
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

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

**July 1, 2026
10:07 a.m.**

PRESENT

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HONORABLE DERECK E. DAVIS

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PROCEEDINGS

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Good morning,
everyone.

(Chorus of good morning.)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: All right. Again, good
morning everyone. And welcome to today's Board of Public Works.

Before we begin, I'd like to recognize that we are just a few days
away from the 4th of July. And this 4th of July is especially exciting because it
marks the 250th year of America's independence. We're celebrating a remarkable
milestone in our Nation's history. Anniversaries invite us to look back, but they
also challenge us to think about the future we're building together. And there is
no better place to do that than then right here in the great state of Maryland. The
very building we're sitting in reminds us that Maryland has always been at the
center of our Nation's story. This is the only state capital to have ever served as
our Nation's capital. And it was in this building that the Treaty of Paris was
ratified, marking the end of the Revolutionary War.

As we prepare to celebrate Independence Day, I'd also like to
recognize the work of the Maryland 250 Commission. In 2023, the Governor
charged the Commission with creating the most inclusive commemoration of our
Nation's founding in state history. Since then, the Commission has engaged with
Marylanders across the state through educational events, local partnerships,
service, and so much more. And today, we're fortunate to be joined by the
Executive Director Michele Johnson.

She's on her way up?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No, she's right --

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Oh, there you are. Hey, Michele. Good to see you.

As well as our State Archivist, Elaine Rice Bachmann. There she is.

Can we give them a round of applause?

(Applause.)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: The two of them and the entire Commission have done a remarkable job of reminding Marylanders how important Maryland is in America's history for the 250 Celebration. So thank you all for everything that you do.

Michele and Elaine, you know, again, are members of the Maryland 250 Commission, and we deeply appreciate your dedication to inclusivity in celebrating our rich history. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Maryland alongside each of you. I wish everyone a safe, joyful, and meaningful 4th of July.

With that, let's get started with the business of the day.

Good morning, Secretary Gontrum.

MR. GONTRUM: Good morning, Governor. And good morning to you, Mr. Treasurer, and Madam Comptroller. There are 37 items on the Secretary's Agenda this morning and one report of an emergency procurement contract modification. There were some late revisions to Items 26 and 27, if I could just detail those really quickly.

On Item 26, Sub-Grants 5, 9, 11, and 20 were removed in the revision. Those are grants to SuperFresh Supermarket, Pratt Street Meat and Produce, Inc., Central Gardens, Centerville Farmers' Market, and Fresh Start Food and Garden LLC, respectively. Item 27 Sub-Grant 66 was removed. That's the Friends of Collington Square Park, Inc. grant.

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Governor, Madam Comptroller, and Mr. Treasurer, I'm happy to assist in answering any questions.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: All right. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

Now, I understand we have a speaker request this morning. And in the best interest of time, we'll ask that the speakers limit their comments to no more than three minutes. So I'd like to have Secretary Gontrum to be the timekeeper.

First, we have a speaker request for Item 7, which is a request to award a \$11.5 million grant to the Chesapeake Bay Trust. I'd like to recognize Jose Castellanos, who has signed up to speak in support of this item.

Mr. Castellanos, please. Good morning.

(Pause.)

MR. CASTELLANOS: Am I good?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Yep.

MR. CASTELLANOS: Okay. Thank you, Lieutenant Governor Miller, Comptroller Lierman, and State Treasurer Davis for the opportunity to address the Board of Public Works today. The Chesapeake Bay Trust is a 501(c)(3) created by the Maryland General Assembly in 1985. We are honored to be tasked to fulfill our mission of delivering resources to community-based organizations to increase stewardship of our local resources. We are deeply appreciative of the Board's ongoing support and wanted to just quickly share a bit of information about the incredible programs that this funding supports.

The Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps is entering its 17th year and serves now as the climate wing of Service Year for the Department of Service and Civic Innovation. It was recently expanded with additional funding coming through this Board to focus more on climate, as called for by the

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Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. The program increases access to green careers by placing young adults aged 18 to 25 with a nonprofit or government agency for a year of service in the natural resources sector. And the Urban Trees Program was called for in the 2021 Tree Solutions Now Act as a component of the State's five million trees by 2031, and it is entering its fifth year. This program focuses on winning communities, improving human health and livability by mitigating the effects of climate change.

We wanted to come before the Board today to express our deep appreciation for the resources budgeted to support these incredibly important programs. Funding for Urban Trees isn't just environmental; it's a public health strategy. On hot days like today, shaded areas can be up to 20 degrees cooler than unshaded ones. How marvelous is that? Reducing heat-related illnesses and ultimately enhancing lives. The Trust previously sent a list to the Board of the 31 new projects in disadvantaged communities that are ready to start planting more than 20,000 trees upon receipt of funding.

Additionally, now more than ever, young adults need stable pathways into the workforce. Green career service programs, like the Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps in partnership with DSCI, provide paid hands-on experience and a critical launchpad into employment. The Trust is excited to pass through this funding budgeted to support disadvantaged communities in increasing urban tree canopy and to accelerate climate career opportunities for young adults in Maryland. We deeply appreciate your incredibly hard work of this Board, and we thank you for your support.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Mr. Castellanos, thank you so much.

MR. CASTELLANOS: Thank you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thanks.

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Next, we have a speaker request for Item 16, which is a request to award a \$100,000 grant to the Olney Civic Fund for planning the Olney community events. I'd like to recognize Kevin Johnson, who has signed up to speak virtually in support of the item.

Mr. Johnson, good morning.

(Pause.)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: We can't hear you.

MR. JOHNSON: I'm sorry, good morning. How's that?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: There you go. Yes, we can hear you now.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you for having me. My name is Kevin Johnson, and I am the Chairman of the Olney Civic Fund in Olney, Maryland. And on behalf of our Board of Directors as well as the residents of this great community that we live in, I'm here to thank you for the generous grant opportunity that allows our organization to show why Olney, Maryland is a great place to live and work. Our various programs are designed to engage residents and highlight the tremendous efforts of our many -- our many nonprofits in this community. They are also designed to promote fun and camaraderie, as witnessed by the over 15,000 generous supporters that participate in Olney Days, Barrel Aged Beer Fest, It's Olney Time, and various other events that we have throughout the year.

Your possible support will assist us with continuing our mission to nurture relationships between both the local businesses and the residents that we serve, bringing people together and providing identity to our town. We look forward to continuing our program objectives, and thank you for your consideration of the resources budgeted for this particular objective that we have and for allowing us to do it. Thank you so much.

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

Appreciate you.

So lastly, I'd like to also recognize Item 19, which is a request to award a \$325,000 grant to the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. The Western Maryland Scenic Railroad is a driver for economic activity in the region. They've been doing some great work, most recently in television space. We're joined this morning by Executive Director Wes Heinz, who has a few words to share with us today.

Good morning, Wes.

MR. HEINZ: Good morning. Governor and Comptroller, Secretary Gontrum, thank you for giving me just a couple of minutes. I won't take too much of your time.

What I wanted to do today -- this is actually my sixth season with the railroad. And we've tried to make sure that we highlight what the funding from the State, the grant program, does for the railroad and how it gives back to the State ultimately. And you just mentioned the television shoot. Out of the blue sort of, we ended up with a television shoot for a major production called Mayor of Kingstown and how that came back to help the State.

We went from -- I told you earlier, zero to hero. All of a sudden, we had 500 people at Canal Place and at the railroad. What we thought was going to be just the train going left to right and then they were going to go away turned into three episodes worth of television. But what it really did, besides putting Western Maryland on the television, it brought people into our hotels and people into our restaurants and into our retail space.

Some of you may be familiar that recently we've opened a new boutique hotel on Baltimore Street where we've done the redevelopment. That hotel opened on the day shooting started, and they were sold out through

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Paramount for that entire week-plus. In total, all the hotels in the area had over 2,000 rooms sold. So that's kind of what the railroad is able to do. You think of the railroad as being the Polar Express, which we always laugh about the Polar Express.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Love the Polar Express.

(Laughter.)

MR. HEINZ: Pajamas are on sale now.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I know.

(Laughter.)

MR. HEINZ: But more importantly is how does the railroad take all these things and keep bringing people into the area and getting them not only just to come visit Western Maryland, but getting them to stay? And recently, I've spoken -- I know Secretary Gontrum with you before. Most of our staff is a pretty young crew because we really had to rebuild the railroad about five years ago. We worked really hard to bring in people that wanted to be there and people that wanted to be in the community.

And our staff -- just recently, we had three people buy houses. And you don't think about those things. You say, "Oh, they bought a house. That's great." Well, that's a \$150,000-plus deal per person -- and their cars, and their bills, and all the things. Those things come back to impact Cumberland as a whole, so we're continuing to do great things. The BPW money helps us not only operationally, but with capital improvements -- of course, to make our product even better. I hope you enjoy the token of our esteem for the television shoot.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Absolutely.

MR. HEINZ: And again, every year I just want to make sure we're telling you what we're doing with the State's money so that we can be accountable to everybody and say thank you.

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Mr. Heinz, thank you so much.

MR. HEINZ: Absolutely.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: I know what I'm going to be doing after the July 4th fireworks. I'm going to be binge watching this show just to see where Cumberland shows up there.

MR. HEINZ: Season 5, Episodes 1, 7, and 8.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Oh, good.

(Indiscernible)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you so much for everything you do for Cumberland and for the great state of Maryland.

MR. HEINZ: Thank you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And thanks for making the drive out here too.

MR. HEINZ: No problem.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: So there's a few other items I'd also like to highlight.

First, I'd like to highlight Item 26, which is a request from the Department of Housing and Community Development to award \$2 million in grant funding for 19 projects across the State through the NourishMD Grant Program. Our Administration launched the NourishMD Grant Program this past January to address long-standing disparities in food access for Maryland communities. Through the program, retail businesses and nonprofits in communities with food insecurity can receive grants to expand access to fresh and healthy food options. DHCD partners with the Governor's Innovation Team to identify high-need communities to prioritize grant funding areas.

Additionally, NourishMD partners with the Department of

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Agriculture to provide Marylanders with dollar-for-dollar match for purchases using federal nutrition benefits at participating farmers markets. With today's \$2 million investment, this round of NourishMD funding will support a total of 44 businesses and nonprofits across our 18 counties. This work is so important because access to fresh and healthy food options for Maryland families should never depend on where they choose to live. And there's more to come. DHCD will announce the rest of the NourishMD Award at the end of July.

Very excited to hear that, Secretary Day.

MR. DAY: Thanks.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you for that.

I'd also like to highlight Item 27, which is another request from DHCD to award \$54.7 million in grant funding to invest in housing, local businesses, and other community initiatives. This request will fund 170 individual projects across the State. Included in this is \$1.3 million in funding for affordable housing and a community fridge in the Park Heights community, one of one ENOUGH Initiative priority funding zones.

I'd like to welcome Secretary Jake Day, who can share a little bit more about these investments. Good morning.

MR. DAY: Good morning, Lieutenant Governor. Good morning, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. It's good to be with you this morning. I want to note just really quickly -- well, first I'll say it for the record. Jake Day, Secretary of Housing and Community Development.

One of my favorite projects that State Revitalization Programs has funded is the Baltimore Street Redevelopment in Cumberland, which is a great place to get a meal and now stay after you ride on the Polar Express. Madam Comptroller, I almost brought my daughters this morning. I'm really glad I didn't because otherwise they'd be pulling me to Cumberland later today.

(Laughter.)

MR. DAY: So I want to thank the Board for consideration of both Items 26 and 27. Item 26, the NourishMD Awards, as you mentioned Madam Lieutenant Governor, will help to address food insecurity and food deserts -- so important for our state. In addition to empowering healthy food retailers and financing affordable housing, our objective is to make great places for Marylanders -- great places of opportunity. And so that includes in Item 27, \$19.5 million from the Baltimore Regional Neighborhoods Initiative, \$20 million from the National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund (NED), \$10 million from the Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund, and \$5 million from the Maryland Facade Improvement Program.

These awards will spur innovation and investment attracting talented workers into Maryland, while building the affordable homes in places that will keep them here. Because we believe in a competitive economy, great places win. And we're going to use these critical State dollars to build places that are embraced, that are memorable, that are lovable, that are supported, and that produce the economic multiplier effect that we know every Maryland community deserves. So I respectfully request the Board's approval on these items. And thank you so much for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions you have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you so much, Mr. Secretary. I want to thank you and your assistant, Assistant Secretary Brad Fallon, and the entire Department for your work in administering these programs. I know it's not an easy task. On behalf of the people of Maryland, thank you for all that you do.

Next, I'd like to highlight Item A1, which is a request to add \$1.3 million to an existing contract with the GEO Reentry Services for substance use disorder treatment services in Maryland correctional facilities. This request will

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ensure that services continue to be available for incarcerated individuals in Western Maryland, Eastern Maryland, and Central Maryland. Our Administration believes in the value that these services provide for public health and public safety.

For those of you who don't -- who may not know, Maryland was the very first state in the nation to require medication-assisted treatment services to be available in correctional facilities statewide. And the data is clear; substance use services are proven to reduce both recidivism rates and post-release overdose mortality rates for our returning citizens. When individuals encounter the criminal legal system, we have a responsibility to help stabilize their lives and to prepare them for a healthy reentry. So I want to thank the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services for their work to ensure that these critical services continue to be available.

Now finally, I'd like to call up Item 35, which is a request from the Maryland Stadium Authority to approve the acquisition of Laurel Park to turn into a year-round horse training facility. I'd like to invite MSA Chairman Craig Thompson to share more about this incredibly important acquisition.

Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

MR. THOMPSON: Good morning, Madam Lieutenant Governor, and thank you for your wonderful remarks regarding our anniversary. And good morning, Madam Comptroller, and Mr. Secretary -- Mr. Treasurer, always a great pleasure to see you.

To state for the record, my name is Craig Thompson and I serve as the Chair of the Board at the Maryland Stadium Authority. And I am pleased to draw your attention to and introduce Item 35, which is a request to approve the purchase of Laurel Park to become the site of Maryland's Statewide Thoroughbred Training Center. Now, as you know, in 2024, the MSA was

charged with the General Assembly with overseeing two projects that will transform the horse racing industry in Maryland. The reconstruction of Pimlico Race Course into a world-class venue for racing fans, and the acquisition of a site for redevelopment into a premier horse training facility.

Last year, the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority brought to this Board a request to acquire Shamrock Farms in Carroll County, which MTROA had selected as the location to construct this training facility. However, once MSA obtained access to the site to perform standard due diligence at Shamrock Farm, it discovered significant challenges on-site that were not previously known. A MSA review also concluded that the Shamrock Farm Training Center would cost at least \$212 million to complete -- over double what it had been previously stated, and considerably straining available funding to rebuild Pimlico.

As a result, MSA and MEDCO began exploring alternative options including Laurel Park, which is widely supported by the Maryland Jockey Club -- whose Chairman, Jim Dresher, and Board Member Mike Hankin are joining us here today. It's also supported by representatives of, and I believe some are here, representatives of the Horsemen. With your approval, today's acquisition will ensure both the Pimlico redevelopment and training center projects remain on track to be completed within MSA's budgeted authorized amount by the General Assembly. MSA estimates that the pivot to Laurel Park will save the State roughly \$50 million.

Together, these changes will ensure that MSA can deliver a reimagined Pimlico to serve as the permanent home of Maryland racing with over 120 race days running each year in Park Heights. But acquiring Laurel Park is more than just a prudent financial decision, today's action protects the legacy of one of Maryland's most iconic racing grounds. Having hosted generations of

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fans, entertainers, and Triple Crown legends -- not to mention the 151st running of the Preakness Stakes just two months ago.

To that end, this item follows the State's historic decision to secure the IP rights to the Preakness Stakes, protecting not only the long-term vitality of the Triple Crown, but the State's investment into the infrastructure that backs the Preakness's global success. Together, these actions mark an unparalleled commitment from this Administration to enhance Maryland's entire equine industry. In summary, this item has the strong support of leaders within the Maryland racing community, will maximize available project funds, and is the right move to ensure the future of Maryland's multi-billion-dollar horse racing industry.

In closing, I want to acknowledge and thank the hard work of so many colleagues, including MSA's Executive Vice President Gary McGuigan, who is also here and available to answer any questions that you may have, and MEDCO's CEO Tom Sadowski, both of whom are joining us here today as well. I thank you so much in advance for your consideration of this request. Thank you for your time.

And I'd like to introduce Jim Dresher, the Chair of the Maryland Jockey Club, for additional introductory remarks.

MR. DRESHER: Thank you very much for allowing me to speak. Good morning, Madam Governor, Madam Comptroller, and Mr. Treasurer. My name is Jim Dresher. I'm the current Chairman of the Board of the Maryland Jockey Club, which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that will oversee racing in Maryland. It was a board appointed by Governor Moore in 2025. I've been a longtime industry supporter and participant, and I'm also a long-term business owner in the state of Maryland.

I just want to mention some of the little-known facts. There are

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28,000 jobs in the state of Maryland associated with equine activities. We have more horses per square mile than any other state in the country. We're a \$2.9 billion industry, so this -- Maryland's thoroughbred and equine industry is important to our state. The purchase of Laurel is critically important as a training center. We need Laurel as a training center to make sure that we have year-round racing here in this state.

It's a critical piece to allowing Maryland's thoroughbred industry and racing industry to thrive. It also, as Craig Thompson said, it's a perfect complement to Pimlico and it will be important to Pimlico's success as well. Laurel will be one of the backbones of Maryland's racing industry. It's been a home of Maryland racing for many decades, and it will be a great use as a training facility. This also, in addition to the purchase of the Preakness IP, puts Marylanders in full control of our future. And so now, we have all the pieces of the puzzle for our industry to succeed -- critically important and the right structure is now in place.

So on behalf of the Maryland Jockey Club and the entire Maryland equine industry, thank you for considering this and supporting the purchase of Laurel Park. This move helps preserve an industry and puts the Maryland Jockey Club in a great place for long-term success. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Chairman Dresher, for your strong leadership and collaborative partnership from the Jockey Club as we collectively shape a bright future for Maryland's horse racing and equine industries. And thank you, Chairman Thompson, for your extraordinary leadership at the Maryland Stadium Authority. Always good to see the both of you. Thank you for being here.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you.

MR. DRESHER: Thank you.

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: So today's acquisition underscores our state's commitment to preserve its horse racing industry. One that employs almost 30,000 Marylanders and generates over \$3 billion in activity. For decades, Laurel Park has been a central part of Maryland's racing history hosting world-famous steeds like Secretariat and War Admiral. Now, it will become a place that trains the next generation of Triple Crown champions. At the same time, the State's recent decision to acquire the Preakness Stakes intellectual property rights earlier this month will ensure that control of the iconic assets that define the second jewel of the Triple Crown remain right here where it belongs in the hands of Maryland's very own racing community.

Together, the State's investment into the Pimlico Race Course, ownership of the Preakness IP, and today's acquisition of Laurel Park will ensure that horse racing in Maryland will continue to drive jobs, spending, and wages year-round in Park Heights and surrounding neighborhoods in Baltimore City.

Are there any questions on this item, Madam Comptroller?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Sure. Thank you, Madam Governor. Great to be here.

Thank you so much, Chair Thompson, for joining us today. Chair Dresher, Mike, Gary -- thanks to the whole team. Really appreciated your update and all of your work on this. I know there's been a lot going on. It's been a busy time in the horse industry.

So first, I want to echo Madam Governor's decision or comments on the decision to acquire the Preakness IP and just salute that decision. Certainly, it's essential, I think, that decisions about this industry's future and about this race -- the future of the race are now going to be made by the State, which is just essential. And it's also a fiscally prudent decision. When you look at the numbers, it is a much better deal over the long-term for the state of

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Maryland. You know, we will not be using taxpayer dollars to acquire these IP rights, but rather existing racing revenues. So I think that's -- it was the right decision.

Now on this item specifically too, I am supportive. I think this is the right decision as well to move forward given the industry is, of course, as many people have articulated, a major employer, a major revenue generator, which I appreciate, and Laurel Park has been part of Maryland's racing history for over a century. I went to the Black-Eyed Susan this year and still looking good. Of course, there's work to be done, but it makes much more sense to start when you -- to start from what we have existing at Laurel than to build from the ground up.

And it is a much more cost-effective path than where we started with Shamrock Farms, so I do -- I just wanted to chat a little bit about Shamrock Farms since you're here. Now that Laurel Park will shortly be on the path forward, we are still sitting with the fact that the State spent roughly \$4.5 million on Shamrock Farms. And without a plan forward, you know, that money right now is a sunk cost.

So I wondered if, Gary, you could tell us a little bit. You know, the State still owns Shamrock Farm, correct?

MR. MCGUIGAN: That is correct, ma'am.

And good morning, Governor, Treasurer, and Madam Comptroller. Yes, the State owns Shamrock Farms.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So it's up to us right now what to do with that land?

MR. MCGUIGAN: It is. And the Stadium Authority has partnered with DGS. We are currently going through the disposition process, and it will go through Clearinghouse. It's with the Department of Planning. And the

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intent after that process, if there's no State interest, is to go through a public auction.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Understood, so there is an option that would generate some sort of return on the \$4.5 million that we spent?

MR. MCGUIGAN: That is correct. You know, it depends on the market conditions at the time of the public auction, but the intent is to recoup as much, if not all, of the 4.5 million.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So it could either -- there's a number of ways that we could do that. And potentially, it could even be open for public use, if the County were to say they wanted to buy it. Okay. And can you confirm that the act of transferring that land to anyone else would come -- that would come back to the Board of Public Works; is that correct?

MR. MCGUIGAN: That is correct. So it will come back two times. It'll come back to the property --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Many times.

MR. MCGUIGAN: -- and also for the sale.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Got it. That's helpful. Thank you. Thanks for being here. Thanks for your answers. And thank you to everybody for all of your diligence and work on this process. I know it's been a long process, and it's great to be moving forward. Thank you.

MR. MCGUIGAN: Yes, thank you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

TREASURER DAVIS: Just a second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Yeah, I think there's more questions.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: More questions, sorry. Just not from me. Now, you get the Treasurer.

TREASURER DAVIS: Do we have an appraisal for Shamrock?

MR. MCGUIGAN: There were two appraisals done in the spring of '25 under the MTROA. From memory, they were in the high threes.

TREASURER DAVIS: And we paid how much for it?

MR. MCGUIGAN: 4.5 million.

TREASURER DAVIS: We paid more than about -- it sounds like almost 50 percent more?

MR. MCGUIGAN: I think it was like 3.9, 3.8 million.

TREASURER DAVIS: Okay.

MR. MCGUIGAN: And we were not involved, but DGS has a process of looking at the independent appraisals, and I believe that DGS confirmed 4.5 was a good number.

TREASURER DAVIS: And do we have any current appraisals for the land?

MR. MCGUIGAN: Not yet, but we will go out and get two appraisals as part of this process.

TREASURER DAVIS: Any chance that we will have to sell it at a loss?

MR. MCGUIGAN: There's always a chance that could happen.

TREASURER DAVIS: A good chance?

MR. MCGUIGAN: The only thing I know today from talking to the professionals is the Stadium Authority doesn't buy and sell land every day, that's why we partnered with DGS. The market seems to have softened a little bit in about a year's time, so we'll see what the appetite is.

TREASURER DAVIS: Is there, I guess, a window or what's the sort of focus of when we're looking to sell it?

MR. MCGUIGAN: Well, we expect --

TREASURER DAVIS: And the reason for the question is I'm wondering is it better to hang on to it for a while than to dispose of it at a loss?

MR. MCGUIGAN: When we go through the auction process, we can set a minimum amount so we don't have to sell it if it's coming in way below what we paid for it. In terms of timeline, we expect the Clearinghouse to take another 45 days or so. So the public auction will be this fall, going into the winter.

TREASURER DAVIS: I'm going to support this because, I guess unlike the Governor and the Comptroller, I'm not speaking for myself. I'm speaking for the General Assembly. And through the Legislative Policy Committee, they've expressed a willingness to move forward with this. But my concern is that we're making a big bet on horse racing. And frankly, I just don't see it. We can talk about the revenue, but what about the cost? We put literally hundreds of millions of dollars into this, and we have to look at the opportunity cost. And I don't mean to sound like a broken record, but I don't want that to get missed -- the opportunity cost. What else can we could have been doing and can be doing with that same revenue?

You know, it's funny. I sort of listened to sort of the history when we're talking about horse racing -- and I forgot the other horse that quickly, but we mentioned Secretariat and the other horse. But that sort of takes me back to -- you know, that was like 50 years ago. We're not talking about any horses in the last century or in the last ten years, twenty years. The point I'm making is that are we getting caught up in nostalgia or is this something viable going forward, when we look at our other sports industries in the State?

You know, we -- let's take the Ravens/Colts. They talk about Ray Lewis and Lamar Jackson. They're not talking Johnny Unitas. You see what I'm saying? It's modern. You know, it's still moving forward and not sort of living in

the past. And so -- and it's probably more of a statement than a question, and it's certainly one I'm not going to put you on the spot to answer, but I think at some point there has to -- we have to confront whatever it may be. And I don't -- and I'm not saying we're there now, but we've got to take a hard look at this and go, "Can this work on its own or is this something that we permanently have to prop up?" I mean, the numbers are just sort of staggering to me. You know, 4.5 for Shamrock -- you know, Laurel Park.

You know, we can just keep pulling numbers out. And this is not monopoly money. These are real dollars that can help real citizens and do real things for the state of Maryland that will help it move forward, as opposed to trying to keep a dream, an industry afloat. You know, if this was -- if we were doing this for some other things or other industries or whatever, we would get a very different response. It would be called something very different. But in this particular case, we're calling it economic development.

I promise you, if we were in other communities or other industries, it would have a very pejorative term attached to it as the reason for keeping it afloat. So again, I'm not asking you to comment on that. This is just my rant, but that day has got to come -- and sooner rather than later -- about whether or not we can continue doing this. Because we're -- you know, we're just digging deeper. We're digging -- we're doubling down on this industry with no real guarantees. And I get there no guarantees in life, but not even a reasonable expectation for return on our investment.

We hear a lot and we hear that in other industries. Whenever they want to build a stadium somewhere, we get this economic impact that -- I have yet to see an economic impact of 30 years ago not as a bad idea. We're not getting any -- everything always paints that rosy picture, including over at FedEx Field. And then 30 years later, we have nothing to show for it. So I'll end just by saying

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when we have all of these rosy pictures painted for us in the entertainment industry and the sports industry, we've got to look at the opportunity cost for real investments and things that can make a real return and will have a real impact in our citizens lives, and not just sort of keep propping up something that at some point we got to decide whether it's worth propping up.

MR. CHAUDHRY: I just want to -- I'm sorry. Atif Chaudhry for the record, Secretary of the Maryland Department of General Services. Just a point of clarification -- a minor point clarification for the record that it's actually, as we go through the Clearinghouse process, it will not go to auction. The property will go through either a request for bid or RFP process.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay.

MR. CHAUDHRY: And we're going to -- we'll, again, go through the standardized process for property disposition to make sure that -- auctions sometimes are hit or miss depending on the day, so we'll go through a proper marketing of the property in a RFP or request for bids.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Good.

Do you mind if I ask a follow-up, Mr. Treasurer?

TREASURER DAVIS: Yes, ma'am.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Could I talk to Chairman Drescher? Could I ask you a couple of questions? Would you mind? Thanks. Thanks for being here, I appreciate it. I don't know if you've -- have you come before? I don't -- yeah, welcome. Isn't it great? Yeah, and we're so nice.

So I think -- you know, I think that the Treasurer and others who have concerns -- obviously, these are legitimate concerns and should be addressed because I do think we want to make sure that we are being very cognizant of opportunity costs. And I think one of the things that I have learned a lot through this process is how other states operate. And so I appreciated that Churchill

Downs was interested in buying the Preakness IP. I thought that signaled -- was a great signal for what it's worth, right, and that there is value in it.

And I appreciate that Churchill Downs is a publicly-traded company. Is that -- isn't that right?

MR. DRESHER: Yes.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And they turn a profit, right, for their shareholders?

MR. DRESHER: Well, they have many other businesses besides racing. They have casinos and gaming, yeah.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I think that's one of the things that I learned a lot through this process too in just understanding it more was that it is possible to move in that direction to make sure that this industry can stand on its own four legs, right? And it does not need internal infusions of State dollars, because like Churchill Downs has done with the Kentucky Derby and other places around the country, this can be a profitable industry, and is in many ways, but these capital needs have been what has been holding it back. Would you agree with that? Like I'd be curious on your thoughts.

MR. DRESHER: I would agree, but I would also say that we have an opportunity here that hasn't been around for a while. As an example, our TV rights are -- now, TV rights are available. A lot of sporting event's television rights don't come available that often. But right now, as an example, the Kentucky Derby -- the Churchill Downs is hooked up with NBC, the Belmont Stakes with Fox Sports. Ours is an open book, so we are in the process of getting new bids for TV rights. We've recruited -- we have on as a consultant KO Productions Kevin O'Grady.

Kevin is probably the events -- the best events person in the country. He has actually staged the Kentucky Derby on two or three occasions.

He has staged Super Bowl Halftimes. So we have a new -- we have the Oak View Group that has done a wonderful job with the CFG Arena and has built sponsorship from, I think, \$1 million a year to \$12 million. They're now on our team, so I think that's it. But I think that we do have a tremendous management team in place. I'm very optimistic about our future. It's a tough game. It is. There's no doubt, but it is -- I think to say it's a new day sounds pretty redundant, but I don't -- but I think we're in a very good place in our industry to make this a profitable, fun thing.

I also think for the City of Baltimore -- you know, 50 years ago, I'd say Baltimore was known for three major sports the Colts, the Orioles, and Preakness. I think we've lost our luster a little bit with that as the industry is part of that. I think to make with the reconstruction of Pimlico, which I think is going to be a fantastic fan experience, I think Maryland will be known as the Ravens, the Orioles, and the Preakness again. I think that's coming, so bullish. It's a tough -- it's a tough road, but I think that we're -- I think we're in a very good place to have a lot of success and make a really a important story for the City and the State, but also a revenue generator and a profitable business. I do believe that.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

TREASURER DAVIS: Can he come back?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Chairman Dresher, I think the Treasurer has some questions.

TREASURER DAVIS: A couple of things. You said that this is a very tough road. Why?

MR. DRESHER: Well, gaming is -- gaming is -- you know, 50 years ago, there was only one place that you could bet and that was at the racetrack, up at Atlantic or Las Vegas. So there's a lot of competition for the gaming dollar and so --

TREASURER DAVIS: The backbone of really horse racing is gaming?

MR. DRESHER: You know, it's our -- it's how -- it's what we run for. Purse money comes from gaming, so the owners -- we run for purse money and everybody's employed based on how much purse money you can earn. So yes, it is. Gaming is part of what we have, yes.

TREASURER DAVIS: So if you're saying that gaming is now ubiquitous, what's fueling your optimism that horse racing can make it, if gambling is sort of the financial background and you can get gambling anywhere now?

MR. DRESHER: I think unique to this -- it's a sport too. It's entertainment. It's a sport. It's cultural and gaming is a part of it. It's not the -- gaming is not the -- it's not the only part of it, but I think in its alignment with this experience I think it's a -- I think that it all works well together in our case.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: You know, one thing that's interesting --

MR. DRESHER: I think if you go to other racetracks, you'll see tremendous fan support in gaming, so.

TREASURER DAVIS: What about the TV rights? You mentioned that Belmont and Kentucky Derby have TV rights and we don't. Why?

MR. DRESHER: I'm sorry. Our contracts with NBC just expired, so we have a fresh day to renew another multi-year contract. They didn't -- it was -- our contract was up. So now, it's time for a new contract. That's all.

TREASURER DAVIS: Last thing as it relates to Churchill Downs. For one, I think it's probably not fair to put the Preakness and Belmont in the same sort of tier with the Kentucky Derby. That's a whole different animal, even though they do the same thing.

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Same animal, different race.

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: It's at a different level. It's like comparing the championship of football, the Super Bowl, with other championships. It just not the phenomenon that the Super Bowl is. So what I'm -- and what I'm saying as it relates to Churchill Downs, it's probably unfair for us to use that as the standard because that's the gold standard. And that's also a tough one to me.

But as it relates to Churchill Downs, wasn't there also some concern that they -- about the viability in Maryland and that they could potentially -- if they had gained control of it, that they could move it to -- I think they have a location in Virginia --

MR. DRESHER: Yes.

TREASURER DAVIS: -- and other places in the area. So although Churchill Downs has made a go of it, we weren't concerned enough that they could move it out of Maryland? That if they had acquired it, they wouldn't have kept it in Maryland, but rather they could have moved it to one of their other properties?

MR. DRESHER: I think that's a potential. What they were buying was the intellectual property, and the Maryland Jockey Club was leasing the IP from them for their use. But we also -- they let it be known that if they were invited in, that they would love to run all of racing including the Preakness. So it's very speculative to say that. I wouldn't say it was off the table, but to --

TREASURER DAVIS: That didn't fuel why we ended up buying it?

MR. DRESHER: Well --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: You would have to ask the Governor, maybe.

MR. DRESHER: Yeah, that's --

TREASURER DAVIS: So y'all ain't had nothing to do with that?
There were no conversations? The Governor made that decision in the back?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Well, no.

MR. DRESHER: Well, again, there's a lot of things that are going on here. The most important two days in racing are the Black-Eyed Susan and Preakness Day, clearly. But as I referred to the economic matters and the jobs, we need 120 days of racing here. So Maryland, in the Mid-Atlantic area, I think we can get there with 120 days of racing. I think that's why we're a nonprofit. It's because racing and people are our most important priorities. And so we want to sustain certainly the Preakness to be very important and be very successful, but we also want racing and breeding to be successful to preserve open space and many other things.

So it's a big picture. You know, could that have happened? I guess it could have happened under certain circumstances, yes. I also want to say that the Kentucky -- you're right. The Kentucky Derby is its own -- it's its own being. But how many states or cities would like to have a recurring major national event come to their city every year? We have the Preakness. You know, the Super Bowl moves around -- other sporting events move around. The Preakness comes back to Baltimore every year. I think we can build it into a fantastic cultural festival and a money maker for the City, Park Heights, and the state of Maryland. I wouldn't do this job if I didn't believe that, and I'll volunteer.

TREASURER DAVIS: Are you talking the Preakness? Because I don't think there's any debate about the success of the Preakness and all that it has to offer. It's the other 120 days that you mentioned of racing that's at issue here, whether or not it is viable. The Preakness, I think, that's sort of settled it. It's a cultural phenomenon, an economic phenomenon -- you know, all of that. It's the

rest of the industry that that we're discussing, I mean if we're being frank about.

MR. DRESHER: Yes, sir. I believe it is. And I believe it is based on -- I think there's a consolidation nationally in racing, and I think Maryland is beautifully placed to be a beneficiary of that.

TREASURER DAVIS: Fair enough.

MR. DRESHER: Thanks.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thanks.

MR. DRESHER: Thanks.

MR. THOMPSON: Madam Governor, may I be recognized?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Yes, absolutely.

MR. THOMPSON: For just a moment.

Once again, for the record, Craig Thompson. And thank you, Mr. Treasurer, for your great questions. Madam Comptroller, I like you, did not know much about the horse racing industry before this process started. And as a kid from East Baltimore, it really wasn't on my radar. But I did want to add a finer point to what Jim mentioned about the economic impact and the importance of the 120 race days and the industry in total.

One of the benefits of every dollar spent on the training facility, on the IP, on Preakness itself, and the consistent races associated with it is the employment of 28,000 Marylanders, and the homes that are sustained -- the legacies, the lives that are maintained and families that are built as a result of this industry. So I did just want to add that finer point on the larger economic development impact. There are 28,000 -- close to 30,000 Marylanders -- who benefit daily from every dollar that's spent in this industry or invested in this industry, so I just didn't want that point to be lost.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Chairman Thompson.

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COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I think it's -- can I just make one
final comment?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Yes, sure.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I think it is so fortuitous for us that
we are renegotiating our TV deal now, given where the country is with AI and
where the world is. You know, we just saw an Olympics that I think was the most
viewed Winter Olympics in decades. We have all eyes, you know, on the World
Cup. And so more and more, I think we're going to see that what sells and what
people will actually tune in to watch is sports, right?

And that should make our race that much more valuable over the
next few years. And I think if we negotiated this even last year, we might not
have realized how important sporting events and how worthwhile sporting events
and how the value of sporting events to advertisers on TV would be. So I'm
confident that you will get this right, but let's make sure we get it right and make
all we can. Yeah, thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Madam
Comptroller and Mr. Treasurer, you know, Chairman Thompson and Chairman
Dresher -- thank you for that spirited discussion.

And if there are no other items remaining -- is there anything else
on the Secretary's Agenda that anyone has questions on?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Nope.

TREASURER DAVIS: No.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay.

(Laughter.)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: So may I have a motion
to approve the Secretary's Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the Secretary's

Agenda.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you. Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

Now, let's proceed to the Department of Natural Resources
Agenda. Good morning, Mr. Secretary.

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

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: All right.

Is there any discussions on the DNR Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Nope.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay.

May I have a motion to approve the DNR Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the DNR
Agenda.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Great. Thank you so much, Mr. Secretary.

Now, let's proceed to the University System of Maryland. Good morning, Mr. Hickey.

MR. HICKEY: Governor, Mr. Treasurer, and Madam Comptroller, Tom Hickey representing the University System of Maryland. There are 15 items for your consideration. Happy to answer any questions you

may have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: I believe, Madam
Comptroller, you have some questions.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: You're so surprised. I like your
bow tie.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you, it's the only one I own.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you for being here.

Item 1-GM Sub-item 2, we are back -- College Park SECU
Stadium. And again here, this is another example, I believe, of using GO bond
proceeds to fund athletic facility upgrades; is that correct?

MR. HICKEY: That's correct.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

And you brought a similar item just last month; did you not?

MR. HICKEY: That's correct.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And you may recall at that
meeting that I pointed out that it was actually the first time in over ten years that
USM had used GO bond proceeds to fund athletic facility upgrades. Because
historically, athletic facility upgrades are funded through auxiliary revenue bonds,
private donations, Big Ten revenue. I still mourn the ACC, we are -- you know,
Big Ten revenue or the University's own resources, not by Maryland taxpayers; is
that correct?

MR. HICKEY: That's correct.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. And so now, here we are
again. So probably not a surprise to you or anyone that I am concerned about
funding our athletic facilities with GO bonds. The University of Maryland
generates \$124 million a year in athletic revenue on its own. So you know, why
isn't the University of Maryland asking -- using its athletic revenue dollars to fund

upgrades to SECU Stadium?

MR. HICKEY: The only thing I can tell you is that the General Assembly appropriated these funds. This was not a request from -- that I'm aware of.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay.

MR. HICKEY: And you are probably more familiar with the budgeting process in the Maryland General Assembly.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay.

MR. HICKEY: I can't -- I don't understand -- I don't know how these funds were appropriated, and I think the Legislature would probably be --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Fair enough.

MR. HICKEY: -- better equipped to answer that question.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Well, I will certainly -- I'm certainly happy to, you know, ask additional -- ask additionally from them. You know, I know \$40,000 doesn't seem like much against a \$124 million athletics budget, which is why I don't understand why we can't just fund athletic stadium upgrades out of athletic revenue dollars. You know, \$40,000 is a lot to schools who maybe want to fix something on their -- public schools or to, you know, other organizations. So that's where I would be hopeful that this money would go in the future.

So I don't think I have any other questions, but I am going to vote against this again. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay.

Mr. Hickey, the money for the improvements in the stadium, where do they go toward? Is it toward ADA improvements?

MR. HICKEY: It is for ADA.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay.

MR. HICKEY: It's a television ADA project so that folks who are hearing impaired, I believe, understand what's going on. And there is a program the State has that funds ADA improvements that's a separate pot of capital money. And I do believe that they have been used in the past for facilities -- like for student centers, for bathroom modifications, and things like that.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah, I mean, like I pointed out last time, like, I -- part of the lawsuit that brought -- you know, we brought a lawsuit against the University of Maryland, College Park years ago to require ADA. And I certainly support that, but I don't think it should be a separate request. I think that the University of Maryland should value our fans with disabilities as much as it values everybody else. And so pay for them to be able to enjoy the game out of the same revenues that they pay for any other stadium upgrades.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Hickey.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thanks.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Madam Comptroller, do you have any other things that you would like to highlight? Is it Item 15?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Sure. Yeah, thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I also just want to take a moment. This is Coppin State, so I'm going to steal a second to just say thank you to Coppin State. We hosted our third annual Bridging Communities Conference yesterday in partnership with the organization Maryland Nonprofits and Coppin State University Nonprofit Leadership Program at Coppin State. And we had nearly 300 nonprofit business leaders from across Maryland, alongside officials from State agencies, so thank you to all the State agencies who sent folks.

You know, in Maryland, we have 43,000 nonprofit businesses that

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employ 280,000 people. So really, another industry that does so much for our state and helps us to generate the revenue while also serving the people and the communities of Maryland. So I really appreciate the time from this Board to publicly thank President Jenkins and the Coppin community for their partnership, and their work, and their hospitality yesterday.

Thank you, Madam Governor.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Absolutely. Thank you, Mr. Hickey.

If there's no further discussion, Secretary Gontrum --

TREASURER DAVIS: I would.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Yeah.

TREASURER DAVIS: Let's stay at the Coppin State contract, I think it's -- what -- 15-S. I actually want to congratulate Coppin for that particular contract. They looked at it -- they looked at the MBE goals and determined that they were significantly low. So rather than to take the easy way out and just pick up the option, they sent it out for it to be rebid, and with that higher goal, I think it was 20 percent.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yep.

TREASURER DAVIS: Previously, it was at like 14.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah.

TREASURER DAVIS: And I think the vendor was doing about 8. so they -- you know, they redid it with a higher goal and a better understanding. And you know, in addition to the benefits that the students are going to receive and scholarships and so forth, so it sounds like a pretty good contract and they did their due diligence on it. So I want to congratulate Coppin for taking real good care with this contract.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah, well said.

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr.

Treasurer. And thank you, Madam Comptroller, and Mr. Hickey.

If there's no further discussion, Secretary Gontrum, can we pull
Item 1 for a separate vote?

MR. GONTRUM: Item 1, Sub-item 2, Madam Governor?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: So let's first take up Item
1. May I have a motion to approve these sub-items?

TREASURER DAVIS: So moved.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: I will second. The sub-
items pass two to one with the Comptroller voting in the negative.

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

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

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

MR. HICKEY: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Let's proceed to the
MDOT Agenda.

Good morning, Ms. Radomsky.

MS. RADOMSKY: Good morning, Governor, Madam
Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, my name is Valerie Radomsky, Chief
Procurement Officer for the Maryland Department of Transportation. Today, we
are presenting 18 agenda items for your consideration including one report of an
expedited procurement. And we are withdrawing Item 18-RP. We have

representatives available to answer any questions you may have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Ms.

Radmosky.

Is there any discussion on the MDOT Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No discussion.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay. May I have a motion to approve the MDOT Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: So moved.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

MS. RADOMSKY: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

Now, we get to conclude with the DGS Agenda. Good morning, Secretary Chaudhry.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Good morning, Madam Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, Atif Chaudhry, Secretary of the Maryland Department of General Services. Today, the Department is presenting 49 items on our agenda including one hand-carry for IT systems modernization, technical support services from the Comptroller's Office. And we are withdrawing four items today. Those four items are 1-CGL, 35-AE, 40-IT, and 41-IT.

Our agenda does feature 34 capital grants and loans totaling more than \$58 million. I just want to very, very briefly highlight one, which is Item 14 CGL, which provides \$1.5 million to the Baltimore Museum of Art, which serves residents of all ages and provides K-12 educational programming alongside internships and work-study opportunities for college students. This will provide

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needed upgrades to HVAC, fire suppression, LED lighting, hardwood flooring, and other (indiscernible) to this facility.

As we continue to keep an eye on our minority business participation, we do have one contract action to a certified minority business totaling more than \$1.4 million, and we have four contract actions to certified small businesses totaling more than \$5 million. We have Agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Secretary Chaudhry.

I believe we have a speaker for Item 15, which is a request to award a \$2 million capital grant to the Maryland Institute College of Art for renovations to their main building. I'd like to recognize Matt Hugel, who has signed up to speak in support of this item.

Is Mr. Hugel here?

(Pause.)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: No? Okay. Well, thank you.

Mr. Secretary, if there's no further discussions on the DGS Agenda --

TREASURER DAVIS: Can I just say --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Yeah,

TREASURER DAVIS: It's not really a discussion.

Secretary Chaudhry, I think it may have come from you. My office received a letter regarding the thing that we talked about in Prince George's County with the Department of Human Services. It sounded like everything has now worked out and that we're moving forward. Is that your understanding as well?

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MR. CHAUDHRY: That's correct, Mr. Treasurer. Yes, I believe everything's worked out and I think we're moving forward. We're negotiating -- in the midst of negotiating the lease right now, finalizing that. We hope to come back to the Board very soon for approval.

TREASURER DAVIS: This is the last step in all of that? When it comes before BPW, then everything's a go? Is that essentially it?

MR. CHAUDHRY: Yes, Mr. Treasurer. We'll come back -- we're hoping to come back for the July 22nd BPW meeting for a commencement date of September 1st. That will be the last step, and then we'll just move forward with commencement.

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you, sir.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: That's great.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Madam Comptroller, do you have any comments on Item 37?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes, I do. I just want to -- I have a couple of questions and comments on 37.

First, I just want to say congratulations. Mr. Secretary, this is great. And can you confirm -- I should say what this is for everybody. This is creating a Maryland State Facilities master plan, and I think -- and please, Mr. Secretary Chaudhry, correct me if I'm wrong, is this the first time Maryland has undertaken a truly comprehensive statewide assessment of what we own, what we lease, and what we're actually spending?

MR. CHAUDHRY: That is correct. It is the first time ever to do a holistic review of everything owned, at least of our entire portfolio, and come up with a master plan going forward.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Right. That is amazing that this is

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the first time the State has ever done this, like mind boggling, but I'm really glad we're doing it. And I think all agency heads here probably get this, but where we locate our State services and State employees really matters -- like our teams care a lot. It matters for recruitment. It matters for service.

You know, we want to constantly be asking are we located where Marylanders actually need us, right? We recently -- we are in the midst working with you all to relocate many of our offices, so that they can be more accommodating to Marylanders. They can access us more easily. We want our workers and our team members to be in safe buildings, and accessible buildings, and transit accessible. And so you know, Maryland's real estate portfolio makes the State one of the largest investors in Maryland. And businesses know that when the State commits to a location and invests in a facility that is a direct investment in the community, so these strategic choices really matter.

Final question, do you know the expected timeline for this project?

MR. CHAUDHRY: Great question, Madam Comptroller. Right now, we're anticipating approximately about a year.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: A year?

MR. CHAUDHRY: About a year.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Well, I look forward to seeing the work. And if we can be helpful, certainly let me know. And appreciate DGS taking this on. Thank you.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Secretary Chaudhry. And I second the Comptroller. Congratulations on this herculean effort. And I understand -- is the State of Maryland, the largest landowner in the state of Maryland?

MR. CHAUDHRY: I believe we are. With every -- with all the

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land that we own, and we got quite a bit of square footage here as well. Right now on the State-owned, we're talking over 24 million and we've got over 6 million square feet in just the lease space that we lease through private landlords.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you. Thank you.

So if there's no further discussion, may I have a motion to approve the DGS Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Can I just confirm? We withdrew Item 40; is that right?

MR. GONTRUM: Correct.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Just making sure. Thanks.
All right, so moved.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay. Is there a second?
(Pause.)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

TREASURER DAVIS: You mean you didn't hear me?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Yeah, I didn't hear you.
I'm sorry. As I get older, I'm getting deaf here.

That concludes today's meeting of the Board of Public Works. The next meeting will be July 22nd. Thank you all, and I hope you have a safe and wonderful happy July 4th. And, you know, just thank you everyone. And we are now adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 11:13 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)