
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

*GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, STATE HOUSE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND*

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10:05 a.m.

PRESENT

HONORABLE ARUNA MILLER

Lieutenant Governor

HONORABLE BROOKE E. LIERMAN

Comptroller

JOHN GONTRUM

Secretary, Board of Public Works

ATIF CHAUDHRY

Secretary, Department of General Services

JOSH KURTZ

Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

THOMAS HICKEY

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

VALERIE RADOMSKY

Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Transportation

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Recording Secretary, Board of Public Works

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CONTENTS

Subject	Agenda	Witness	Page
Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Settlement, Amber Canter v. Monyette Washington, et al.	SEC 12, p. 20	Comptroller Lierman Joseph Sedtal	5
Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Settlement, Malone v. Millin, et al.	SEC 13, p. 21	Comptroller Lierman Joseph Sedtal	5
Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Settlement, Kimberlee Swartz v. Officer Harmanpreet Singh, et al.	SEC 14, p. 22	Comptroller Lierman Joseph Sedtal	5
Tax Year 2020 Internal Revenue Service Settlement	SEC 17, p. 27	Comptroller Lierman Rachel Sessa	8
BWI Airport Erosion Repairs 2024 - Taxiway C Emergency Repair	SEC A2, p. 33	Comptroller Lierman	11
DNR Agenda	DNR	Josh Kurtz	12
Bowie State University - Dining Services Contract - RETROACTIVE	USM 3-S, p. 46	Comptroller Lierman Thomas Hickey	13
Coppin State University - Dining Services Contract - RETROACTIVE	USM 4-S, p. 46	Comptroller Lierman Thomas Hickey Steve Danik	13

Towson University - Dining Services Contract - RETROACTIVE	USM 5-S, p. 52	Comptroller Lierman Thomas Hickey Vernon Hurte Joselyn Johnson	13
University of Maryland, Baltimore County - Dining Services Contract - RETROACTIVE	USM 6-S, p. 55	Comptroller Lierman Thomas Hickey Lenn Caron	13
University of Maryland Eastern Shore - Dining Services Contract - RETROACTIVE	USM 7-S, p. 58	Comptroller Lierman Thomas Hickey Robert Drayton	13
On-Call Corridor General Engineering Consultant Services	MDOT 3-AE, p. 82	Comptroller Lierman Valerie Radomsky	24
Grant - Prince George's Sports Innovation Center (Prince George's County)	DGS 32-CGL, p. 162 (sic. [38-CGL], p. 175)	Lieutenant Governor Miller	25
Reminder About Early Voting		Lieutenant Governor Miller	26

PROCEEDINGS

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Good morning, everyone. And welcome to today's BPW meeting. We're thrilled to have you here today. And just want to say today I think you could say is the October surprise, given that this is the first time in Maryland's history that two women are directing the Board of Public Works.

(Applause.)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: On a side note, the Treasurer is absent today as he's attending funeral services. So with that, let's go ahead and begin with the business of the day.

Good morning, Secretary Gontrum.

MR. GONTRUM: Good morning, Governor. And good morning to you, Madam Comptroller. There are 17 items on the Secretary's Agenda this morning, and two reports of emergency procurement actions. At the request of Morgan State University, I'm withdrawing Item 10. Leaving 16 items and the two emergency procurements on the agenda for your consideration this morning. Happy to assist answering any questions.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: All right. Well, thank you, Mr. Secretary.

Is there any discussion on the Secretary's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes. Thank you, Governor. I'd love to pull up Secretary's Agenda Items 12 to 14 for a couple questions from DPSCS.

MR. GONTRUM: So Items 12 through 14, Madam Comptroller, are settlement requests from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional

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Services. This is Item 12, Amber Canter v. Monyette Washington, et al. Item 13 is Malone v. Millin, et al. And Item 14 is Kimberlee Swartz v. Officer Harmanpreet Singh, et al. And we have Deputy Secretary Joseph Sedtal from the Department.

MR. SEDTAL: Good morning, Madam Governor, Madam Comptroller.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Good to see you, Deputy Secretary Sedtal. Thanks so much.

So these again are settlements that the State is entering into -- or is proposed for the State to enter into on behalf of DPSCS. And you shared at prior meetings that DPSCS is continually reviewing and updating its policies and procedures to ensure that all officers are behaving in accordance with the law, while protecting the officers and incarcerated individuals.

Knowing that we're limited in what details can be publicly divulged about these settlements, can you share the specific policy changes that either have been implemented or are in the process of being reviewed to make sure that what we are seeing here and what we continued to see -- and I'll note, these are all settlements that have taken a few years to get to us. It's not like these incidents happened yesterday. You've now been in a little over a year and a half. I would love to hear what your updates are on prevent -- making sure that we are not here two years from now, and that we're not having to approve these types of settlements going forward ad infinitum.

MR. SEDTAL: Yeah, absolutely. As I think we've discussed previously, one of the things the Department has done in working in conjunction with the Attorney General's Office is ensuring that our document retention policy expands for a long enough period to allow for -- in the event that the three-year statute of limitations related to these kind of lawsuits is able to allow the

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Department to go back and still retain the footage. Obviously, one of the things we've seen before is not having that documentation forces the Department to defend a negative.

And we're trying to combat that through an infrastructure improvement, improving our cameras, improving our policies on retention associated with that, including now looking into ways to potentially audit the ability to retain that information and ensure that when we say, "Hey, you need to hold this for a period of time", we're actually doing it. Additionally, obviously associated with our policies themselves for all PREA-related incidents, we've done a comprehensive -- and there are ongoing comprehensive review of the PREA policies to ensure that they are as up to date and best practice across the country as possible.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you for that. And you and I have had several meetings over the last couple of weeks with me and my team to talk more about what we can do to reduce settlements. And thank you. I asked for information at the last BPW meeting that you have shared, and I appreciate that. I think when we think about how to prevent these and how to make sure that the State is in a position to defend itself, but also to protect incarcerated individuals, at the end of the day, it comes down to what evidence we have of what happened, right?

We can't allow our lawyers to be put in a position where they're asking for video footage or sign-in sheets that have been destroyed or that were never made, because then we have put ourselves in a position where we can't go to trial and we have to settle because there's no evidence to prove what we -- what our side of the story or to prove the -- you know, to show what really happened so that we can then discipline the employees and take appropriate action against the employees.

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So I guess my concern and I will continue to articulate it as these continue to come and we'll continue to have conversations about this, is that drafting policies is really important. Making sure we have a four-year retention policy for this film, creating the capacity to do that in the cloud is great, but if it's not actually happening on the ground, then it doesn't really matter, right? It's nice to have good policy, but what matters is actual implementation and follow through. And so, continue to look forward to hearing from you and from the Secretary about what her plans are to ensure that the policies are actually practiced and not just written policies in a book somewhere.

So I think year-to-date we have over \$10.5 million in DPSCS settlements. And that's funding that your agency, frankly, could have used for capital repairs, hiring and recruitment, and other types of matters that we need. So just want to be certain that we are not here three or four years from now. That when we have cases three or four years from now, that they are cases that the question is not a matter -- it's not a matter of us not having the evidence because we didn't have the video or we didn't have the footage. So just want to continue to emphasize how important that is that you can continue to work to make sure that there actually is practice around these policies that you've created.

MR. SEDTAL: Absolutely.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thanks. Thank you, Governor.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Sure. Thank you, Madam Comptroller. If there's no further discussion, I move to approve the Secretary's Agenda.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Can I do one other thing?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Oh, sure.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Sorry, I should have mentioned this. I also on -- I want to bring your attention, Madam Governor, to Item 17.

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Well, this is a new one. So as the State's Chief Accounting and Financial Officer, it's our Agency's responsibility to ensure that every dollar collected and expended is properly accounted. Recently, the IRS -- for those who don't know, that's the Internal Revenue Service -- no. It commenced an audit of the State for the 2020 tax year, which I think it might be the first time that the State has ever been audited. Certainly, we looked back as far as 30 years and it had not happened before. So I'd like to express my -- so the IRS came to us because we keep all the records.

And so we in partnership with many of our fellow agencies, the Secretary of DBM and others have been working to answer questions and get to the root of what happened. And I'd like to express my appreciation to Director Luther Dolcar of the General Accounting Division; Director Dhiren Shah of Central Payroll; our General Counsel, Renee Nacrelli; and Rachel Sessa, our Deputy Comptroller for Law and Oversight for the expedience and diligence in bringing this to resolution.

And I'd like to turn things over to Deputy Comptroller Sessa to help further explain this item. Thanks.

MS. SESSA: Good morning, Madam Governor, Madam Comptroller. For the record, my name is Rachel Sessa and I'm the Deputy Comptroller of Law and Oversight.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you so much for joining us. Can you start just to explain a little bit of how we got here?

MS. SESSA: Absolutely. So Madam Comptroller, you're absolutely right. This is a novel assessment. Something that no entity within the organization has any recollection of occurring previously. So the IRS conducted an examination of Tax Year 2020 and issued an initial finding that the State owed

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over \$16 million in taxes to the IRS for three primary reasons.

One, there were nine State agencies who did not properly withhold employment taxes for certain employees. Second, a handful of State employees across five different agencies made contributions to deferred compensation plans in excess of plan limitations. And third, the State was unable to prove in certain instances that backup withholding was applied to vendors appropriately.

However, you'll notice in the item before you, that the for approval is actually \$5.4 million and not \$16 million. And this is specifically because staff within the Office of the Comptroller and other State agencies worked tirelessly to provide and obtain documentation to the IRS to significantly reduce the amount the State owes. And since this is the first examination and assessment of its kind, the IRS agreed to waive penalties. However, we may still receive a bill for the accrual of interest on the outstanding liability approximately 22 days after closeout, which we are scheduled to conduct later on this afternoon.

We've also identified multiple corrective actions that the State plans to take just to make sure that the issues found in Tax Year 2020 are addressed, including a lot of education and training. The IRS has graciously offered to partner with us and provide training to State agencies' personnel so that they can better understand how to ensure appropriate employment taxes are withheld. And we are looking to schedule that training sometime over the next couple of months.

Additionally, we've been already starting to educate agencies on the documents they need to obtain to justify instances where employees make contributions to their supplemental retirement plans in excess of the plan limitations. I would be remiss if I didn't express appreciation towards the IRS and the examiners who have been extremely collaborative and responsive. And with that, I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I don't have any other questions.
Do you have any questions?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: I do not.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Thank you so much, Ms.
Sessa.

MS. SESSA: Thank you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Great. So the Office of the
Comptroller and other State agencies, as you said, are working to resolve the
underpayment issue with the IRS that occurred under the previous administration.
Governor Moore, Treasurer Davis, I -- Lieutenant Governor Miller, I know we're
all committed to transparency in the business of government. And so we wanted
to make sure that people understand what this is, where it came from, and how we
are handling it. So thanks so much to the whole team for being here and for all of
their work. And I think that is it.

There is one other item on the Secretary's Agenda, if that's okay. I
don't want to take up --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Please.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I just wanted to make a note of
Item A2, which is the Maryland Aviation Administration, to note that this is a
report -- this is BWI, right? And this is an emergency contract award to complete
repair work to a taxiway at BWI that experienced significant erosion due to a high
level of rainfall. And I think this is a really important example of the State's need
to account for the effects of climate change in our procurements to ensure we
make smart investments that will stand the test of time.

I don't think, probably, thinking about our runways at BWI is top
of mind when we think about the effects of rainfall, but here we are needing to
spend half a million dollars to repair it so that we have this Taxiway C available

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for use. So just wanted to highlight this because it is an important and sort of unappreciated example of what the cost is going to be of climate change in the State. Thanks. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: You're welcome. If there's no further discussion, I move to approve the Secretary's Agenda. Is there a second?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you. So now, let's proceed to the Department of Natural Resources Agenda.

Good morning, Secretary Kurtz.

MR. KURTZ: Good morning, Madam Governor, Madam Comptroller. For the record, Josh Kurtz, Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. The Department has six items for your consideration today and I'm here to answer any questions you might have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: All right. Is there any discussion on the DNR Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Not for me.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: I have a question for you, Mr. Secretary. What is River going to be dressing up for Halloween?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah.

(Laughter.)

MR. KURTZ: So River is a ballot box.

(Laughter.)

MR. KURTZ: And so is our dog, so we are going to have two ballot boxes running around.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Nice.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: All right. Well, thank

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you for that. So hearing there's no further discussion, I move to approve the DNR Agenda. Is there a second?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you. Next up is the University System of Maryland.

Good morning, Mr. Hickey.

MR. HICKEY: Good morning, Governor and Madam Comptroller. Tom Hickey representing the University System of Maryland. There are 14 items on our agenda this morning for your consideration. There are five retroactive food services contracts, which are Items 3 through 7. I have a number of people standing by for any questions that you may have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Hickey. Is there any discussion on the USM Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I have a few questions.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Sure.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thanks.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Go ahead, Madam Comptroller.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: These are large contracts, and they are coming quite late. I appreciate that they're coming even if it's retroactively, and look forward to ensuring that in the future these contracts come to us not in a retroactive state, but in a state that we can actually have a discussion and decide whether it's worth the State's money to do -- whether it has -- the universities have engaged in the work that they need to do and ensuring competition that they need to ensure to ensure so that we are getting a fair deal.

Can you talk a little bit about your role in the procurement process for USM institutions and what you're here today to tell us about? Like what you

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are here, but then you also have a lot of the institutions present. So can you talk a little bit about what you're doing versus -- why I need to ask questions of the institutions, like how you fit into this.

MR. HICKEY: Well, I can assure you, first of all, that we are going to bring all new contract awards and any options remaining on these existing contracts to the Board of Public Works going forward. I know we've had discussions last fall about why this occurred. There was Office of Attorney General advice on our exclusions.

There are now 18 of them -- I'm sorry, 19 of them. And you all approved two additional ones on August 28th. The main point I want to make is that a service contract over \$1 million has to come to the Board of Public Works, regardless of whether it falls under one of our exclusions. So I can assure you of that. What my role is? I'm basically a coordinator for all of the contracts that have to come through Board of Regents and to the Board of Public Works.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Right.

MR. HICKEY: We do not have centralized procurement at USM. I'm a staff of one person. I do not have any staff, so that's my role.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Right.

MR. HICKEY: If you have specific questions about these contracts, I would have to defer to --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Them?

MR. HICKEY: -- the institutions.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes, and I do because every single contract is different despite the fact that we are a, quote, "University System of Maryland." And it is impossible looking at all of these contracts to understand any sort of rhyme or reason about how this group of universities engaged in their procurement process. Every contract has a different base amount. Everyone has

different MBE goals. It's not clear how much of it is subs. It's not clear how much of it -- everyone is for a different amount, which would make sense. They have different students and different services, but there is a finite number of groups and companies that do this and it is -- frankly, looking at this, it's mind boggling that it has continued to happen this way. I don't think it's a good deal for the Universities. We're not maximizing our MBE potential. And I don't think at the end of the day it's a good deal for the State. So I look forward to working with the universities to improve this process going forward.

I'd first like to call up a representative from Coppin State.

MR. HICKEY: Okay. We have Steve Danik, who's the Vice President for Administration at Coppin.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Great. Thank you.

(Pause.)

MR. HICKEY: I think he's just audio.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Sure.

(Pause.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Can he hear us?

MR. HICKEY: Yes.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: He can? Okay. Great. His name's Steve?

MR. HICKEY: Steve Danik.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Hi, Steve. Can you hear us?

(Pause.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

MR. GONTRUM: Mr. Danik, your audio appears to be connected. There you go. Your video is connected. We cannot hear you, sir.

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I cannot hear you.

(Pause.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Well, if we want to go to the next person, he wants to try to call back in. Okay. Why don't you try to call back in and we'll go to the next school.

MR. GONTRUM: In the interim, you can switch to phone call option. Meanwhile the Comptroller is discussing the next contract.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: The next one is the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

MR. HICKEY: Okay. We have Lenn Caron, who is the Vice President for Administration and Finance at UMBC.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Great.

MR. CARON: Morning, Madam Comptroller.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Good morning. How are you?

MR. CARON: Good. And yourself?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Good. So I'm really concerned about Item 6-S that is being presented today. First, your MBE participation goal is extremely low. The contract is valued at \$222 million, inclusive of renewal options. And there was only one firm who submitted a proposal. Despite the fact that in every other university, there were multiple firms that submitted proposals. I think, you know, it's my strong suggestion that you do not take advantage of your second renewal option and that you put this out to bid to ensure that you're actually getting a good deal. Can you explain why UMBC proceeded with this award after receiving only one proposal and settling on such a low MBE goal?

MR. CARON: Yes, we proceeded with the proposal -- or the awarding of the contract. It is important to note that as we did this award, the solicitation, we did have three firms come to the site visit and we expected more

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participation. Only one firm did bid. As we continued the whole solicitation process, which included the interviews, negotiations, technical evaluations, this was all done by the committee here on campus as well as an outside consultant that was advising on the procurement of this contract.

The firm that bid on the contract had no way of knowing that they were the only bidder on this contract through the entire process. And we deemed that the process as it followed and the negotiations were favorable, that it was a good procurement for UMBC, and it was a good value for the University, based on all the different terms within the contract. And the consultant that was used at the time also agreed that this was advantageous to the University based on the terms in the contract.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I mean, I'll note that Bowie State in its contract has a 25 percent MBE goal. You have a 3.7 percent MBE goal. Do you think that's acceptable?

MR. CARON: I don't think 3.7 is acceptable. I also will say that I don't have any way of knowing exactly how that goal was determined for this contract. Nobody at UMBC is currently here that was present when this was initially solicited. And the documentation I found, it showed that the goal was set and achieved, but I don't have any records showing why 3.5 was the goal that was set.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Understood. Understood. I would say -- I would just encourage UMBC to conduct a new solicitation rather than bring a second five-year renewal option back to the BPW in a few years. I certainly -- I would not vote again to support this, if you bring this back in several years. So I can't speak for my fellow board members, but I do encourage you to go back.

And I think based on what we see from the other universities,

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having one firm submit a proposal is outside of the norm. And you have one of the lowest, if not the lowest MBE goals of any of the universities. So I know that UMBC can do better and I'm sure your president would agree, or I hope that she would. So thank you for being here to answer these questions.

MR. CARON: Thank you, Madam Comptroller.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Do we have Coppin?

MR. DANIK: Coppin is here. Can you hear me now?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes, I can. Great, thank you.

MR. DANIK: My apologies for the technical issues.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No problem. Thank you for joining. Item 4-S is a little bit tricky to follow, but we're being asked today to retroactively approve the base term, part of the first-year renewal, and the remainder of that first-year renewal. And my questions are really about the MBE goal. And can the University explain how it came to a 14.7 percent MBE goal. And what the University will do to ensure full compliance by the end of this first renewal option? Thanks.

MR. DANIK: So as to the particulars for how we arrived at that goal, unfortunately, I can't provide that for you at this time. What I can tell you is I have been in discussions with our vendor. They understand the importance of getting there. They have already added one additional MBE vendor, and they are looking for further MBE vendors to help us get to that goal. As we discussed this, I understand some of the challenges they're facing but, nonetheless, they are committed to try to get up to achieving that goal. They've already got one on board; they're looking for more.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. And do you, you might not know this since it sounds like you were not there, but looking at this, one of the things that's strange is that the University didn't assign any MBE goals to the

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facility upgrades that were part of this contract. So while finding subcontracting opportunities on food distribution might be challenging or novel, capital improvements typically are not that difficult.

MR. DANIK: Understood. We'll certainly take a look at that as well, as we go forward.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay.

MR. HICKEY: Madam Comptroller, the firms that submitted proposals could have proposed MBEs on the capital portion. There was no restriction.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: They just didn't.

MR. HICKEY: What Steve was saying is like the PRG process and Procurement Review Group

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: They're all gone.

MR. HICKEY: -- may not have examined that for MBE goals.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Right. Right. That I understand. Great. Thank you, Steve.

Okay. And now, is there a representative from Towson?

MR. HICKEY: Yes, we have Vernon Hurte and Joselyn Johnson.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Great.

(Pause.)

MR. HURTE: Good morning, Madam Comptroller. Can you hear me? This is Vernon Hurte.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I can. Hi, Vernon. Thanks for joining.

So on Item 5-S, that item's MBE goal is just 10 percent. But if you look at where they are right now, the MBE compliance is 14.8 percent, which is great, but certainly an improvement, I should say. I don't know if it's great, but

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it's an improvement, certainly an improvement over 10 percent, but also it confirms my inclination, especially when I look at the Bowie State contract, that the goal that was set was way too low for a \$205 million contract including the renewal option. When my team asked about the goal, the University shared it was partially based on historical data. The goal was 5 percent on the previous contract, which is clearly way too low.

Could you provide some background on how the University came to 10 percent? And understanding that now the current vendor is achieving 14.8 percent, what you will do differently when you rebid this contract?

(Audio cut in and out.)

MR. HURTE: Madam Comptroller, can you still hear me?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Now I can, yes.

MR. HURTE: I lost sound on my end.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. GONTRUM: I lost sound as well.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Oh, well, if they can't hear me, I --

MR. HURTE: But we'll respond -- try to respond to the question as I heard.

So just to take one step back. So this was previous to my time at TU, but the original contract for our former vendor was actually set at 2 percent. When we had the extension, five-year extension, we increased that to 5 percent. And Chartwells, who was our vendor at the time, reached that. And so in approaching the RFP process for this new contract, based on that historical data, we decided to double the goal from the original contract. So that's basically the historical rationale based on the data we had.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. And do you have -- can you hear me? Can you hear me?

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MR. GONTRUM : We can't hear you.

MR. HURTE: We can't hear you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I don't know.

MR. HURTE: We've got you now.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Can you hear me?

MR. HURTE: Yes, we can hear you now.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. So what will you plan to do differently when you procure this, knowing that the current MBE compliance is even higher than the one that was set at 10 percent?

MR. HURTE: Well, we'll definitely continue to be as aggressive as we can with this goal. I meet on a regular basis with senior leadership of Aramark, who's our vendor. They are just as committed as we are as an institution to these goals. And so I anticipate that we will continue to review their compliance with the goals. And when we get to that point, really reassess that goal.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thanks. And we look forward to seeing a new procurement in the future with a higher MBE goal. Thank you.

And lastly, I'd like to call up -- Mr. Hickey, is somebody from the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore available?

MR. HICKEY: Yes, we have Robert Drayton.

(Pause.)

MR. DRAYTON: Madam Comptroller, can you hear me?

MR. GONTRUM: Yes. Please go ahead, Mr. Drayton.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Hi, Mr. Drayton. Can you hear us?

MR. DRAYTON: Yes, I can hear you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Wonderful. So if you've heard the

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rest of this meeting, you may know my line of questioning. But Item 7-S only has a 4 percent MBE goals and no MBE opportunities on the capital investments. Like your peers, could you please provide some background on those decisions and talk to us about what you plan to do in the future to increase that amount on this incredibly large contract?

MR. DRAYTON: Yes, ma'am. This was done previous to my time, but reviewing all the documents, quite a few of them were damaged in a roofing leak in our office. But reaching out to the previous procurement director, they were just really pushing to get something in place during after the time of COVID.

But my goal in the future is -- I've worked with Ms. Lisa Sounar (phonetic.) and Ms. Karen Reyes (phonetic) closely during my time in the past year to really understand the MBE and SBR goals and how to solicit those. And we're working on building momentum within the area, even though we're in a small rural area, to build momentum with the small minority businesses here to give them the resources, the assets, on how to become certified as MBE organizations. So that we can build up on that momentum and reassess as a whole, so we can move forward to build on that MBE goal.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Well, I certainly look forward to seeing a new contract. And I lied. Actually, your participation goal is 2.5 percent, so even lower than I had stated. So certainly look forward to you bringing a new solicitation with a much higher goal in the future.

So, sorry to put everyone through that, but I do think it's really important to note that these are huge contracts. There is a way to ensure that we are increasing our MBE participation in the State. You'll see I skipped Bowie State. Their contract has the highest goal amongst the group at 25 percent, and they are already planning to reprocore. I certainly hope that we see

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reprocurements from other universities to do better, to get a better value, and to increase competition, and to ensure that we are meeting and striving to meet those MBE goals that we've set as a State.

So I believe it's imperative that the State is receiving the best value possible, and that ample opportunities are made available for participation by minority business enterprises. I think these contracts are a great example of why the Board of Public Works exists to ensure transparency and accountability about how and where our taxpayer dollars are going.

Thank you, Governor. And thank you, everybody, for joining. Thank you, Mr. Hickey, for facilitating that.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Madam Comptroller. If there's no further discussion, I move to approve the USM Agenda. Is there a second?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you very much.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Hickey.

So let's proceed to the MDOT Agenda. Good morning, Ms. Radomsky.

MS. RADOMSKY: Good morning, Madam Governor and Madam Comptroller. For the record, my name is Valerie Radomsky, Chief Procurement Officer for the Maryland Department of Transportation. And today we are presenting nine agenda items for your consideration. We have representatives available to answer any questions you may have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Ms. Radomsky. Is there any discussion on the MDOT Agenda?

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I'll just note on Item 3-AE, this is similar to the one that we had last time, the On-call Corridor General Engineering Consultants. And this is, of course, for Central Maryland MTA projects like the Red Line and the North-South Corridor project design for Southern Maryland Rapid Transit, the MARC Penn-Camden Connector. And even though we're approving \$60 million, there's not actually \$60 million in the current CTP budgeted to be spent. So we're approving this, but there's no -- this will not be spent unless the CTP changes.

MS. RADOMSKY: Right. And there's -- and this is over eight -- this is over eight years.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Over eight years, right.

MS. RADOMSKY: Over eight years.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yep.

MS. RADOMSKY: We do have Administrator Arnold --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: That's okay.

MS. RADOMSKY: -- if you have specific questions.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I don't have specific questions. I just wanted to confirm that. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: All right. Well, thank you, Madam Comptroller. If there's no further discussion, I move to approve the MDOT Agenda. Is there a second?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you. Now, let's conclude with the DGS Agenda.

Good morning, Secretary Chaudhry.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Madam Governor, Madam Comptroller, for the record, I am Atif Chaudhry, Secretary of the Maryland Department of General

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Services. Today the Department is presenting 41 items in our agenda. We are withdrawing one item, and that is Item 21-LT. Our agenda does feature over \$7 million in capital grants and loans.

I did want to highlight one in particular, and that is Item 29-CGL, which provides \$1.4 million in State support to Market Center Community Development Corporation. This development will create a modern, sustainable, and affordable 135-unit apartment complex strategically located near Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore City. And it will address a pressing need for high quality housing options for the workforce associated with the hospital, while also contributing to the revitalization of the surrounding community.

As we continue to keep an eye on our minority business participation, our agenda does feature one contract award for minority businesses, which total nearly a million dollars, \$947,000, and one contract award to a certified veteran-owned business totaling \$678,000. And we have agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

Now, I'd like to call up Item 32-CGL (sic. [38-CGL]). It's \$40 million capital grant to Prince George's Sports, Incorporated to support the construction of the Prince George's Sports and Innovation Center in Bowie. Once constructed, Prince George's Sports and Innovation Center will be 160,000 square foot indoor sports facility that will include a full-size indoor field, basketball, volleyball, and pickleball courts for residents across Prince George's County to enjoy.

Equally as exciting, there's an ongoing conversation with Bowie State University, Prince George's Community College, and the private sector to house on-the-job training programs at this site for the various facets of the sports

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industry including: production and progress, sports venue and facility management, physical trainings, sports marketing, and athlete representation.

In addition to the traditional amenities, this site will also include a podcast studio, sports news and talk show sets, and a green screen studio, and meeting spaces. This facility will expand recreational sports programs and capacity for Prince Georgians of all ages, and provide significant resources for workforce training and readiness programs. We are proud to support this investment and are grateful for the collaborative partnership between the State, the County, and the private sector to move this project forward.

With that, is there any further discussion on this item or the remaining of the DGS Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Not for me.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: All right. Well, hearing none, I move to approve the DGS Agenda. Is there a second?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you. So thank you, Mr. Secretary.

So before we adjourn, I just want to remind everyone here that tomorrow is the last day of early voting. And of course, you all know that early voting is from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. And for whatever reason, if you happen to miss tomorrow to vote, which I plan on voting tomorrow, there's, of course, November 5th.

So I hope you all take advantage of making sure that your voices are heard in our democracy because it is vitally important and that's what strengthens our democracy. So if you plan to vote and you haven't done so already, please visit elections.maryland.gov for more information.

With that, this concludes the meeting of the Board of Public

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Works. And we'll see you all on November 20th. We are adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 10:43 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)