
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

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

**August 19, 2026
10:15 a.m.**

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 & 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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CONTENTS

Subject	Agenda	Witness	Page
Grant - Darren Foxwell Stadium Scoreboard (Talbot County)	DGS 5-CGL, p. 98	Governor Moore Senator Johnny Mautz Comptroller Lierman Treasurer Davis	6
Services Contract - Department of Health, Office of Medical Benefit Management - Dental Benefits Administration Services for the Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program	DGS 26-S, p. 138	Governor Moore Clint Hackett Comptroller Lierman Treasurer Davis Atif Chaudhry	10
Department of General Services, Design, Construction and Energy - Statewide Contract for Renewable Solar Energy	DGS 42-GM, p. 185	Governor Moore Atif Chaudhry Comptroller Lierman	15
Construction Contract Option - Department of General Services - Job Order Contracting Services for General Construction, SBR General Construction, Electrical, SBR Electrical, Mechanical, Roofing, SBR Roofing, Site Work/Flat Work, and Stormwater Utility	DGS 21-C-OPT, p. 117	Comptroller Lierman Atif Chaudhry	19
Expedited Procurement Report - Department of Human Services - Service Contract	DGS A1-EX, p. 199	Comptroller Lierman Atif Chaudhry	19
Appreciative Remarks Regarding the Work and Service of Outgoing DGS Chief of Staff Daniel Chase		Governor Moore Treasurer Davis Comptroller Lierman	22

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		Atif Chaudhry Daniel Chase	
Secretary's Agenda	SEC	John Gontrum	25
DNR Agenda	DNR	Josh Kurtz	26
USM Agenda	USM	Thomas Hickey	27
Maryland Transit Administration - Architecture/Engineering Contract - Open-End Program/Project Management Consultant Services	MDOT 2-AE, p. 71	Comptroller Lierman Valerie Radomsky	28
Remarks Concerning the Howard University Enrollment Process and the State of Maryland's Response for Affected Students		Treasurer Davis Governor Moore Comptroller Lierman	28
Remarks Concerning the Implementation of the new MD Tax Connect System		Comptroller Lierman	30

PROCEEDINGS

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning, everybody.

(Chorus of Good Morning.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning. Please take a seat.

Please take a seat.

Good morning. And welcome to today's meeting of the Board of Public Works. And I wanted to start today a little bit -- a little bit differently. I'm sorry, I'm just --

(Pause.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: I wanted to start today's meeting a little bit different because I actually want to start today's meeting with the DGS Agenda coming at the top. Where, you know, usually we have you all batting cleanup. But I wanted to start with DGS. And so with that, we'll get started with the business of the day.

Secretary Chaudhry, good morning.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Morning, sir. Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, and Mr. Treasurer, kind of a weird feeling going first, but, you know, I'll embrace it. Thank you. For the record, I am Atif Chaudhry, Secretary of the Department of General Services. Today, the Department is presenting 49 items on our agenda including one report of an expedited procurement for the Department of Human Services. We are withdrawing three items today. Those three items are 25-S, 34-IT, and 48-CGL.

Our agenda does feature 21 capital grants and loans totaling more than \$5.6 million. I want to highlight one very briefly, and that's Item 11-CGL, which provides \$275,000 to the Board of Directors of Saint Martin's Ministries.

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Grant funds will support critical safety upgrades at Martin's House and Barn, which provides shelter, food, and clothing to mid-shore residents in need. Additionally, the funding will be used to complete renovations to family shelter suites to create safer, more comfortable living spaces for families rebuilding their lives.

As we continue to keep an eye on minority business contracting, our agenda does feature two contract actions to certified minority businesses totaling more than \$28.5 million, and four contract actions to certified small businesses totaling more than \$29.8 million. And we have agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful. Thank you so much.

I'd actually like to start by highlighting Item 5, which is a request to award a \$150,000 capital grant to the Board of Education of Talbot County for the construction of the Darren Foxwell Stadium Scoreboard at Easton High School. This is a tribute and a recognition to someone who was raised right, was a true gift. A gift to all of us who knew him. And frankly, a treasure for all of us who you didn't know him, you benefited from his life. And he was a brilliant young man who tragically passed away last year in an accident.

And to highlight the importance of him, the importance of his remarkable parents and family, something that has never happened in the State of Maryland happened last year. And that was -- you all might recall that in our July meeting of the Board of Public Works for both the Treasurer, the Comptroller, and myself, that none of us attended that meeting. That had never happened in the history of the state of Maryland. The reason is because we were there to celebrate a light. We're there to celebrate a gift. A gift that was taken too soon, but whose legacy is never going to be forgotten.

And his fingerprints are going to be on everything. Not just in the

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County and in the State, but someone who we're just thankful that God gave us the chance to get to know Darren. He was a recent graduate of Eastern High School. He planned to attend Bethany College in West Virginia. He was someone who was just known for his kind spirit, for his energy. And for the fact that regardless of what room he walked into or what baseball field he walked onto, he was going to make the people around him better. And that's exactly what he did throughout his entire life.

This morning, we are joined by his remarkable parents, Len and Kerry, who, I want to tell you, you've done an amazing job. You didn't just do an amazing job with him. You've done an amazing job with your entire family, and you've also done an amazing job of in the most trying of times that you still never lost your sense of love and joy. And that is not just deeply appreciated, but it's something that none of us are ever going to forget because in you we see him, and the contribution that he and his legacy will continue to make in all of us.

On behalf of this Board, on behalf of this state, on behalf of all of us, I just want to let you know you continue to be in all of our prayers every single day. And the Darren Foxwell Memorial Scoreboard will serve as the Easton High School Warrior Stadium Scoreboard and celebrate his memory and the memory of all of the Easton High School Warriors with the state-of-the-art video display. It's going to be something that all our student athletes, and all the families, and all the Marylanders will be able to look at, and admire, and remember for years to come.

In addition to my partners on this Board, I want to say thank you to Senator Zucker, and Senator Hershey, and Senator Mautz because it was also your leadership that helped to secure this grant.

And in fact, Senator, it's great to see you here. And I would love for -- if you would like, I'd love for you to be able to take the podium as well.

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SENATOR MAUTZ: Thank you, Governor. It's a great honor. And Mr. Treasurer, Mr. Chairman, and Madam Comptroller, it's an honor to be here this morning.

This is an enormous, wonderful extension of support to the community and to the family. We can't say thank you enough. From the District, from the County, from everyone that knew Darren, from the folks who went to school, his colleagues at Easton High School. It is just a tremendous, tremendous investment and so greatly appreciated, and certainly, from the family. It's going to stand and be a light for the future to just carry on Darren's spirit.

I wanted to make sure to say thank you to you. I also wanted to share with you my last experience with Darren. It was at graduation, and it was a hug. And if he were here, he would be giving everyone in this room not just a thank you, but a hug. He was just that type of a personality. And you hit the nail on the head when you talked about his impact on every room that he entered. And so this is a solemn day, but it's also a very good day.

We're moving forward with this announcement. And it's my honor also to personally extend to you an invitation to join us on the 4th of September at Easton High School. We're going to be unveiling this new scoreboard at the first home game for the Easton Warriors Football. They're going up against Caesar Rodney, so I'm not sure exactly how the game's going to play out. But I can tell you one thing, it's going to be the best start to an Easton High School football season anybody will ever remember.

Thanks to your support and thank you to the support from so many others in the General Assembly. If I can help you attend that, please feel free. That invitation is for Governor Moore, Madam Comptroller, and Mr. Treasurer. If I can help you in any way to join us, to come together as a community, we'd love to have you there with us. I understand your schedule is very busy. Thank

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you so much. God bless you. And to the Foxwells, our love will never stop pouring out for you. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you, Senator.

Madam Comptroller?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Sure.

I mean, I would just echo everything that the Governor said.

Thank you for being here today. And more importantly, thank you for being great parents and great community members. You know, no family should ever have to endure what you all are going through -- or your daughter, your sister, and family. You will never forget Darren. We will never forget Darren. And now, we can make sure that Talbot County will never forget Darren, and we continue to celebrate his life and the things that he loved in the best way that we can.

So thank you for your advocacy and your love and caring, and thank you for being here today.

TREASURER DAVIS: Well, just to echo what everyone said, obviously, that was an unspeakable tragedy. And I guess the thing that sort of stuck with me is the remarkable strength that you all showed when we were at his homegoing services. I just couldn't imagine the pain that you must be feeling. It goes without saying, for those of you who have children, you just simply can't imagine, you know, them going before you. But just the strength that you all showed, the love, the care, it's easy to understand the young man that he was and the man that he was going to become. Just remarkable parents and family members.

You know, even though it's been a little over a year now, I guess about 14 months, I still harken back to that, you know, to the day of the services, all the students, teachers, the community that was there. And you know, you have a lot of support, a lot of love. And you know, sometimes we forget after those

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initial days that people are always there calling and visiting and so forth. But as you start to get away from that, phone calls maybe don't come as often, the visits don't come quite as often, but there's still a journey that you have to go through.

So all of those -- so for all of those who are friends of the Foxwells and of that community, I hope I'm not out of line by saying, please continue to call. Please continue to visit and show you love. And, you know, this -- I don't believe that this is -- this is probably a never-ending journey. You know, it's not something that I think you ever get over. You just sort of learn how, you know, ways how to move on. And you're able to do that through the love and support of your friends and family. So I would ask that you all keep him in your prayers and keep supporting them.

GOVERNOR MOORE: We love you guys.

(Pause.)

TREASURER DAVIS: It's kind of hard to move forward now.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yeah, I know.

The next item, I would like to highlight Item 26, which is a request from the Department of Health to award a \$21.3 million contract to SKYGEN USA. This contract would administer dental benefits for eligible Medicaid participants through the Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program. And I'd like to invite MDH Deputy Secretary Clint Hackett to share more about this request.

MR. HACKETT: Good morning, everyone. Mr. Governor, Mr. Treasurer, and Madam Comptroller. For the record, my name is Clint Hackett and I'm the Deputy Secretary with responsibility for operations at the Maryland Department of Health.

As you are aware, the State of Maryland awarded a dental administrative service organization, or DASO contract, to DentaQuest in February of 2025, choosing this dental vendor over SKYGEN. The DASO is responsible

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for providing critical administrative services for 1,600 dental providers serving 1.5 million Marylanders enrolled in Medicaid. During the design, development, and implementation, or DDI phase, it became apparent that the operational structure of the DentaQuest engagement did not align with the State's requirements in ways not identifiable during the evaluation.

On April 1st, 2026, the Department and DentaQuest mutually agreed to terminate the contract for convenience. It should be noted that the DentaQuest agreement with the State required full implementation to receive payment. Under such, with the dissolving of that relationship, the Department incurred no vendor costs to the State. Following termination of the DentaQuest contract, SKYGEN remains the only contractor currently administering DASO functions.

The requested sole-source contract today with SKYGEN will allow the State to maintain continuity of critical Medicaid dental program operations, preserve beneficiary access to covered dental services, and support provider reimbursement and program administration. All the while giving the State adequate time to evaluate and implement a long-term procurement strategy and analyze the structure of the dental administrative services within the Maryland Medicaid Program.

The Department's analysis will involve evaluating the current Dental Benefits Administrator operating model to determine which functions should remain contracted and which may potentially transition to MDH through in-house staffing. The results of this analysis will define the scope, requirements, and procurement strategy for the next competitive solicitation. Approving this contract will allow the Department the time required to also onboard and complete system implementation of the next selected vendor. Implementation activities for an engagement like this usually includes, but are not limited to,

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system development, data conversion, testing, provider transition, staff training, and certification by the centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS.

In closing, we respectfully request your votes to help ensure the protection of Maryland dental providers and the nearly 1.5 million Marylanders receiving services while MDH strives to develop a modern, sustainable, high-performing Medicaid dental program. I am hereby happy to answer any questions that you may have.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thanks. I actually have a couple questions, but thank you so much for being here today.

So I just want to underline that there's two providers in the nation who can do what we are currently contracting for; is that correct?

MR. HACKETT: There are two providers that provide Medicaid dental administrative services.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Right. And that's DentaQuest and SKYGEN.

MR. HACKETT: That are available within the state of Maryland.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. And the work that they're doing -- these are not the dentists. This is like an administrative IT function, correct?

MR. HACKETT: Yeah, they do a number of things. So they bring the system to the table -- and I will elaborate on this because this is what we're going to be looking at in terms of reimagining the model (indiscernible).

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: That's what I thought, yeah.

MR. HACKETT: Yeah, so we have the IT --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Right.

MR. HACKETT: -- which is what, you know, the providers use to interface the IT processes claims.

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay.

MR. HACKETT: There are also things like prior authorizations for services. There's things like third-party liabilities that the vendors also do. There's things like providing support for the providers in terms of training in programs, training in the system. And there's also support for the constituents that actually receive the services. So it's IT, plus a whole administrative package that comes along with it. So we are going to be looking at-- you know, we've had a really good -- we feel that we've had really good preliminary success with the government modernization initiatives, where we're looking to insource more of the roles for cost savings.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay.

MR. HACKETT: So we are going to be looking at each of those components of that -- of those programs to see -- and doing cost benefit analysis to see what makes sense for us to potentially insource. And then what that will result in is likely a reimagined procurement strategy that potentially can result in more competitive procurement as well.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. That's great. Yeah, I think that's really important just given we are sort of between a rock and a hard place right now with this, and so it makes a lot of sense to me. Do you think that -- so this terminates -- this is a two-year contract essentially, and then with a one-year renewal option. So is your -- can we plan that you will have a plan prior to seeking any sort of renewal option, and you will be well underway with what -- I mean, can you keep our office updated?

Like, I just would hate for us to be at the August 2028 meeting, now hoping I'm still here then, to say, "Oh, we're still evaluating or we still haven't decided what we're going to do." You plan to undertake this review, like, pretty soon?

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MR. HACKETT: Possibly.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay.

MR. HACKETT: I think when we receive the approval today, one of the top three things that we're going to be doing once we have operationalized firmly, our engagement with SKYGEN will be that analysis. And we will be happy to provide updates to the members of this Board on how that analysis is progressing.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: That's great. I think it would be really interesting to hear how it's going. And you know, maybe this will offer us some sort of model for insourcing IT services and IT systems when there really is no way to have a competitive procurement, and the choices are not optimal, we'll say. Okay. Great, thank you.

MR. HACKETT: I appreciate it.

TREASURER DAVIS: You had me as soon as you said that we had a new contract, but not the (indiscernible).

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah.

TREASURER DAVIS: I'm having issues with this until we found that was all.

Just a quick -- I want to make sure I'm reading it right. It actually -- the contract becomes effective as soon as we vote, or is it a specific date? Because what I'm looking at (indiscernible) dated upon BPW -- like, it gave a date and then it said or upon BPW approval. So does that mean it becomes effective as soon as we vote?

MR. HACKETT: We are targeting September 1st because we have an extension that goes with SKYGEN. And when I came the last time, we had an extension that goes through August 31st. So this would become effective September 1st.

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay.

TREASURER DAVIS: Okay.

All right. I'm ready to vote.

MR. HACKETT: Thank you. I really appreciate your attention to this.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I just have a couple other DGS questions, but not on this one. So you can do it.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay. Great. How about -- I'm going to highlight 42 and then --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yep, perfect.

GOVERNOR MOORE: I also wanted to get a chance to highlight Item 42 which is a request from DGS. And it would approve a modified \$470 million contract with REV Renewables for the purchase of solar energy for the State.

In 2024, I issued an executive order, and that was focusing on directing State agencies to aggressively strengthen the grid and to utilize all available means in order to lower energy costs for the people of this state. This agenda item will help to advance that goal. This agenda item will make sure that we are utilizing all the various assets that are necessary and required to provide relief, while also making sure that we can have a grid that is fortified and a grid that is sustainable.

Because in order for us to strengthen the grid while also lowering cost, we have to focus on renewable energy. And that is not because it's an ideology, it's because renewable energy is the cleanest and it's also the cheapest and the fastest way for us to be able to sustain energy here inside of the state of Maryland.

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And through this 20-year power purchase agreement, REV Renewables will provide approximately 250,000 megawatt hours of renewable electricity at a fixed rate. This will serve as nearly 15 percent of the State's energy portfolio beginning in 2028. And because of this agreement, it also includes a fixed rate that is lower than the current retail cost of energy. And the State will save an estimated \$300 million over that 20-year agreement. So the ability to be able to both address cost and sustainability is something that's accomplished with this initiative.

And so what is indisputable in all this is that clean energy projects that are ready to go right now are the ones that are also the ones most directly under attack by this federal Administration, who is using energy policy like it is an ideology. Who is not allowing data nor science to be able to lead the conversation, but just simply internet conspiracy theories and talking points. But in Maryland, we're going to continue to lead. In Maryland, we will continue following data. In Maryland, we're still going to make sure that we can provide some relief, some energy relief, to the people of this state.

And the facility for this project is being built in Western Maryland on the site of a reclaimed coal mine, transforming a former industrial site into a source of clean energy. The project location known as the Lower Georges Creek Coalfield, has been used for coal mining operations periodically since the 19th Century. But mining operations began to slow and ultimately ended in the early 2000s, mainly simply because of the costs. And for many of these sites, the cost of mining became greater than what the coal was actually worth. And so it was a business model problem that they were running into.

They closed not because of ideology; they closed because coal mining was just becoming bad business. And while the policy decisions from our federal Administration are clearly driven by that ideology, our decisions will

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continue to be driven by data. Renewable energy is fast. It is clean. It is reliable. It is cheaper for our people. And we are thrilled about what this agreement is going to mean for our folks out in Western Maryland, and for what Maryland's investments are going to mean in terms of long-term renewable energy opportunities.

And so Secretary Chaudhry, I just want to say thank you to you, to your team, for reaching this agreement and what it's going to mean for the people of not just Western Maryland, but what it's going to mean for the people of this state.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Thank you, Governor. I really appreciate that.

I want to thank my team. I want to give a quick shout out to a few folks here -- Courtney League, Tom Lequire, Hannah Debelius, and David St. Jean. They worked diligently behind the scenes to make this deal happen. It shows truly that clean, sustainable energy does not have to cost more than other energy sources. And this locks us in at a cost savings. And the huge benefit is it is locked in pricing that will not increase, while our current energy rates elsewhere will absolutely be increasing over time.

So we're very excited about this \$300 million savings that we're estimating it to be. A little conservative, maybe even more than that over the next 20 years. So we're very excited about and very happy.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding job. Thank you.

Madam Comptroller?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Nope, just thank you so much for bringing this to us, for talking with my team to explain the waivers that you're requesting, and your delegated authority for the underlying contract. You know, looking forward to seeing it come to fruition. And are there other -- I notice you

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had one solicitation toward multiple statewide contracts for renewable energy.
Are there other contracts that you all are pursuing right now in other areas or this
--

MR. CHAUDHRY: We will. Yeah, we will absolutely be seeking additional. Yep.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Great. Well, it will be great to -- even though only if you seek a waiver will they come to us, it will be great to hear what some of the other contracts are that you're looking at.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Absolutely, I'll make sure that you and the Treasurer's Office are informed.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Great. Thank you. Appreciate it. Congratulations.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much.

May I have a motion to approve the DGS --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Can I --

GOVERNOR MOORE: Oh?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Actually, can I ask a question on another item?

GOVERNOR MOORE: Oh, yeah. Of course, of course.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Great, thanks.

While you're up there --

(Laughter.)

MR. CHAUDHRY: It's all right. I can keep answering.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Well, I mean, for about a few different items.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Sure.

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So all together there's 21, which is the job order of contracting services.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Sure.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Just talked about 26. And then there's A1-EX, which is the expedited procurement report for security services at DHS. So these all have a little bit to do with the idea of, like, the need or the thought to bring more in-house, and to try to ensure that we have State employees who can do this work.

Sometimes, obviously, that's not realistic. Agencies might not have the staff. The project could be too complex or it could be too minute, right? And we don't need to have State employees working on something that's only going to last for six months, you know, or sometimes asking State employees to take something on might just mean extra work without enough staff. And so there is a balance, obviously, and we need to make sure we struck it.

But on some of these items, I was wondering -- first on Item 21, the DGS job order contracting services. Can you just clarify what kind of work this contract covers, and do you have any recent examples since this is a renewal contract?

MR. CHAUDHRY: Sure. No, thank you, Madam Comptroller. I'll quickly go over the process. So typically, all agencies, including DGS, when work needs to be done in any type of building or facility, we do an analysis to determine can that work be done by in-house staff, existing State employees. If the answer is no, then we would utilize methodologies, such as job order contracts, to bring in contractors to do the work.

And so this doesn't replace State employees, this just helps supplement the work. And these are typically going to be more complex jobs, right? These are going to be high-voltage electrical work. These are going to be

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roofing projects. They're going to be windows. They're going to be window replacements. Paving, paving parking lots. Changing out complex boilers and chillers -- you know, HVAC or air handlers. So these are -- they're a lot more that are required and involved in that.

A lot of the large-scale HVAC projects do require commissioning in ensuring we're meeting local permitting and other requirements and to make sure they're being inspected. So they're more complex things than are normally required. And usually, these are going to be for direct specific projects at local sites. I think some of those are some of the examples I gave you there. Some of these can -- they're wide ranging depending on the complexity, and size, and scale of the project.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: All right. Have you ever -- do you regularly, DGS, look back, or at some type of predetermined interval, look back to see what agencies are using the JOC contract for, and whether it was an appropriate usage of the contract or not?

MR. CHAUDHRY: I think we're closely monitoring it with agencies and partnering with them. DGS had the design and construction control authority. Anything above a delegation comes to us anyway, so we have to coordinate with them very closely for all of their major projects. Besides a routine maintenance project, anything that gets to be a little more complicated, usually, we're involved in those discussions.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Understood. And sort of -- so just because this contract exists, doesn't mean work automatically goes to a vendor? You still -- it's a tool for DGS when the work is beyond what our current staff level of State employees can do, right? It's not like everything goes?

MR. CHAUDHRY: Yes, ma'am. Absolutely. And it's -- actually, State employees are our first -- we look to first to do the work in-house first. If

they can't do it, or it's too complex, or too involved, that's when we utilize these types of contracting methodologies.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. That's great. And then on Item 26, just really appreciated, you know, the discussion about what piece of that could come in-house so that we don't find ourselves in this situation again. Is that something that DGS would work with MDH to determine whether handling some of that work or all of that work in-house, so that we'd have more ownership of it as possible within the next couple of years?

MR. CHAUDHRY: Absolutely.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. And then on A1-EX, the DHS Security Services, this is an expedited procurement report for security services at DHS in Baltimore. Can you confirm that this is a one-year contract?

MR. CHAUDHRY: Yeah, one year, I think with a one-year renewal option.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. And when do you plan to begin the next procurement for this work?

MR. CHAUDHRY: So we have an existing statewide contract for unarmed security services. This is unarmed and armed, and this also gives -- I think DHS utilizes a contracting vehicle to bring in more advanced security services that are more -- have additional training, like de-escalation and others, to be able to help support their clients and their visitors that come in. But we'll be coordinating with DHS offline to work through next steps associated with this, given this is a one-year with a one-year.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. And I would be curious to see what it would cost for State police to provide security in this manner instead of -- you know, it would be helpful to see the cost benefits and how we got to outsourcing. How you determine when it would make sense to increase the

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number of State police or allocate resources to State police to take on security services -- or Capitol Police, I guess, but usually State police -- versus when you outsource security work?

MR. CHAUDHRY: Absolutely. We've done some analysis before, happy to update that. And I know we've done some of this analysis already as part of discussions, but happy to share that with you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Great, thank you.

Thank you, Governor.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

May I have a motion to approve the DGS Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the DGS Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much.
Thanks, Mr. Secretary.

But before we proceed to the Secretary's Agenda, I ask you to sit tight for one second, Mr. Secretary, because we know that we are having a very important departure that's going to be taking place from your office. And I know how much Daniel has meant to you and the team, and I just want to take a moment just to say how much he's meant to all of us.

Where the Department's Chief of Staff, Daniel Chase, is going to be transitioning from his role next week. He began his tenure as Chief of Staff in 2024. And since then, he has not just been a steady presence here inside of the Board of Public Works, but his impact has gone -- on the Department and on the State, long and far beyond BPW. Because if you look at the historic achievements that have taken place under your leadership, Mr. Secretary, and

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what we've seen with the Department, his fingerprints have really been all over these things.

And whether it's the comprehensive plan to consolidate and relocate Maryland's state government buildings and delivering more than \$325 million in total expected savings. Also, helping to implement the reform to Maryland's procurement process increasing transparency that will make it easier for disadvantaged vendors to actually compete for State contracts.

Daniel's leadership has been seen throughout, and the communities that he's been able to be a part of have really been the beneficiaries of it. And importantly, he's going to be remembered for the energy, and the humor, and just being a real culture carrier. Where I know that he's going to carry that as he goes back to -- goes to Colorado. So --

TREASURER DAVIS: Why are they laughing in the back?

GOVERNOR MOORE: I know.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: I know. I know. I know. I know.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Congratulations.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yes, it's a very big deal. It's a very big deal.

But Mr. Secretary, I turn it over to you as well.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Thank you, Governor. And Daniel Chase has been a great, great partner -- a steadfast partner. Not just here at DGS with me, and with me all the time, living and breathing everything with me across all three branches of State government -- we really do. We touch -- DGS, we touch everyone. He's been involved in that and been engaged with every agency, every branch of government. And I really appreciate his dedication to and his its commitment to DGS -- but not just DGS, but the entire State government in

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serving the citizens of Maryland.

Obviously, Governor has been actively involved in numerous groundbreaking initiatives here at DGS. You've mentioned some of those there. But when he was in Chief of Staff, I'll tell you he was never afraid to get his hands dirty. Whether it's -- you know, no job was too small, whether it's clearing snow with me, or, you know moving furniture and coordinating. And for the record, Governor, I want to say I never specifically asked him to clear snow with me.

(Laughter.)

MR. CHAUDHRY: I let him -- he happened to be with me and I said, "I'm going to clear snow. I'll be shoveling and snow blowing. You are -- feel free to sit in a warm vehicle or go in the building." But he chose -- he chose to help me. But he was out there with me nonstop in the blistering cold doing it, and that's just who he is.

Behind-the-scenes guy. He's very, very much a behind-the-scenes guy, and I think that's where we're getting some giggles, Governor, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller, behind the scenes here. Because he does not like attention whatsoever. He does not like being in the spotlight. And I will tell you there are people here enjoying him squirm right now because he's being highlighted.

And I will tell you the first time, Governor, we were at a meeting. You and I started chatting and I introduced him, and afterwards, "I did not want to meet the Governor today."

(Laughter.)

MR. CHAUDHRY: "That's not -- I'm a behind-the-scenes guy. That's not what I do." And I said, "Well, people want to meet the Governor. You know?" And I will tell you that we had an all-staff meeting last week, and we highlighted and recognized him. I literally had the Maryland Chief of Police for

Capitol Police, the Chief of Police standing next to him and keeping him in the room, in the front of that room, so we could recognize him and support him. So that's what he is. He's a behind-the-scenes guy. He doesn't want the name or recognition. He just wants to do the work, and we really appreciate him for doing the work.

I want to thank him for his commitment, for his dedication, understanding that the commitment true nature of being 24/7 that DGS is, and being available day and night for us. And I really want to thank him for responding when issues arise because he was doing it selflessly every single day. And I want to just wish him well. He's going off to be a big-time lobbyist in his hometown of Denver, and we want to congratulate him on that. But I just want to thank him and thank him for everything he's done for us to this day.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And particularly because he does not like being recognized and does not like the spotlight on him, Daniel, I ask that you come up here so we can recognize you.

(Applause.)

(Photographs were taken.)

MR. CHASE: Thank you very much.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

(Applause.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thanks again, Mr. Secretary.

We will proceed with the Secretary's Agenda. Secretary Gontrum, good morning.

MR. GONTRUM: Good morning, Governor. And good morning to you, Mr. Treasurer and Madam Comptroller. There are 23 items and one report of an emergency procurement contract award on the Secretary's Agenda this morning. However at the request from Morgan State University, I'm withdrawing

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Item 23, leaving 22 items and the one report of the emergency procurement on your agenda this morning. I am happy to assist with answering any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Thank you.

Is there any discussion on Secretary's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Nope.

GOVERNOR MOORE: May I have a motion to approve the Secretary's Agenda?

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

GOVERNOR MOORE: And is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you.

We will proceed with the DNR Agenda. Mr. Secretary, good morning.

MR. KURTZ: Good morning, Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, and Mr. Treasurer. For the record, Josh Kurtz, Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. The Department has 12 items for your consideration today, and I'm happy to take any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Any discussion on the DNR Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Nope.

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the DNR Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much, Mr.

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Secretary.

We'll proceed with the University System of Maryland. Mr. Hickey, good morning.

MR. HICKEY: Good morning, Governor, Mr. Treasurer, and 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.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Any discussion?

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: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thanks so much, Mr. Hickey.

And we will conclude 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 for the Maryland Department of Transportation. Today, we are presenting eight agenda items for your consideration, and we have representatives available to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Any discussion for the agenda on MDOT?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No, I -- Valerie, could -- or Ms.

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Radomsky, could I -- 2-AE, we always have these indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity work order-based contracts for MTA that are tens and tens of millions of dollars without any sort of -- just without any sort of update on what has been achieved in past contracts. So this is a new round of these contracts, and this is the first one, I take it, Contract B for Kimley-Horn & Associates. I would like to touch base and just understand sort of what we're getting for our money.

MS. RADOMSKY: All right.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thanks.

But otherwise no.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay.

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. Thank you so much.

Thank you, Ms. Radomsky.

MS. RADOMSKY: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there any other discussion before we adjourn?

TREASURER DAVIS: Yes. May I? Unless Madam Comptroller does.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Nope, go for it.

TREASURER DAVIS: I meant to say this at the last meeting. And this -- it's not really a BPW item, but in the business of the last meeting, I simply forgot.

Governor, I wanted to thank you and your Administration for what

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you all did for those students with the Howard University situation. And it's, to me -- I don't know if you all are familiar with it or not. If you're not, Google it. But if you are, you know what I'm talking about.

As a first-generation college student myself, I know how difficult that process can be, how cumbersome it can be, and you just don't know what you don't know. And you know, I think about the families, and friends, and, you know, everybody's all excited, but they don't know everything that needs to be done. And so with all due respect to just callously unenroll students and potentially shattered dreams and goals and leave them scrambling over some confusion that, in my opinion, you caused, or you certainly played a role -- not you personally --

GOVERNOR MOORE: No, I understand.

TREASURER DAVIS: -- but, I mean, the institution. That you caused, and not to do everything you can to resolve it, to me is unconscionable. So I wanted to say and I wanted to acknowledge publicly, you know, the Administration stepping in to sort of fill that role. And for those students and future students, if you're looking for HBCU, Maryland has four of them -- Bowie, Morgan, Coppin, UMES. You know, we'll take care of you and we'll work through any misunderstandings.

But I wanted to acknowledge that act because, again, somebody coming from, you know, coming from that space of being a first-time college student, things get missed or you don't understand, and to be put in that position is just tough. And so again, you know, thank you for stepping in. And for those who needed it, being able to clear that up.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Treasurer.

Yeah, to your point, those students are important. And so we're glad that our state collectively could be in a position to be able to support them,

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and make sure that they're going to be okay, and their families are going to be okay. And you know, it'll be good to have such brilliance. You know, listen, you get accepted to Howard University, you're on your way. And so now, if we can make Maryland part of their journey, the better we are for it.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you. Yes, I absolutely agree.

I just wanted to give some remarks about where we are as an agency. So 30 years ago, I was a student at Walt Whitman High School, and Louis Goldstein was our Comptroller. I'm pretty sure I did not know that Maryland had a Comptroller when I was in high school. But they were very busy in the Office of the Comptroller, moving all of our paper tax records into a new mainframe system whose acronym is SMART. And there they have lived on that mainframe system in COBOL for the past 30 years.

And starting today, we began moving four billion records from that mainframe through fiber into our new cloud-based modern tax system. So I just want to give a shout out to our team, Team Comptroller. They've worked for years towards this moment. A shout out to Marylanders for bearing with us. For the next two weeks, our systems will be down. It just simply takes that long to get data from one place to another. And we are really excited about the new generation of options, and transparent government, and revenue administration that we can provide to the residents and businesses of Maryland starting on September 1st, when we launch Maryland Tax Connect for individual taxpayers.

So thank you to everybody who's helped us along the way, for budgeting us for this transition, for supporting our work. And I know Louis is looking down and is very proud to see us continue his legacy of modernization and service for Marylanders. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

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This concludes today's meeting of the Board of Public Works. Next meeting will be September 2nd, and we'll be meeting in the Treasury Building. So thank you all very much.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 11:01 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)