
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

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

March 19, 2025

10:05 a.m.

PRESENT

HONORABLE ARUNA MILLER

Lieutenant Governor

HONORABLE BROOKE E. LIERMAN

Comptroller

JONATHAN D. MARTIN

Chief Deputy Treasurer

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

LISA GRIGSBY

Recording Secretary, Board of Public Works

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PROCEEDINGS

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Good morning, please sit down. Thank you. So welcome to today's meeting of the Board of Public Works. And I just want to let you know this is going to be a very exciting meeting, so you better put your seatbelts on. Okay?

So first off, I want to welcome Deputy Treasurer Jon Martin, who's here sitting in place for the Treasurer. And I understand the Treasurer is getting a big award today from the Speaker Society. So you know, I just want to say congratulations to him, our incredible leader.

And Madam Controller, it's great to see you here again.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: You too. Thanks.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: So let's go ahead and begin the business of the day. Good morning, Secretary Gontrum.

MR. GONTRUM: Good morning, Madam Governor, and Madam Comptroller, and Mr. Chief Deputy Treasurer. There are 20 items on the Secretary's Agenda this morning and one report of an emergency procurement. However, at the request of the Department of Information Technology and Maryland Public Television, I am withdrawing Item 12 from the agenda, leaving 19 items and the one emergency report for your consideration this morning. I am happy to assist with answering any questions.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: All right. Well, thank you, Mr. Secretary. Is there any discussions on the Secretary's agenda?

No? Okay.

May I have a motion to approve the agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the agenda.

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

CHIEF DEPUTY TREASURER MARTIN: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: All right. Thank you very much.

Now, let's go ahead and proceed to DNR agenda. Good morning, Secretary Kurtz.

MR. KURTZ: Good morning, Madam Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Chief Deputy Treasurer. For the record, Josh Kurtz, Secretary to the Department of Natural Resources. The Department has 12 very exciting items for your consideration today. (Laughter.)

Myself and staff are here to answer any questions that you may have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Actually, I do have a question.

MR. KURTZ: Yes.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: I remember two years ago; I came with you to tag some cubs.

MR. KURTZ: Yes.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: And is that season over right now?

MR. KURTZ: So we have our last den visit -- what's today, the 19th -- tomorrow. We've had a really successful year this year. I was actually at a den last Thursday in Garrett County. We had a bear who was actually denning in the Wisp Resort area, so we had a really unique situation where we got to go to somebody's house, right on the top of Deep Creek Mountain and tag a bunch of baby bears. So --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Aww.

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MR. KURTZ: -- it's been a really successful year again this year.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Good to know. Thank you so much for that update Secretary Kurtz.

So is there any discussions on the exciting agenda that Secretary Kurtz brought up?

No? Okay.

May I have a motion to approve the agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the agenda.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

CHIEF DEPUTY TREASURER MARTIN: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Wonderful. Thank you, Secretary Kurtz.

Next up is the University System of Maryland. Good morning, Mr. Hickey.

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

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Hickey.

Is there any discussion of the USM Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No discussion from me.

CHIEF DEPUTY TREASURER MARTIN: No.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay. I have a question for you.

MR. HICKEY: Okay.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is your favorite ice cream still salted caramel?

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MR. HICKEY: Yes. Yes, it is. (Laughter.)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay. I just want to make sure. All right. It's the season of ice cream, caramel. (Laughter).

MR. HICKEY: That's right.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Since there is no further discussion on the USM Agenda, may I have a motion to approve the agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the agenda.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

CHIEF DEPUTY TREASURER MARTIN: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Great. Thank you.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you very much.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: So let's proceed to the MDOT Agenda. Good morning, Ms. Radomsky.

MS. RADOMSKY: Good morning, Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Chief Deputy Treasurer. For the record, my name is Valerie Radomsky, Chief Procurement Officer for the Department of Transportation. Today, we are presenting 26 exciting agenda items for your consideration and withdrawing Item 12-C. We have representatives available to answer any questions you may have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you so much.

Is there any discussion on the MDOT Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Not from me.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: May I have a motion to approve the agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the agenda.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

CHIEF DEPUTY TREASURER MARTIN: Second.

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Great. Thank you so much.

MS. RADOMSKY: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Let's conclude with the DGS Agenda.

Good morning, Mr. Secretary Chaudhry. I hope you have an exciting agenda here for us.

MR. CHAUDHRY: It's very exciting.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Riveting. Riveting agenda for you today. -- Madam Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Chief Deputy Treasurer. For the record, I'm Atif Chaudhry, Secretary of the Maryland Department of General Services. Today, the Department is presenting 64 items in our agenda. We are withdrawing two items today, Items 28-C and 31-S. I will actually save my comments because I'm going to try to see if we can set a record today on the Board – for the Board. I was told by my colleague here, Dave Bohannon, that the record is 17 minutes and 40 seconds, but ensures the Board (indiscernible) – So, to just let you know, that continuing to keep an eye on minority business contracting we have 10 contract awards and modifications for certified minority businesses totaling \$8.6 million on our agenda today, and we have representatives here answering questions you may have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Wonderful, thank you so much. Mr. Secretary.

Some discussion here?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I just have a question.

On Item Number 38, these are -- the Department is moving forward with approving task orders from the old contracting vehicle, despite the

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fact that there's a new contracting vehicle and that the new contracting vehicle was said to be urgent. And so I'm wondering how (indiscernible) keep doing these IT procurements under the old vehicle and why this is happening?

MR. CHAUDHRY: Sure. Great question, Madam Comptroller. And I think you're probably referring to a specific task order, I think. So it's a couple things there. I would say that when it comes to the contracts that are approved, the prior AGILE contract we approve at the Board of Public Works, those particular contracts that are using federal funds do require 60 day-window for approval from the federal government. So we're working through that right now. So agencies that leverage that particular contract will have to wait for that 60 day- window to close to get the federal approval and then issue work orders off of that particular contract. And there are still contracts here that we will be utilizing here for smaller ones that we will be eventually transitioning to the other ones. So there are other ones that -- I know Item 38-IT is a big agenda, so it's multiple task orders off of multiple contracts. Master contracts, some of them are related to other hardware-related contracts, not just necessarily AGILE.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

So I'd like to call up Item 13-CGL, a request to award \$500,000 capital grant to the town of La Plata to support the development of the Kent Avenue Corridor Community Center. This capital project is the result of the collaboration between the Town of La Plata, and The Neighborhood Design Center, and the Dorchester Community Center Alliance, who have worked together to design a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable hub for the Greater Charles County region. Once complete, the Kent Avenue Corridor Community Center will include gyms, training facilities, creative spaces, like kitchens and outdoor

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gardens, social gatherings spots, and other multipurpose areas that all of La Plata's residents can enjoy. For more about this exciting project, I'd like to turn it now over to La Plata Mayor Jeannine James, who is joining us this morning.

Good morning, Mayor James.

MAYOR JAMES: Good morning. It is wonderful to see -- for the record, Jeannine James, Mayor of the Town of La Plata. If you haven't visited us, come on down. Pull off at 301, we've got a lot to show you. Thank you very much for the opportunity to really advocate for this amazing opportunity for our youth.

A little background story how this came about. About ten years ago, our police officers were patrolling an area that seemed to have a lot of activity. And there was a young boy, 12 years old, chasing another young boy with a gun. And our police officer was able to diffuse the situation. It happened to be a very good replica, but we -- the young man went and followed all of the orders of the police officer, and crisis was averted. It could have been a disaster.

On that point, our chief said, "We need a place for our children to go." When kids are busy, there's less activity and that had been proven. So we had started what's called the Dorchester Community Center on Kent Avenue -- the name changed a little bit -- and it has been a success. The programming. We had -- our Coach B has taken these young youth with no future, put in a basketball court and these young men have now -- some of them are in college on full scholarships. And that's the success story that we love.

Well, then there was a little bit of a hiccup there. The place that we had, which we have designed for, what we were using, had mold. And we never want kids in there with mold. We remediated the mold, but guess what; it came back again. So the reason for this funding is we do have a design; we do have a plan. It's to give our youth a chance. It's to give them a place -- a safe

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place to learn, to mentor, to have an escape from reality for just a minute there. So I am asking you to have a favorable report. And any questions that you may have for me, I am willing to answer.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Aw. Thank you so much, Mayor James.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thanks for coming up.

MAYOR JAMES: Oh, thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Absolutely. Thank you for sharing that story with all of us. (Indiscernible) Center is going to play for the youth in your community.

MAYOR JAMES: I have that vision. And with your help, we'll make it a reality.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

MAYOR JAMES: Thank you very much.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Absolutely.

With that, is there any further discussion on the DGS Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: No? Okay.

May I have a motion to approve the DGS Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the DGS Agenda.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

CHIEF DEPUTY TREASURER MARTIN: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you. That concludes the very exciting Board of Public Works meeting today. The next meeting will be on April 2nd. We are adjourned. Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 10:16 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)

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