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# **BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

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

**May 7, 2025**  
**10:16 a.m.**

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# PRESENT

## **HONORABLE WES MOORE**

Governor

## **HONORABLE BROOKE E. LIERMAN**

Comptroller

## **HONORABLE DERECK E. DAVIS**

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

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning, everybody.

(Chorus of good morning.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning. Welcome to today's meeting of the Board of Public Works. Before we start, I actually just want to take a point of privilege to recognize and acknowledge Secretary Tony Woods.

Secretary Tony Woods, our outstanding secretary of the Department of Veterans and Military Families. Yesterday, we announced that Secretary Woods would be transitioning from his job in cabinet to the private sector. And I could not let this moment by without saying what a remarkable human being and leader and secretary that Secretary Woods has been.

I first had the chance to get to know Secretary Woods because when I came back from Afghanistan, I kept on hearing this voice, who was one of the strongest voices I've heard on advocating for me and my brothers and sisters and the people we served with. Who was one of the strongest voices who was urging administrations, regardless frankly of political affiliation, of saying that we made a promise to our veterans and we need to make sure that we honor it.

Who was one of the strongest voices in making sure that we could actually meet our highest ideals. And I knew from his voice that this was also deeply personal to him because he is a veteran himself. And for someone who has continued to devote his life to public service. And when I, you know, when I became the Governor Elect and I was thinking about this role in this position, I was like, "I know there's no way I'm going to get Tony Woods, so let me at least call him and see if he has ideas of people who would take this role."

And I was so over the moon when I realized the person I was

calling, he's a public servant through and through. And our Administration has been better because of you. Our state is better because of you. And I say this as a personal point of pride, our veterans and their families are better because of you. He is an absolutely phenomenal leader who has just shown an unwavering commitment to our military families and also to the Department.

And so a couple of accomplishments that I want to line off. He was the one who launched the first online applications for the Military Veterans Trust Fund, streamlining emergency financial assistance. He launched Maryland Joins Forces, a private sector -- a public-private partnership to support veterans and their families. He led the successful renaming of the Department to appropriately now include military families. So it's not just the Department of Veterans Affairs, it's the Department of Veterans and Military Families because that's exactly how he's led the organization.

And so I want to say, Secretary Woods, on behalf of an entire state thank you, we're grateful, Godspeed, and may God continue to watch over your blessings, my friend. So thank you so much.

(Chorus of applause.)

TREASURER DAVIS: That's not up for a vote or anything?

GOVERNOR MOORE: No.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Do you believe whether --

GOVERNOR MOORE: Well, that's true. That's true.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Actually, how much has (indiscernible) --

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: (Indiscernible).

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yeah, on that note.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah.

GOVERNOR MOORE: With that, we will begin with the business of the day. Mr. Secretary, good morning. It's good to see you.

MR. GONTRUM: Good morning, Governor. And good morning to you, Mr. Treasurer and Madam Comptroller. There are 19 items on the Secretary's Agenda and two reports are procurement contract awards. However, at the request of St. Mary's College of Maryland, I'm withdrawing Item 15, leaving 18 items for your consideration this morning. I'm happy to answer any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful, thank you so much. I'd like to call up a few items today. And it's actually starting with Item 19, which provides compensation to the Walter Lomax Act to Mr. Tyrone Jones for being wrongfully convicted and incarcerated for ten years for a crime that he did not commit.

The Treasurer and the Comptroller and I just had a chance to spend some time with Mr. Jones and this, I think, we all agree is one of the hardest parts of this entire job. It's when you see moments when the State failed and when the State is actually -- has been the cause of the wrong. Where in 1999 in a case of mistaken identity, Mr. Jones was charged and convicted of conspiracy to commit murder related to a fatal shooting in Baltimore and he was sentenced to life in prison.

That day, he was playing basketball. He went to get something to eat, and then was picked up and was incarcerated for ten years. As he did when he was arrested and tried for his crime, he maintained his innocence throughout his years of confinement. In 2010, Mr. Jones filed a motion for a new trial, which was granted after the State did not contest it. And soon after, his

conviction was vacated and the Baltimore City State's Attorney declined to retry the case.

On February 3rd, 2010, after spending 3,611 days behind bars for a crime that he did not commit, he was finally released. 3,611 days were stolen. It deprived him of the opportunities to pursue a career, to utilize his God-given gifts that would have not only benefited him but his family and our neighborhoods and our State. He was 21 years old when he was incarcerated, a recent graduate of Dunbar. Now, he is 48 years old.

And for the last 15 years, Mr. Jones has navigated a world that is vastly different than the one he knew before he was incarcerated and convicted for something that he did not do. And he continues to endure the mental and the social and the emotional impacts of incarceration. Since he's been released, he's worked multiple jobs to support his family, including his partner and mother, and to proudly raise his young son and daughter.

Mr. Jones is pursuing future career pathways. Having recently attained an IT certificate, he hopes to continue his studies and professional training in the IT field. And through it all, it was his mother's unyieldingly support -- unyielding support to prove her son's innocence. She visited him weekly, sent him frequent letters. When his conviction was vacated, he reunited with his mother and he lived with her until she just recently passed away, just 20 months after his release.

We were speaking a little earlier and he said, "I just wish she was here to see it." Tyrone, I believe she is and she's looking down. She knows the extraordinary son that she raised. The person who always kept faith, the person who always maintained his innocence, and the person who always had faith that justice would eventually prevail the same way that she kept telling you that justice would eventually prevail. And she was right, and she smiling down



Mr. Jones filed a petition under the Lomax Act and was found ineligible because convictions on conspiracy charges did not originally meet the standards set to receive compensation. However, the General Assembly in 2024 fixed that and amended this issue. And he refiled and he was granted compensation under the new law that the General Assembly passed in 2024. It's an honor to see you again because I had a chance to meet you, actually, at that bill signing. And it's also an honor to be here with some of the attorneys, who had it not been for their (indiscernible) and support also, today might not have happened. And that includes Catalina Odio, that includes Ralph Mayrell, that includes Mark Russell, that includes Neel Lalchandani, and that includes Michele Nethercott.

Mr. Jones, as the Governor of this State, but also more importantly as a father and a husband and a son and a fellow Marylander, I want to share words that you deserve to hear. Because I'm not just speaking on behalf of myself and the Treasurer and the Comptroller, I'm speaking on behalf of this entire state. I'm sorry. This should have never happened. And I know there are no words that can undo the injustice and what was taken away from you and your family, but I hope you do know that the words we are sharing are sincere. The support we want to offer is real. And you still have a long journey ahead, and we hope to support it. So God bless you and we're sorry, and it's good to see you today. Thank you.

(Chorus of applause.)

MR. JONES: I want to say on behalf of my family, thank you.  
We really appreciate it.

GOVERNOR MOORE: I appreciate you. God bless you. Thank you.

Mr. Secretary -- sorry. Next, I'd like to highlight Item A1. And

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that's an emergency procurement from the Department of Labor for a \$734,000 contract with Submittable Holdings to administer the Federal Government Employee Assistance Loan Fund. Last month, I signed the Protect Our Federal Workers Act into law, which expands the Federal Government Shutdown Employee Assistance Loan Fund, which essentially helps federal workers by being able to support the ones who have been impacted by these mass and, in many cases, illegal layoffs. Helping them to access interest-free loans and unemployment assistance.

In these first 100 days-plus that we have seen from this new administration, we have seen how now tens of thousands of federal workers have been laid off -- practically shutting down entire agencies in the process. Many of these layoffs we know are things that are being done without legal authority. But we also know that these have been real to many Maryland families. And as the home of more than 260,000 federal workers, as the home of over 160,000 federal jobs and federal agencies in the state of Maryland, Maryland uniquely feels the assault of the barbarity that is happening from this new federal administration.

And here, these draconian and these chaotic layoffs have led to a loss of tens of millions of dollars in income. And more importantly, have disrupted thousands of lives. And these workers are not just Marylanders. They are our friends. They are our neighbors. And frankly, they are public servants who have raised their hands to serve. People who are willing to take an oath that, frankly, the people who are trying to lay them off were never willing to take themselves.

And our Administration will not let our folks be attacked. We are going to mobilize, as we have. And since February, our team has been hard at work to support Marylanders who have been impacted by these draconian cuts. We've laid out five key steps that we're taking to protect our federal workers. We

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are building out our online resources. We're connecting federal public servants with opportunities in education. We're partnering with local leaders and nonprofits and the private sector to meet people where they are and streamline employment opportunities. We are recruiting federal workers into State jobs. And we are updating our internal processes to make sure we are expediting hiring. If a person is ready and qualified, get them trained up, get them certified, and get them in the job as quickly as possible.

Protecting Marylanders is and will continue to be our number one priority and our north star. And I want to take a moment to applaud Secretary Portia Wu and her team at the Department of Labor for just the remarkable and speedy work that they have done and the commitment to ensuring that our federal workers do not get left behind.

With that, is there any other discussion on this item? Madam Comptroller?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Sure. Thank you, Mr. Governor.

I'll just add a couple of couple comments and echo, of course, what you said. You know, certainly as the Trump Administration's chaotic actions have infused the lives of Marylanders with uncertainty and our communities as well, as Comptroller, I'm proud to be partnering with the Moore-Miller Administration, with the Treasurer and with the General Assembly, to do everything we can to bring back some certainty.

Certainty about how our tax dollars are used, certainty about what federal actions mean in Maryland, and certainly certainty about where our economy stands and what it needs. And it is certainly essential to fully understand some of the challenges that we face, so that we can lean in on solutions to overcome those challenges and to build resilience. And that is something that the General Assembly did by passing SB0683 and HB1424. So I

want to commend Senator Charles and Delegate Lewis and the General Assembly for their work, as well as the Department of Labor, to pivot quickly to stand up this emergency program to protect Marylanders.

I'm so proud that so many Marylanders work for the federal government. This is work not just for our state, but to benefit the entire country. And you know, the Trump Administration has really continued unjust firings of our federal workers is not just an affront to their years of public service, but also to our country and the services that citizens around our nation need. So this no-interest loan program is one solution, though, for those workers to help mitigate the negative economic consequences that they may face through no fault of their own. So applaud the Department and the General Assembly for stepping up. Thanks.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

Next, I'd like to call up Item 14, which is a request from the Maryland Stadium Authority to award \$14.3 million in a contract to Clark Construction Group to begin the demolition and reconstruction of the Pimlico Race Course. Almost a year ago today, this Board approved the transfer of ownership of the Pimlico Race Course to the State of Maryland seizing a once in a generation opportunity to reimagine thoroughbred racing in the entire state with the celebration of the 150th Preakness Stakes that is taking place next week. Hope to see all of you there.

The Preakness Festival and all the activities around it will continue to celebrate the importance of not just the race and not just the importance of an industry, but also the importance of Park Heights and the importance of this being a unique moment for our state to come together and to celebrate. And there cannot be a better time to announce the beginning of a transformation that will allow Pimlico to become a year-round hub for economic activity within the Park

Heights community.

The centralization of racing operations at Pimlico will serve to revitalize Maryland's horsing industry. An industry that, by the way, supports over 28,000 jobs and generates roughly \$3 billion in economic activity. And I would like to take a moment to recognize all of the dedicated hard work that brought us to this point. And I particularly want to recognize the leadership of Chairman Greg Cross and the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority, and also the extraordinary leadership of the MSA and its chair, Chairman Craig Thompson.

Under Chairman Cross, the MTROA achieved its set recommendations under the legislative charge two years ahead of schedule. The MSA and MEDCO will now take over the reins. In working with the community, we are so excited to write this next chapter for thoroughbred racing in the state of Maryland. And the power of this is this: that Park Heights was at the center of every conversation. The community was at the center of every conversation. And we are beyond grateful and excited to be able to see what this new chapter is going to bring to the community.

And so for more on this generational project, I am going to turn it over to our generational -- our generationally talented leader over at the MSA, the legend, Chair Craig Thompson, who is here to say a little bit more about these investments.

Chair Thompson, good morning, sir. Congratulations.

MR. THOMPSON: I agree with everything. And with that, I will sit down and yield.

(Laughter.)

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Governor, Mr. Treasurer, and Madam Comptroller. And good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is

Craig Thompson and I am the chairman of the Maryland Stadium Authority. And I am pleased to join you this morning to discuss Item Number 14. As the Governor mentioned, the Maryland Stadium Authority is overseeing the design and construction process for Pimlico and is excited to deliver a new, modern facility for racing fans and the Park Heights community.

This is more than just about a racetrack. As historic and important as it is, this is about bringing hundreds of millions of dollars in State investments to Park Heights. The Pimlico Plus Plan that the State is implementing will transform Pimlico into the home of Maryland thoroughbred racing, going from hosting about 15 racing days per year to well over 100.

The item before you today includes demolition services for Pimlico. And with your approval, MSA will direct the tear down of existing structures at Pimlico shortly after Preakness and paving the way for new construction. The Maryland Stadium Authority is committed to ensuring that our contracting opportunities are equitable and accessible, whether they be union contractors, nonunion contractors, or our certified socio-economic contractors.

The item before you, panel, is an important one. It has a 35 percent MBE participation goal. And Clark Construction has a long history of working with union signatory contractors throughout their contractual relationships with MSA over the last several decades. We are confident that with this contract and the transformative work happening at Pimlico, on the track and off, we will continue to be inclusive and provide meaningful opportunities for contracting and for the contracting community.

Finally, on behalf of MSA and the MSA Board, I'm excited -- very excited to share a preview of the plans underway for the new Pimlico. There's a lot of work to be done. Particularly, on the development opportunities that are outside of the track, which we are exploring in partnership with the Park Heights

community. And we have a few images for you today. And I'd also like to introduce Gary McGuigan, who is the Executive Vice President of our Capital Projects Development Group at MSA. And along with our partners at MTROA, our contractors with Populous and Clark Construction have been in the trenches over the last several months building these ideas, envisioning what you were about to see today. And so we'll have on the screen these images. And for the folks who can't see the screen, Mr. McGuigan will have some images for you as well.

Our first image is an aerial view of the complex. It's set up for a large event like Preakness, with full infield and a new club clubhouse to the left of the track. Our second image is the new clubhouse at Pimlico. And that will restore the old hilltop as a white palace in the park. The site design will create a strong and consistent identity around the perimeter of the property and create many gathering opportunities year-round, both for live racing and nonracing days.

The architecture of the clubhouse is inspired by the grand Baltimore landmarks, such as the Rawlings Conservatory in Druid Hill Park and the original Pimlico Clubhouse. Features of this include a colonnade and rooftop balconies, which are a nod to the porches of the original clubhouse. And finally, here is a view from the clubhouse balcony overlooking the track. There's a lot of work to be done, as mentioned, but we are working in partnership with MTROA, the Legacy Organization, the MJC, which is being created as we speak, along with our contractors and our workers to bring positive and productive and long-standing impact in the Park Heights community.

I want to thank you for your time. With that, I stand ready to answer any questions. And thank you in advance for your consideration of Item Number 14. I will add, Mr. Governor, that the one question that I will not answer is what hat I'm wearing to the Preakness.

(Laughter.)

MR. THOMPSON: I'm not ready for that reveal.

GOVERNOR MOORE: I guess there's no more questions. I'm fine.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: Are there any questions for the chair?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No questions at this time. I want to say thank you to your staff and team for having multiple conversations with me throughout this project. And I look forward to your future conversations as well, as we continue to receive updates and provide oversight and thoughts on the process. Thank you.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Madam Comptroller.

TREASURER DAVIS: If I can. And it's not really anything I think you can answer, Chairman Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: These are my favorite questions.

TREASURER DAVIS: And maybe someone else can, or I guess I know the answer at this point in time. But you have -- the Stadium Authority, excuse me, and the State -- with the implementation and subsequent completion of this project, we will have done everything we could do to make racing successful other than the third weekend in May every year? Is there anything left that, I guess, we can do or -- this has to be successful, I guess, is what I'm getting at.

The State has invested a lot of money over the years. This has been an issue since I first came to Annapolis, literally 30 years ago. And now, you know -- and certainly, Park Heights deserves this. I don't want that to be misconstrued. But what I am asking, because I don't want us to put good money after bad -- not in the community, but in the industry. I guess what I'm asking is



this just a pipe dream, quite frankly, that we can revive racing, or is it just sort of a niche thing that we enjoy every third weekend in May? And then, it's just sort of out there waiting for the next May to come?

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you for that question, Mr. Treasurer. As you were asking it, in my head I sort of calculated what I'm calling the P&S theory -- participate and spread the word. I think that you're correct. That the State has done everything that it can to make sure that we lay the foundation for the success of not only the 150th running of the Preakness, but the racing industry as it grows and expands and races to come in Baltimore. So it's going to be very important for each and every one of us to participate in Preakness and in the nonracing game days or nonracing days in Park Heights.

Support the community. Make sure that on those nonracing days you come to the Park Heights community. You're going to see a wonderful evolution and revolution in that area. So when there's not a race, still come participate in that area. So participate and spread the word. Each and every one of us is an ambassador. Not only for the area of Park Heights, but for the state and for the economic development of the state.

And so participation and spreading of the word, making sure that each of us takes a personal responsibility in demanding that people pay attention to Maryland because we have a lot to offer. And I do wish to thank you all all for your kind words about the MSA's efforts to make Maryland a sports and tourism industry at the end of the meeting in April. I was not able to participate. I was out of town, but I do want to thank you for that. But I think that's it, Mr. Treasurer. Participation and spreading the word. Making sure that each of us plays our role in Preakness' success.

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I take it back. I have one question,

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sorry.

TREASURER DAVIS: I'm sorry, Craig.

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I was just going to comment at the end, but I do actually have one question/concern that I've brought to the team -- I have brought to the team before -- but would love to hear your thoughts on it and just stay abreast of it. MTROA is going away. So that leaves the Maryland Stadium Authority with ownership of the Pimlico. MEDCO, doing much of the design -- or much of the development work.

MR. THOMPSON: It's operational.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Operational. And the MCJA, the new Maryland Jockey Club, which hasn't -- doesn't have a board yet, overseeing it. It's a lot of cooks in the kitchen on what's already a very complicated project. And it just -- sometimes when there are multiple cooks in the kitchen, it's hard to determine where the buck stops besides at this table.

And so it would -- I just sort of implore you to stay focused and to help us understand how there is going to be oversight, when there are so many different bodies who are involved. To be sure that there aren't loopholes, to be sure that we know where these bonded dollars are going. That there is -- that we are spending them efficiently because there is a limited amount of dollars. And I think the General Assembly has been pretty clear that there's not going to be any more.

MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So just wanted to raise that. I have raised it before with the team and just wanted to raise it with you as well. That there is some concern because -- or I have some concern, just because there are so many cooks in the kitchen about how we ensure that we're keeping a close eye on

things.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Madam Comptroller, and if I may have a minute to respond. One thing that I would hope that you -- and can assure you that you should not have any concern about is the level of communication and collaborative partnership that we have today with MSA, with MEDCO, with MTROA. Chair Cross has been amazing to speak with in terms of transitioning to the new MJC Board.

Marc Broady, the executive director, Tom Sadowski, and I have talked just about every day. Gary McGuigan and the community of Park Heights has been in constant communication. And so there is the collaborative partnership that I would expect, the State anticipates and expects. And that is happening and I do think that we'll be able to navigate any issues going forward based on that.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: At the end of the day, these decisions will be made by your board and by the Board of the Maryland Jockey Club on expenditures; is that correct?

MR. THOMPSON: That's correct.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Thank you to you and your entire team.

We actually have a speaker request today that's related to Item 14 as well. And we'll just ask the remarks be limited to no more than three minutes. And I'd like to welcome Mr. Ray Baker, the Maryland Director of Policy for the Baltimore-DC Trade Council has signed up to speak. Good to see you, Mr. Baker. Good to see you again.

MR. BAKER: Good to see you again, Governor. Good morning

to everyone -- Treasurer, Comptroller, Governor. I want to first acknowledge my colleagues from the Baltimore-DC Building Trades that are with us. Please wave to let us know that you're here.

We are excited about the development that will be happening in Pimlico. We are excited to be a part of the process. As we heard Chair Thompson allude to, some of the contractors that Clark has worked with have been union signatory contractors. And we are excited to be a part of the rebuild. We've been deeply ingrained in the Park Heights community, just as all of the other partners have been, organizing outreach. Working to bring folks into our apprenticeship readiness programs to train the next generation of builders in Baltimore. And we look forward to collaborating with everyone who has a meaningful and invested stake.

I will be looking for your hat. I live in the footprint of Pimlico Racetrack, so I will be looking out of my back window while walking my dog to see what kind of hat you have. And so in the spirit of being both a resident there and also, as the Governor alluded to, my title and my work there, we look forward to collaborating and hopefully having the skilled trade union hands build such valuable projects here and ongoing work that will come before this Board and that MSA will be would be responsible. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you, Mr. Baker. And again, looking forward to seeing that hat as well. But also, just very grateful because it's really the hands of your members that have continued to and will continue to build this state. So we're really grateful and really excited for it.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I just have one note.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Please.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I just wanted to note that you signed an important executive order last year on project labor agreements. And

outside of even working with union labor, that's sort of another step, our PLAs, and I really appreciate that the Building Trades leaders who are here for representing Maryland workers, for digging in to ensure we can do local hiring, for building those apprenticeship pipelines.

These are important job opportunities with family-supporting wages. And it brings better value to the state of Maryland, when we are using our dollars to ensure that workers are paid a fair wage so that they can then, in turn, support their families and build middle class lives and support their communities -- and pay sales tax and withholding taxes.

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So just really appreciate your leadership and being here, and appreciate MSA. You're working with them, working with our unions, working with our minority business enterprises to ensure that we're getting best value by working with all of these different options and subcontractors and contractors. So thank you.

MR. BAKER: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. Are there any further discussions on this item?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Not on that item. But on the advice of counsel from the State Ethics Commission, I do need to recuse myself from Secretary's Agenda Item 18. So if we could just separate that item out. After a vote on the remaining agenda, I will step out.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Absolutely, absolutely.

With the exception of 18, is there any further discussion on the Secretary's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay. May I have a motion to approve

the Secretary's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the Secretary's Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: May I have a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much.

Thank you.

(Comptroller exits meeting room.)

TREASURER DAVIS: Let's run through this list again.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay. We'd now like to call up the item that the Comptroller recused herself from, Item 18. A request from the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority to approve a \$4.5 million purchase of a 328-acre property known as Shamrock Farm, which now will then become the site of a new thoroughbred training center in Woodbine. The acquisition of Shamrock Farm will support the training needs of the State's thoroughbred racing industry. And it will do that all while also preserving vital pieces of the local equine heritage.

I also want to recognize that this acquisition is just the start of our state's historic \$110 million investment in the Shamrock Farm Facility, the largest state investment in Carroll County in recent history. So I want to first call up and thank Mr. Greg Cross, who's the chairman of the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority, to both speak more about this acquisition, but also to say, Mr. Cross, thank you, because your leadership and the leadership of MTROA, without what you all provided, could not have gotten us to this really exciting moment that we have in our state's history. So with deep appreciation, I want to turn it over to you, sir.

MR. CROSS: Thank you. Certainly a big day for the Pimlico Plus Plan. You saw the progress on leg three, and I'm here to present leg four -- the fourth and final leg of our recommendations from last January. But before I do that, I want to extend a thanks to the MSA. The design and the plans that you saw, we've been meeting weekly. There have been multiple, multiple multi-day workshops. And it's like building anything with your spouse, it's kind of -- it can be some tension, but there's a lot of hard work. And the amount of things that -- the amount and complexity of what the MSA is being tasked with here is really -- it's not reflected in the images. We're lucky to have them, and I just want to thank them for the partnership.

So this is the final piece of the Pimlico Plus Plan. We're recommending -- I've got -- I don't want to forget. Marc Broady, the Executive Director, is here with me as well. I had him in capitals -- in caps at the top of page and I forgot. The final piece of the Pimlico Plus Plan, we're recommending the acquisition of Shamrock Farms for \$4,480,000. We're also asking for approval for the continuing use of the Shamrock name in connection with the site. That's the long-standing Rooney Family Farm name, and they asked for that as part of the acquisition.

Selection results from a two-year investigation. Originally, there were eight sites that were identified that were feasible across six counties in the state. Those were scored, brought to the Legislature. A short list of three was determined. Following the approval, which was just short of a year ago, we did a deeper dive on the three. In particular, we looked at water and sewer issues to make sure that it was feasible in Carroll County. There were there three sites that were under consideration -- Mitchell's Farm, Shamrock, and Bowie.

Ultimately, the Committee unanimously recommended that we proceed with Shamrock Farm. Shamrock Farm also had -- I didn't hear a negative

thing from a horseman, that was their first-choice selection. Shamrock comes with the resounding support of Carroll County. I will say that when we left the meeting last year, I came back to my office with a letter signed by every county commissioner saying we want to have the training center here.

I also want to highlight that Carroll County is contributing \$1.5 million to the project to offset infrastructure costs. That will be paid in two increments, one this year and one next year. We thank them very much for the help. The site is beautiful. It's 328 pastoral acres. It will allow us to turn out horses. It's going to house 800 horses originally, but it actually allows for expansion. So in the future, if it's a success, we can condo different areas and have different barns and facilities. And it's 20 minutes from Pimlico. It's the perfect site.

Stadium Authority is already undertaking a site investigation with the permission of the Rooney's, so they have been doing excavation sites. They've been doing their studying so that we'll be ready to hit the ground going -- moving forward. And I want to thank before I turn it over for questions -- oh, one more thing. We're advised by Corey Johnsen, who has built several training centers and, in fact, he built the best one in the U.S. And he keeps saying over and over again, that was the best one in the U.S. This will be the best training center in the United States. He loves the site. He loves the layout. He loves what's going to be done. And he speaks from deep experience.

And before I step -- before I turn it over to questions, I want to thank the Rooney Family who didn't negotiate the purchase price. They were very interested in Maryland racing. They said whatever the State determines the price to be is what we'll sell it to you for. They made no ask other than that their name be attached to it. And Tom Rooney, who was an incredibly valuable board member, resigned his position so that we could move forward. And he might



have been one of our very best board members. So they in every way tried to move this forward, and I think we owe them the thanks.

GOVERNOR MOORE: That's fantastic. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CROSS: Any questions?

GOVERNOR MOORE: It's wonderful. Thank you so much. And again, thank you so much for the hard work on this.

MR. CROSS: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Speaking of Carroll County, we're also pleased to be joined by Carroll County Commissioner Ken Kiler, who has signed up to speak in support of this of this item.

Commissioner Kiler, good to see you again, sir.

MR. KILER: Thank you. And I love Carroll County, and I love your description of Shamrock already. That was awesome. I want to thank the Board of Public Works and all the staff and everyone here for this opportunity. And I'm here -- I am Carroll County Commissioner Kenny Kiler. And I'm here with Commissioner Ed Rothstein with me, and there's five of us up there.

Maryland is embarking on one of its biggest capital investments to date, a 400-dollar million investment in the state's storied equestrian economy. Carroll County is pleased to have been selected for a central component of this investment, beating out 80 other locations for a new horse training facility at Shamrock Farm, an existing horse thoroughbred breeding farm.

Our rich agricultural heritage and commitment to continued agricultural preservation and protection provides a perfect environment for this facility. I think in the selection process, it was noted Shamrock's access to Pimlico as well as the setting. In May 2024, as already mentioned, Carroll County commissioners adopted a resolution to support this project and committed

\$1.5 million over two years. We will continue to support the project by working with State agencies to ensure a coordinated and streamlined development process.

We sincerely thank the State leadership for this investment.

Carroll County is proud to be a pivotal part of the rebuilding of Maryland's horse industry, and we look forward to contributing to the success of one of Maryland's most celebrated industries. And on a personal note, in the '60s, I walked horses at Pimlico after they were exercised. I think I got \$2 a horse. And so this whole industry is near and dear to my heart. And as the Comptroller said, there's so many entities involved in this -- coming together to make this work, I want to thank everyone.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you, Commissioner. And thank you not just for the role that Carroll County is playing in this work, but just the role that Carroll County is playing throughout the entire growth and advancement of the State. So we are very, very excited about this and grateful.

MR. KILER: Thank you very much.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good to see you today.

Is there any further discussion on this item?

MR. KILER: No, sir.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay, wonderful. Thank you so much.

May I have a have a motion to approve Item 18 exclusively on the Secretary's Agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: I will second it. Item 18 passes with two votes in the affirmative and one recusal from the Comptroller. Thank you so much.

(Comptroller enters meeting room.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: You should have seen the damage he was

doing.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I mean, I heard the laughter. I was a little concerned I was missing out.

(Laughter.)

MR. GONTRUM: May I suggest -- before moving on to the DNR Agenda, you might want to give a minute or two for everyone who was here just for the Secretary's Agenda to exit the room.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Absolutely.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Sure.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Absolutely, yes. If there's anyone who was here just for the Secretary's Agenda, if they would like to -- if they would like to exit, fine. If you'd like to hear the rest of the meeting, absolutely please stay. Thank you all for being here.

(Pause.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay. We will proceed with the Department of Natural Resource Agenda. Secretary Kurtz, good morning.

MR. KURTZ: Good morning. Good morning, Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, Josh Kurtz, Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. The Department has seven items for your consideration today. I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much. Are there any questions or any discussion on the DNR agenda? Okay. May I have a motion to approve the DNR Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the DNR Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: May I have a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

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GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

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

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you so much, Mr. Governor.

This is a request on Item 3-C-BP to award a second construction bid package for the new School of Social Work for the University of Maryland, Baltimore. I was at the groundbreaking for this. It's an incredibly exciting project, and I just want to offer some praise to Mr. Hickey and UMB's procurement team for the extensive level of detail provided regarding the impressive sustainability aspects of this project, which is targeted to achieve LEED platinum certification.

Just to call out a few. A high-performance building envelope that lowers heating and cooling loads by 12 percent and 4 percent, respectively. Solar arrays with the capacity to produce 15 percent of the energy the building uses. And geothermal exchange wells that are part of a highly efficient cooling thermal control system. So this will ultimately reduce annual energy usage by 65 percent, which is pretty amazing.

This incorporation of sustainability and resilience details on agenda items is something that you, Mr. Hickey, and USM have really been leading on consistently for a while now. And I think it's really encouraging to see so that Marylanders can understand the good work that USM is doing to make sure that our dollars last for longer than our lifetime in building a resilient

infrastructure. So thank you.

MR. HICKEY: I credit former Treasurer Nancy Kopp for pushing us to do that.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great, it's really good work -- as are the MBE goals laid out.

Is there any further discussion on the USM agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the USM agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

We'll proceed with the MDOT Agenda. Ms. Radomsky, good morning.

MS. RADOMSKY: Good morning, Governor, Madam Comptroller, and Mr. Treasurer. For the record, my name is Valerie Radomsky, Chief Procurement Officer at the Maryland Department of Transportation.

Today, we are presenting 13 agenda items for your consideration. Two of those awards are to duly certified small and disadvantaged business enterprises valued at \$5 million. One is to a duly certified small minority business enterprise valued at 598,001. And one award to a certified small business enterprise valued over 546,000. We have representatives available to

answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I just have a question about 11-AE.

MS. RADOMSKY: We have Scott Pomento, Chief Financial Officer for State Highway Administration.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Great.

MR. GONTRUM: That is Scott Pomento?

MS. RADOMSKY: Yes.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Can I try?

MS. RADOMSKY: Sure.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay.

So my first question has to do with the funding sources. This is on 11-AE. It's a request from the State Highway Administration to award two firms work order-based contracts to provide project design and engineering services for federally funded grant programs statewide. So my first question is just around the funding source. With the uncertainty around federal grant programs, including funds that have been already approved and obligated, what impact would any cessation of federal dollars have on this award?

MS. RADOMSKY: Sure.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah.

MR. GONTRUM: Scott Pomento?

(Pause.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: If you don't know, I'll just ask  
SHA --

MS. RADOMSKY: No, it's okay.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: -- you know, another time.

MS. RADOMSKY: I mean, we --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I just didn't have it before the meeting.

MS. RADOMSKY: Sure. No, definitely.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Is it possible he's with somebody else that logged into the meeting?

MS. RADOMSKY: No, he says he's here but he's muted. But it's okay. We can either follow up or I can --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah. Well, let's just -- I mean, if you have the answer, let me know. And then my other question just has to do -- we get so many A&E, so many A&E procurements for so much money. I would love to hear from MDOT. Their thoughts on bringing some of this A&E work in-house.

I would love to know when the last time was that we were doing A&E in-house. What the challenges were around that. But the amount of money that we spend on really amazing contractors, it's nothing against our contractors, but in the long term, since we always need A&E services. Like, I'm just wondering what kind of efforts we can make to bring some of that in-house.

Oh, look, there he is.

MS. RADOMSKY: Sorry.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No, it's okay.

So I don't know, Scott, if you heard Director -- CFO Pomento -- if you heard either of those questions. But the first one is about federal funds and the second one was on sort of the history of A&E being in-house. Oh, we can't hear you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Can you hear us?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Can he hear us? It looks like he

can hear us -- yeah.

Well, I don't want to take the Board's time because I will vote for this regardless. But those are just questions that I hadn't had a chance to bring to you all yet so.

MS. RADOMSKY: Okay. We'll follow up after this.

MR. POMENTO: I apologize for that.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Oh, okay.

MR. POMENTO: But real quickly, yeah. You know, most of these are discretionary funds. So the -- I'm sorry, the federal formula funds. So the discretionary grant piece, we may be impacted by that somewhat. But we wanted to make sure that we had that language in the contracts in the event that the discretionary grants sort of freed up or we had the opportunity to use them down the road. These are five-year contracts, so hopefully, things sort of normalize in the future.

And your question about bringing some of this work in-house, we are working at reducing our vacancies as far as we can. We really wanted to ramp up our customer service with the locals to help them deliver on some of these projects for like the Safe Routes to School, the MTA program, to make sure that these important projects are getting delivered efficiently. And as we do reduce our vacancies, we will transition away from using these contracts and bring more of that work in-house.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Thanks. So let's just follow up and have another conversation.

Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there any further discussion on the MDOT Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the MDOT Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding.

MS. RADOMSKY: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thanks, Ms. Radomsky. Thank you.

We'll conclude with the DGS Agenda. Secretary Chaudhry, good morning.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Good morning, sir -- Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, I'm Atif Chaudhry, Secretary of the Maryland Department of General Services. Today, we are presenting -- the Agency is presenting 56 items on our agenda. We will be withdrawing three items. The first one is Item 42-IT, Task Order 1.1. Second one is 42-IT, Task Order 2.1. And Agenda Item 45-GM. Our agenda does feature 21 capital grants and loans totaling over \$5.5 million.

I did want to highlight one in particular. And that's Item 6-CGL, which provides \$350,000 in State support to an organization called Drink at the Well located in Baltimore City, for the purchase of their building headquarters on Pennington Avenue, which will allow them to remain anchored in the wonderful community of Curtis Bay. Drink at the Well provides mentorship, life skills building, workforce development, and wraparound support services to women recovering, in Baltimore, recovering from poverty-related trauma related to childhood and domestic abuse, human trafficking, exploitation, as well as addiction. This purchase will double the classroom space and expand childcare

space to serve more at-risk women and children.

As we continue to keep an eye on minority business participation in our contracting, our agenda does feature three contract awards and modifications to certified minority businesses totaling more than \$1.7 million. And we have agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

I see we have a speaker request for Item 17-CGL. And that's a request to award \$100,000 in grant funding to the mayor and town counsel of the town of La Plata to support capital improvements in their new police station. I believe Mayor James is joining us virtually.

MAYOR JAMES: I am, good morning, Governor.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Madam Mayor, good to hear your voice.

MAYOR JAMES: I am so sorry I am not there, but I'll tell you why. I am at a ribbon cutting for Charles County's first workforce housing here in La Plata. So I am thrilled to be doing that and welcoming that into our community.

But I just wanted to give a shout out to our police and all that they have been doing. And as La Plata grows with new developments, such as Magnolia Gardens and Pinegrove, we need to strengthen our services and that is our police department. And so this money that will go towards the design and implementation of building -- for a building of our police, so that we can grow and meet the needs and services of our great community. So that's why I am asking for approval on this \$100,000 request, so that we can move this into 21st century policing and give our residents all the services that they deserve.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Madam Mayor, you are right where you need to be. Congratulations. And while we miss you in person, we're thankful that you called in about this because we do think this is -- it's important and it's

important work. And please also tell the officers that we said hello and thank them for their service as well, too.

MAYOR JAMES: I most certainly will.

GOVERNOR MOORE: (Indiscernible)?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Sure, not on that item.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay.

Thank you very much, Madam Mayor. Thank you.

MAYOR JAMES: Thank you for letting me speak. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Are there additional items on the DGS Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: For DGS, I just had two other items. I just wanted to call out Item 22-C.

Mr. Secretary, thank you for your work. This is to award 11 firms a new master contract to provide electrical work and related services statewide. And I just wanted to shout out that nine are certified small businesses, five are minority business enterprises, one is a veteran-owned small business, and two are signatory contractors with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. So it's really great to see us working with businesses who are bringing so much to the state of Maryland. And so I just wanted to highlight that and say thank you, Mr. Secretary.

And then on Items 46, 47, 48 and 49, those are requests to grant exceptions for one year from the automatic termination of funding for GO bond authorizations. So just to reiterate my comments from the February 26th meeting, I feel pretty strongly that grantees have to use it or lose it. They have seven years to encumber funding. I think that is more than enough time to advance projects. Given our very extremely constrained capital budgetary needs, over 3.3 million for these four projects could have gone to other grantees in the past seven years

who could have expended the funds on time. As a reminder, roughly \$1.8 billion in GO bonds are authorized each year for the capital budget. So I'd like to separate out Items 46 to 49 to vote -- to vote no.

Thanks.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much.

So Mr. Secretary, let's please set out -- separate 46 through 49 and we'll conduct that as a separate vote.

But before we conduct the vote, is there any further discussion on the agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: No.

GOVERNOR MOORE: So first, let's take up Items 46 through 49. On those items, may I have a motion to approve that?

TREASURER DAVIS: So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: All right. I will second. And the item passes two to one with the Comptroller voting in the negative.

The remainder of the --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Use your money.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yeah.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Use your money.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Amen.

On the remainder of the DGS Agenda, may I have a motion to approve the remainder of the DGS Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the remainder of the DGS Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay. Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: All right. Perfect. Thank you very much.

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And this concludes today's meeting of the Board of Public Works. Next meeting is May 21st. We are adjourned. Thanks, everybody.

(Whereupon, at 11:14 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)