thank you so much. Good to see you.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Good morning, Governor, good to see you, and you, Mr. Treasurer, and you, Madam Comptroller. There are 15 items on the Secretary's Agenda this morning and three reports of emergency procurements. At the recommendation of the Board's Wetlands Administrator, I am withdrawing the St. Mary's County Department of Public Works and Transportation wetlands license from Item 5. The six other wetlands licenses remain on Item 5 for the Board's consideration this morning. I am happy to assist with answering any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much, Mr. Secretary. I would, I would personally like to call up Item 14, which is a request from the Department of Health. And that is to convert 188 contractual positions into 144 permanent positions.

Since day one, it has been an urgent priority for my administration to rebuild State government and to fill thousands of vacancies that exist within our State agencies. And these vacancies, the reason they have been a core priority is because these vacancies continue to compromise our ability to give the level of service that the people of our State need and that the people of our State deserve. And through this item, through the Department of Health under the truly visionary leadership of Secretary Laura Herrera Scott, this will seek to address the challenge through these PIN conversions. And you know, and we know that right now we continue to get through news media and through audits repeated reminders of a level of brokenness that existed within State government.

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Fiscal responsibility cannot simply be a buzzword. Fiscal responsibility cannot be something that simply sounds good. It has to be a core part of what we do in State government. And that is the trust that Marylanders have placed in us as we lead this State. The audit that we have read about, it just raises significant concerns about how finances were documented and handled at the Department of Health during the previous administration, under the leadership of the previous Secretary. And my commitment, and I think the commitment of everybody here, is to ensure that we improve fiscal discipline and that we use best practices to ensure that Maryland's government does better going forward. And it's not just within the Department of Health. It is throughout other departments, whether you are talking about Veterans Affairs, or Labor, or DNR collectively. We have got to do better and we have to make sure that fiscal health and fiscal responsibility is going to be something that we hold ourselves to. And we saw that throughout and following the COVID-19 pandemic, it became apparent that experienced and knowledgeable and a true public health workforce was essential to perform these critical State level functions and support the health and the safety of all Marylanders. And so in order to rebuild that public health workforce, the department continues to seek ways to reduce State government vacancies, improve employee retention, improve engagement. Because a strong workforce is going to be vital for all Marylanders to have a world-class equitable healthcare system. And by converting these contractual employees to permanent State merit positions, we are improving stability that is not offered by contractual employment.

So Madam Secretary, we are pleased to have you here. We are

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thankful for your leadership and the urgency that you continue to show to be able to address this, and thank you for your time today.

MS. HERRERA SCOTT: Good morning, everyone. Thank you, Governor Moore, Comptroller Lierman, Treasurer Davis. For the record, I am Laura Herrera Scott, Secretary of Health.

As the Governor stated, the action is to create 144 positions in the department to help improve stability for Marylanders that isn't afforded through a contractual employment to date. It is one of the few State agencies, the Department of Health, that truly serves Marylanders across the lifespan. And these 144 positions support a variety of core health functions and I just want to go through a few of the major areas.

So making sure Marylanders maintain their coverage via the State Medicaid program; certification of Maryland recovery residences that support adults with behavioral health conditions; issuance of birth and death certificates, so basic functions as well; protecting the public health and safety of Marylanders through quality oversight of our Maryland healthcare facilities; and ensuring individuals with developmental disabilities and their families are well-served through a robust continuum of care. These are just some of the major areas where these positions will be serving in the department.

I want to emphasize to the Board that this is budget neutral. We are abolishing 180 contractual positions in order to create the 144 regular positions. And Governor Moore, specifically to you, I just want to say I am grateful for your support as well as the support of Secretary Grady and her team at DBM for assisting the department. Thank you to the Board for its consideration

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of this item. Myself and several members of our team are here to answer any questions you may have about these positions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much, Madam Secretary. Thank you for your work, your leadership, and your commitment to making sure that Marylanders are getting what they need. So thank you so much.

Are there any further questions or comments?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No. I want to thank you for identifying these and bringing them to us. I think this demonstrates the administration's and your commitment to serving Marylanders better, and also to making sure that we are supporting our team. Right? Supporting the team members of all the agencies, supporting our employees, and our State employees, and making sure that they have the support they need to do the really important work that they can do. Oftentimes, I think some of these actions are not visible to the public. But they really matter to the functioning of our agencies. So I think it's such an important thing to be done to create a stronger and more efficient, too. This is in some ways, it really, it creates efficiencies in our government and in the administration of the services that we are doing when we have the staff that we need to do it and we don't have to contract out. And people can work side by side with their peers and know that they have the same benefits, they can earn the same pay. And so thank you for bringing this. It's really important.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you, Madam Secretary. Thank you.

TREASURER DAVIS: At the appropriate time, Governor, I'd like to bring up Item A3.

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GOVERNOR MOORE: A3? Now, if you'd like.

TREASURER DAVIS: Yes. If we are, for Item A3, the Federal Shutdown Loan Program.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Yes, Mr. Treasurer. This is a report from the Department of Labor of an emergency procurement contract award for an IT system to provide loans to Marylanders who are impacted by a shutdown of the federal government. We have Ms. Rachel Brash available from the Department of Labor and Mr. Daniel Newberger.

TREASURER DAVIS: Are they here or --

SECRETARY GONTRUM: They are virtual, sir. Ms. Brash, can you hear us?

MS. BRASH: Yes, I can hear you. This is Rachel Brash. We are also joined by Jason Perkins-Cohen, our Deputy Secretary, I believe, and my colleague Daniel Newberger is here as well.

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you. Let me start by saying this is an excellent idea, excellent thing that we are doing for our citizens here and I'm grateful for the program that's being stood up. My question, though, is regarding the MBE portion. I know the Department of Labor headed a 19.3 percent MBE goal, but then it was waived. May I ask why?

MS. BRASH: So our procurement officer Raelene Glasgow would be better able to answer that. But I can say that we were moving quickly on this procurement and it was important that we used a vendor that would be able to do the work as well as possible, as quickly as possible. This was a vendor that had done similar programs. They have a niche in emergency payments. So it was,

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given the timeframe, this was the best option available. So it's my understanding that that was the reason that it was waived. We recognize, and the vendor recognizes, the importance of that goal. This was the best option given the timeframe we were working within.

TREASURER DAVIS: Well see, my problem with that explanation is that I get it. When, because it's my understanding that's what they said when we thought the shutdown was going to be early October. Now, it looks like it is going to be mid-November. So there was an additional six weeks that they had an opportunity to solicit that vendor. It was my understanding that they were saying the timeframe was too short. Fair enough. But they got a six-week extension on it. And so did we go back to them and go, hey guys, we understood what you said at first. But now things have changed. So we need you to meet that goal. Or more importantly, did they go, all right, now with these six weeks, we can now meet the State's goal? Or did once we waived that, everybody just sort of moved on and despite the fact that the federal shutdown didn't occur at that time, there was no desire to go back and bring this goal to try to reach this goal. Am I understanding that correctly?

MS. GLASGOW: Good morning. Good morning. It's Raelene Glasgow. Am I being heard?

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Yes, you are.

MS. GLASGOW: Yes. I am the Chief of Procurement. And Mr. Treasurer, we did not -- I hear and I understand everything that you are saying. And the Department of Labor did not just simply not go back. But when we did sign this contract, it was prior to that Saturday when everyone found out the

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shutdown would be extended. But one of the -- because I did reach out to the vendor on at least two occasions asking them if there is anything that they could do to help meet this goal because I know the importance of the MBE goal and what the State is attempting to do. They did explain to us that they already had a segment of staffers who would be doing the work that the MBE goal entails. They are in a different State. They are not MBE. Taking the time to then find vendors who are outside of their realm would be another difficult situation for them. So based on the timeline that we had before knowing that the shutdown would not happen, looking at the timeline, taking into consideration everything that they have told us, we went ahead and decided to let the waiver stand.

TREASURER DAVIS: So in other words, they really had, this had nothing to do with a deadline. Just based upon the things you are saying, they never wanted to do the goal.

MS. GLASGOW: I wouldn't --

TREASURER DAVIS: If you are saying that they had people in house that could do it, and things of that nature, then the deadline really wasn't an issue. I mean, I get it that they put it out there. But based upon the additional information, that really wasn't a factor.

MR. PERKINS-COHEN: If I could just weigh in, thank you for bringing this to our attention. My name is Jason Perkins-Cohen and I am the Deputy Secretary. My apologies for having a little bit of trouble logging on.

We definitely hear you and your concerns, and I think during the orientation of the agency we take this extremely seriously and we are reviewing all of our contracts to see where we can strengthen our MBE commitments. This

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is, as you know, a very unusual procurement in that it is for the shutdown that may or may not happen. All indications were of course it was going to happen. You know, we all left the office on a Friday thinking that the shutdown was going to occur on Monday, and were all pleased that it didn't occur but the efforts and the procurement was essentially in place at that time. So we had to have it up and running for Monday. Changing the process in this short interval of six weeks was not something we thought we could undertake without risk to the system working as we want it to work if the shutdown does occur.

TREASURER DAVIS: Let me just sort of say this, and I'm going to try to get off of this. This is just how I see it from my nearly three decades down here. We all say that we support MBE because, well, it's the law. But we say we support it. You know, we put goals out there. But as soon as someone says they have a problem with it, as soon as someone says they have a problem with it, we are quick to just dismiss it, to give a waiver. And this has been going on for decades. If anybody says they have a problem with it, it's the first thing to go. The first thing to go. What I need is for our agencies to fight for MBE goals the way they would fight for their budget before the Appropriations Committee. See, if one of the delegates or senators go, well, we don't think you need this, you'll fight like hell for it. We need that same level of commitment to this program. Because there were two other bidders and if you said to them, well, if you can't do this, let me go, we're going to check with the other folks, I guarantee you they would have come back and found a way to make it happen. This is all one big game of poker and they are bluffing. And we get bluffed every single time. Every single time.

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We had a discussion here a couple of weeks ago where I mentioned with my office, we were told the same thing. And we had a bid up in three weeks. They just assumed that we wouldn't go without that contract for the length of time it would take to do a procurement. And we said, no, we'll send it out to bid. They came back two weeks later and figured it out. But you have to be willing to call their bluff. You have to be willing to say to them you will lose this contract if you can't make this goal. And if you are not willing to put them on their heels with it, they will keep telling us the same thing. And what's that old saying? If you keep doing what you're doing, you're going to keep getting what you are getting.

So for me, and I'll let it go at this, I can't vote for this for that reason. For that reason. Because I know, it's one thing if we did have that shutdown. But if we're going to have a relationship with folks, we need to be able to go back to them and go, hey, we just found out we have an additional six weeks. Now we need you to do that goal. And if there was any chance of them losing that contract, I guess it was \$615,000 or whatever it was, I guarantee they would have found a way to do it. But we didn't put the pressure on so they didn't have to do it. So this is, this is me taking a stand now. I can't continue for people to keep telling me they hear me, that you know, they support it, but they fold ten at first chance. The Board of Public Works, all three members are minorities, all three members. But again, it's not important enough for us to fight for it the way we might do some other things. So this is me fighting for it. I'll let the Governor and Comptroller go forward with this worthwhile program. But I can't support it as is. Thank you, Governor.

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GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. Thank you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Treasurer. And I think really important words and really well said. I especially love the analogy to departments fighting for their MBE, to meet their MBE goals in the same way that they fight for their budgets. Because it's true. And this can't just be about checking off the box. It has to be about business development and creating an economy that's inclusive of everybody. And that, when we strengthen our MBE goals and we actually meet our goals, we build a stronger economy for everybody in the State of Maryland. Last year, if we would have met our MBE goals last year, we would have infused over \$1 billion additional into MBEs throughout the State.

I want to talk a little bit about the federal government shutdown from the Office of the Comptroller's perspective. And I do want to extend my appreciation to Secretary Wu and Secretary Grady. Our agency has been at the table with them working over the past few months. Their teams have really led, though, in creating a collaborative approach to preparing for a shutdown that was of course narrowly averted at the end of September. Although we still don't have a Speaker -- I checked about a half an hour ago and we didn't -- and we are concerned that we won't be as lucky come mid-November, which is just a little over three weeks away. You know, we have been here before and we know all too well that a shutdown of the federal government would be catastrophic for Marylanders and their families, as well as our economy. As of tax year 2021, 352,000 Maryland households benefitted from either wages or pension income from the federal government, representing \$31 billion, or 10 ½ percent of all

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income earned in Maryland. It's a staggering figure. And a federal shutdown would cause delays in income payments to these households, would cause unnecessary financial stress for thousands of families. And without income to pay bills, buy groceries, and support their families, we also experience a slowdown in State tax receipts and reduced economic activity statewide. Moreover, payments to the State to fund services supported by the federal government cease or slow considerably, potentially impacting thousands of additional Marylanders through no fault of their own.

So while I am hopeful that our congressional partners will once again get a deal done and keep our federal government running, I do appreciate Secretary Wu and Secretary Grady for being proactive and making sure that we have the ability to carry out State statute and set up this program. It is an enormous amount of work, which we cannot do in house. We do not have the resources or the staff. And so it is essential that we make sure that we provide people with loans to live off of in case this unfortunate event happens. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Thank you so much, Madam Comptroller. And thank you. And I echo your, you know, your push in the urgency of this moment. It is embarrassing, frankly, that we even have to have a conversation about how a State now has to essentially fend on its own to be able to support the people of our State because of this massive amount of dysfunction that we are seeing within our Congress. And I echo and I give thanks to Secretary Grady and Secretary Wu, and everybody who has been involved in this work continually to make sure that despite what is going on down to our south that

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Marylanders are going to be okay and taken care of. And just know that it is a full State government effort to make sure that that is going to happen.

We will do a vote for Item A3 and we will separate that from the Agenda. And for those who vote yes on Item A3?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: I know that you are a no. I will provide a second, and then we will move forward with Item A3 on the Agenda.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: On the rest of the Secretary's Agenda?

GOVERNOR MOORE: Please.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Mr. Governor, I do just want to highlight the work being done by the Department of Housing and Community Development. You know, we know the tragic consequences that can occur when there are too many vacant homes, especially in Baltimore. But there is also a real housing shortage in this State. And so on the Secretary's Agenda, Items 10 and 11, I just want to applaud DHCD for their work. Not only will the Overlook East project provide 85 new units to low income households in Frederick, and 59 elderly units for The Greens at Irvington Mews, but they will also be built sustainably using green building standards. So I want to commend DHCD for detailing how the projects align with the State's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving water resources, and enhancing Maryland's environment. DHCD consistently shares on their Agenda items all the sustainability features of their projects, hint hint other departments, so does USM, making it known that the environmental impact of our procurements is just as

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important as the dollar value. You know and I know these are not projects that we're building for the next four years. We are building them for the next 40. And so it's essential that our dollars build resilient communities around the State. Thank you, Mr. Governor.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much, Madam Comptroller. And hear, hear. I mean, we are very excited to advance these projects that are going to expand affordable rental housing all throughout the State. We're proud of the sustainability components to the projects. And we have seen that, you know, my administration, that in partnership with the General Assembly, we have been proud to include \$55 million in the Rental Housing Works Program, \$6 million in the Partnership for Rental Housing Program in the FY 2024 budget. Because increasing access to affordable housing opens up pathways for all members of our State, whether it be home ownership or renting. That remains and will continue to remain a top priority for the administration, for this Board, for the General Assembly. And we look forward to continuing to support projects like these, and also continue to look forward to supporting the leadership that we have seen at DHCD. So my friend, Secretary Day, well done, sir. Thank you for pushing hard. And we really appreciate having you here as well.

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MR. DAY: Well, good morning, Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. Thank you all for having me here today. For the record, my name is Jake Day, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Community Development, and I come before you this morning with three items.

The first is an easement for a critical project. The second and third, as the Comptroller mentioned, are approvals of subordinate debt financing. Collectively, these three decisions will constitute approval and support for 1,490 new housing units in Baltimore and Frederick, including 1,040 affordable units for families, with 85 units dedicated to seniors making below 50 percent area median income. The State's investment in these three projects will total nearly \$437.8 million through tax credits and bond financing. Pending your approval today an easement and \$10.3 million in State funds will leverage additional private and philanthropic support totaling \$1.1 billion. In addition to that, it generates jobs. It generates tax revenue back to both local and State governments.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: We like that.

MR. DAY: That's a good thing. Yes. It's going right to you, Madam Comptroller. Specifically --

(Laughter.)

MR. DAY: Specifically, this includes the largest public housing project redevelopment in Maryland history in Perkins Somerset Oldtown. And it creates high quality, energy efficient rental units, 73 percent of which will be reserved for affordable housing, and the remainder of which market rate units. So we are simultaneously deconcentrating poverty without displacement.

Part of Maryland's pursuit of becoming the greenest State in America, all of these developments follow green building standards, including

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Energy Star rated appliances, windows, and lighting, water conserving toilets, faucets, and showerheads, and even solar panels on these projects. So pending your questions, thank you for your time this morning.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Can I give a final shot out on Item 9?

GOVERNOR MOORE: Of course.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I worked for years on the Perkins Home. And I am just so proud of where it's coming and that we're going to be providing Baltimoreans with amazing housing options that they deserve. So I'm a neighbor. And I'm excited about what's happening. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you, sir. Any questions?

TREASURER DAVIS: I'm good.

MR. DAY: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Mr. Secretary, thank you. Outstanding. We are very, very excited. So thank you so much. Is there any other discussion on the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Do I have a motion to approve the remainder of the Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much. We will proceed with DNR and their Agenda. Secretary Kurtz, good morning. Good to see you.

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MR. KURTZ: Good morning. Good morning, Mr. Governor, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller. For the record, my name is Josh Kurtz. I'm the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. The department has 13 items for your consideration. Myself and the team are available if you have any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: I actually just want to briefly highlight Item 7A, which directs \$23.3 million to the Program Open Space Local Share and the Local Parks and Playgrounds Infrastructure Program Funds to Prince George's County. And that is to support a number of the wonderful projects that are taking place there and that will include \$5.2 million for the demolition of the Good Luck Community Center to make funds available for a new 25,000 square foot community center; \$12.8 million for the acquisition of 537 acres to add to the Charles Branch Stream Valley Park. And that is permanently preserving this land for conservation and enjoyment and the benefit of generations of Marylanders and also Prince Georgians to come. And we are very excited to advance the projects today for Prince George's County.

And speaking of great projects, we are also very excited to be joined by one of our remarkable county executives. County Executive Giordano, it is wonderful to see you and Delegate Anderton, our returning champion. Delegate Anderton, I know it's -- this dynamic duo has made a trip from the Western Shore to speak in support of Item 8A. So Madam County Executive, Delegate, good morning, and we are pleased to have you all here. And if you all would like to come up and speak to the program, we would love to hear from you.

(Laughter.)

MS. GIORDANO: Good morning, everyone.

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GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning.

MS. GIORDANO: It is wonderful to be here today and seeing so many friendly faces, our former Mayor Jake Day, Secretary Day, thank you so much for being here and thank you all for having us. And we are so excited about these two projects in Wicomico County. And Governor, I promise it's not the Airport. But our first project is --

GOVERNOR MOORE: -- that project, too, though --

MS. GIORDANO: I know. We're very excited about that. So our first project for your consideration is Pirates Wharf. This request for funding will support phase two, which will primarily focus on water access, which is huge in my county and actually for people across the State. So water access is one of the largest drivers to outdoor recreation in the State and we are eager to advance that project. Other funding sources will be sought throughout phase two. Program Open Space of course will be critical, both as a funding source and as a match for any other anticipated funds.

And then the second project for your consideration is Wetipquin, which is a little hard to pronounce and it's this little area right down in Nanticoke. But currently, people fish off the adjacent bridge, which is actually very dangerous for them. There is not enough room for them to fish. And so, we are hoping that we will be building a fishing pier, providing a recreational asset for the residents and also supporting DNR's efforts to eradicate invasive species as well, the blue catfish and snakeheads. And I will let Delegate Anderton add in a few comments, too, for these two projects.

DELEGATE ANDERTON: Oh, you will?

MS. GIORDANO: I will.

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DELEGATE ANDERTON: Oh, how nice.

MS. GIORDANO: I will.

(Laughter.)

MS. GIORDANO: -- for you today.

TREASURER DAVIS: You all know each other.

(Laughter.)

DELEGATE ANDERTON: So guess who's back?

(Laughter.)

DELEGATE ANDERTON: As always, I just wanted to come up.

I feel like I have to come up and thank you for every investment you make in Wicomico County and across the Lower Shore. You know, projects like this will help as we grow and seek to diversify and expand our economic base, because now it helps ensure that we are a place to live, work, and play, all those things work together. And so this is just a vital piece of that as we move forward to try to make everybody's life just a little bit better each and every day. As I said, you know, we come with 20 pounds of hustle in a five-pound bag. So, you know, we're going to keep working. It's good to see my mayor here. I want to thank Secretary Grady for meeting with us a couple of weeks ago about budget priorities so we can continue to come here and do this as often as we can. And I just wanted to say I love you guys and I appreciate you. It's good seeing the Lieutenant Governor here. And I'll see you all real soon.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Absolutely.

MS. GIORDANO: And just to reiterate, too, with Pirates Wharf, Wicomico County is one of the only counties, if not the only county, that does not have a State Park. So this is also a vital piece to continue that outdoor recreation

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in Wicomico.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Baltimore City, too.

MS. GIORDANO: And Baltimore City. But anyway, well thank you all for having us. And if you have any questions, please, we would take any questions anybody has.

GOVERNOR MOORE: We're grateful.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yeah, we're grateful. And it's exciting because, and to your point, it's both about, you know, economic vitality and it's also about building senses of community.

MS. GIORDANO: Yes.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And so we are thankful for the opportunity to partner with and with all of our local governments on informed projects like these and grateful for the leadership that you all continue to show on this and other projects. So thank you all. And thanks for making this trip.

MS. GIORDANO: Yes, absolutely. Well, and thank you for the example that you are setting for all of us across the State. So we really appreciate it.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Bless you.

MS. GIORDANO: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: It's good to see you. Thank you, Delegate.

DELEGATE ANDERTON: How about them Ravens?

GOVERNOR MOORE: How about them Ravens? How about them Ravens?

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(Laughter.)

MS. GIORDANO: Thank you.

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Move to approve.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Thank you so much. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Thank you. Next up, the University System of Maryland. Mr. Hickey, good morning.

MR. HICKEY: Good morning.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good to see you.

MR. HICKEY: Good morning, Governor, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller. Tom Hickey, representing the University System of Maryland. There are four items for your consideration this morning and I am happy to answer any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Continuing actually, I would like to flag something. And since we are talking about the Eastern Shore, we are delighted to be joined by Eli Modlin, the Vice President of Public Affairs and Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff at Salisbury University, who is speaking in support of a capital improvements project over at Holloway Hall. Eli, it's good to see you. Please tell your mom we said hello.

MR. MODLIN: I will, Governor. She has posted the picture that you took with her on every social media platform she knows how to log in to.

(Laughter.)

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MR. MODLIN: So thank you. Good morning, Governor Moore, Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis. I bring greetings on behalf of Dr. Lepre. Our President is in Indianapolis for an NCAA meeting, but she thanks you for your support and wishes she could be here.

We just wanted to take the opportunity to thank this Board for your continued support of higher education in the State. This particular project will allow us to renovate one of our, some of our oldest spaces in our oldest building. Holloway Hall is about to turn 100. And we want to take care of it. It is, the spaces that this project supports are actually our community spaces and restroom areas. And we are looking to make them both more accessible and accommodating to our visitors. Tom is here to answer any questions. I'm certainly happy to do that as well. But we just wanted to come over and show our support and thanks.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. Thank you. And thanks for all the work that you continue to do and everyone over at Seagull Nation. Please tell them that we said keep leading. And we are very, very grateful for the work that you're doing.

MR. MODLIN: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And please give our regards to President Lepre as well.

MR. MODLIN: Will do. Thank you very much.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there any other discussion on the USM Agenda? May I have a motion to approve the USM Agenda, if no further discussion?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

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GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you, sir.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you very much.

GOVERNOR MOORE: We appreciate you. Thank you. We will proceed with MDOT. Good morning. Good to see you.

MS. RADOMSKY : Good morning, Governor. Great to see you. Good morning, Madam Comptroller and Mr. Treasurer. For the record, I'm Valerie Radomsky, Chief Procurement Officer representing the Maryland Department of Transportation. Today the department is presenting 19 items for your consideration. I'm thrilled to note that nine of the recommended awards are to companies that are certified small and minority businesses. Additionally, two of MDOT's recommended awards appearing on DGS' IT task order item are recommended to a certified small business and a dually certified firm. I would also like to highlight that three of our contracts, Items 3, 15, and 19. These contracts provide a variety of services, from snow and ice melt, to paving and herbicidal applications. I know that our State's climate change impacts are of great interest to the Board and Maryland citizens. MDOT will ensure that such details are better outlined in our future Agenda applications. Our various offices of Environment and Sustainability have confirmed that these contracts specify use of EPA-approved and environmentally sustainable chemicals and materials. Representatives are available to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Any further discussion on MDOT?

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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: Thank you so much.

MS. RADOMSKY : Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thanks, Ms. Radomsky. And we will conclude with DGS. Secretary Chaudhry, good morning.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Good morning, sir. Good morning, Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, I'm Atif Chaudhry, Secretary of the Maryland Department of General Services. Today the department is presenting 55 items on our Agenda. We are withdrawing four items: Item 7-CGL, Item 25-C 1.1, Item 25-C 1.2, as well as 30-S-OPT. Our Agenda features over \$15 million in capital grants and loans. I want to highlight just a few of them here.

I want to highlight Item 2-CGL, which provides \$336,000 in support of Luminis Health for renovations to the clinical space at their Pathways Inpatient/Outpatient Facility at Anne Arundel County Medical Center. Pathways is a 40-bed drug and alcohol treatment center, addiction treatment center, serving both inpatient and outpatient levels of care. And this renovation includes clinical space on the second floor, as well as enhanced patient interactions and care delivery efficiencies.

I also wanted to highlight Item 4-CGL. This provides \$6.2 million

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to the Maryland Zoo for basic infrastructure upgrades and improvements to attractions and habitats. Infrastructure upgrades include stormwater management, parking lot renovations, and an electric shuttle charging station.

And finally, I wanted to highlight Item 11-CGL, which provides \$6.8 million in State support to Stevenson University for the construction of a 225-seat theater inside a new 38,000-square foot performing arts center scheduled to begin construction next year.

As we keep an eye on MBE contracting and awarding, our Agenda does include four contracts for certified MBE prime contractors totaling more than \$1.1 million. We have agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Thank you. I also want -- I know Kirby Fowler is here from the Maryland Zoo.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Hi, Kirby.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good to see you. I thought I saw you sitting in the back there. Thank you. And you know, I just want to say that for Item 4-CGL, that the Secretary is mentioning, I mean this really is one of the crown jewels of our State. And so we are excited about our continued partnership, but also excited about your leadership. So if you want to have the chance to say anything, please feel free. If not, we're just going to acknowledge you being here. But please.

MR. FOWLER: Thank you very much.

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Well said.

(Laughter.)

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GOVERNOR MOORE: Well said. Thank you. Thank you. Is there any comments or discussion on the DGS Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No comment.

GOVERNOR MOORE: No comments.

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Perfect. Thank you so much, Mr. Secretary.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Thank you, sir.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. That concludes today's BPW meeting. The next meeting will be on November 8th. Thanks so much, and meeting adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 10:48 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)