
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

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

**June 18, 2026
9:40 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

VALERIE RADOMSKY

Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Transportation

LISA GRIGSBY

Recording Secretary, Board of Public Works

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PROCEEDINGS

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning, everybody. DGS has got that A/C working.

(Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: Well done, Mr. Secretary.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Good morning, everybody. And welcome to today's meeting of the Board of Public Works. And before we begin, I understand the Comptroller has an announcement that she would like to share.

Madam Comptroller?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

It's about everybody's favorite topic, taxes. So decades ago, Louis Goldstein went around the State and bragged that he took -- rightly bragged that he took the Office of the Comptroller from pencil and paper to the mainframe, and there it has stayed for about 30 years. That is how long our taxpayers have been relying on the same system all built in COBOL, all on a mainframe -- systems that were built before most of us had a smartphone, before broadband was in most homes.

And for three decades, those systems have mostly held up. They have gone down, but they have limited our ability to provide transparency and accountability to Marylanders. They've limited the ability to process new tax types, for instance, all the pass-through entity taxes and more. The technology has real limits and we've seen them over the last few years. That's why over the last few years, we have been working hard to make government work better by modernizing.

And we just announced this week that on September 1st, the Office

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of the Comptroller will launch Maryland Tax Connect for individual filers -- the most significant upgrade to our tax administration infrastructure in a generation or two. It's not a software patch or website redesign, it is a completely new system and new reimagining of how Marylanders will file their tax returns, make payments, manage their accounts, and interact with our office. For the millions of Marylanders who file every year, it means a modern, secure, and more intuitive portal built for how people live and work today.

It will also provide a single unified experience at mdtaxconnect.gov, where Maryland individuals and businesses can both file returns, set up payment plans, respond to bills, and manage their accounts. And for tax practitioners, CPAs, accountants, and preparers who advocate for their clients every single day, I think this is the modernization that people have really been waiting for. We know Marylanders' time is valuable. We know that navigating legacy systems costs hours, and we want to do better.

For our agency, it's also transformational. When I first walked around the agency halls and was meeting people and everybody was on a green-screen computer, I was like, "What is going on here?" But now, they will be -- our team will be learning new processes and new modern platforms. Transformations of this scale require an incredible amount of preparation. There are key dates between now and September 1st that really matter, including a period of time where our entire system will be down. We must migrate four billion records from the mainframe to the cloud, and that, turns out, takes some time to go through the fiber.

So our entire system will be down for a period of about 10 days at the end of August. We have launched a web page at marylandcomptroller.gov/individualtaxhub for everybody to look at our dates, learn more information, and we're excited to do better. So our agency is really

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looking forward to this upgrade, it's been years in the making. And we'll continue to keep Marylanders informed every step of the way -- what's coming, what to expect and when. Thirty years is a really long time, and we're hoping this investment serves Marylanders now for decades to come.

Thanks.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Well done. Well done.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: With that, we will get started with the business of the day.

Mr. Secretary, good morning.

MR. GONTRUM: Morning, Governor. And good morning to you, Madam Comptroller and Mr. Treasurer. There are 20 items on the Secretary's Agenda this morning and one report of an emergency procurement contract award. I'm happy to assist with answering any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful. Thank you so much.

I'd actually like to start with highlighting Item 17, which is a request from the Maryland State Library Agency to award \$13 million in grant funding for eight public library projects in counties all across this wonderful State. Where each year, we approve funding to support our public libraries through the Maryland County Library Capital Grant Program. And through this program, it's the State that's partnering with our local governments and our local leaders to be able to build, to be able to renovate, to be able to support, to be able to uplift the library facilities that are meeting our state's evolving needs.

And since 2008, the program has helped to construct 21 new library facilities statewide. This summer, we will add two additional libraries. We will add additional libraries that are going to open their doors -- the Friendsville Library in Garrett County and the Pocomoke Library in Worcester

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County. Public libraries -- why this is so important is they are absolutely vital to our -- not just educational support, not just the places that we have active users and just treasure troves of books, but they're gathering spots. They're places where people get together. They're places where people can get internet access. They're places where people can be able to have their imaginations run wild about what their long-term contribution is going to be to their communities and to this state. And they truly serve as community hubs.

That's why we've been very proud that with our Administration, we've increased Fiscal Year 2027 funding for the program by \$5.3 million. And it's because of that additional support that the Maryland State Library Agency was able to fund every single eligible library construction project that was submitted this year. We are proud of our library systems. We're proud of our librarians. We're proud of the educators and the community leaders that will not just work in them, but that will be supported by them. And we look forward to the great work of the Maryland State Library Agency and our local library systems. And we're thankful for the work that they will continue to do thanks to this funding, so we're really appreciative.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I just want to echo that. Well said, Mr. Governor. Libraries provide such a critical service to Marylanders, and they are also a crucial partner during tax season -- not to be on a theme today.

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: The money comes in and then we have it to spend, right? They serve at participating locations for many of our volunteer income tax assistance programs, so I just wanted to give a shoutout to them. And I was recently at the Twin Beaches Branch in Prince -- or in Calvert County and then Spauldings Friends in Prince George's, and it's always fun to go to our libraries. And I voted at the Southeast branch just last week, so you know,

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our libraries are so important. So thank you for funding these and congratulations everyone.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And a reminder, go vote.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Go vote. The last day of early voting is today.

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 so much.

We will move on to the Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Secretary, good morning.

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

(Undiscernible.)

GOVERNOR MOORE: All right. Any comments on the DNR Agenda? Okay. May I have a motion to approve the DNR Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to the DNR Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

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

There are no items on the USM Agenda, so we will welcome Ms.

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Radomsky from MDOT. Good to see you.

MS. RADOMSKY: Good to see you, Governor.

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 21 agenda items for your consideration and withdrawing Item 5-C. Our agenda includes four awards to certified small businesses totaling \$14 million. And we have representatives available to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Wonderful. Thank you so much.

Are there any comments or questions on the MDOT Agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the MDOT Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thanks so much, Ms. Radomsky.

MS. RADOMSKY: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

We will conclude the DGS Agenda. Secretary Chaudhry, good morning.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Morning, sir.

Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, and Mr. Treasurer, for the record, I'm the Atif Chaudhry, Secretary of the Maryland Department of General Services. The Department today is presenting 50 items on our agenda. We will

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be withdrawing three items today. Those three items are 27-S, 31-S-OPT/MOD Option MOD, and 48-CGL. Those are three items that we'll be withdrawing today.

Our agenda does feature 28 capital grants and loans totaling more than \$13.3 million. I did want to highlight one very quickly. That's Item 8-CGL, which provides \$250,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Baltimore., which supports around 2,000 youth across Baltimore City, Howard County, Dorchester County, and Wicomico Counties. These funds will be used for the development of a Baltimore Ravens Boys & Girls Club at the Hilton Recreation Center located in Baltimore City.

As we continue to keep an eye on minority business participation, our agenda does include three contract actions to certified minority businesses totaling more than \$6.5 million and two contract actions to certified small businesses totaling more than \$700,000. And we have Agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Thank you.

TREASURER DAVIS: (Indiscernible).

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. Well done.

I'd actually like to take a moment just to highlight Item 21. A request from the Department of Health to award a \$1 million grant to the Greater Baden Medical Center's construction of a 40,000 square foot health center over in Prince George's County. This is a nonprofit that provides primary and preventive care services to underserved individuals, but not just in Prince George's County. It will serve people in Prince George's County, it will serve folks in Charles County, and will serve folks over in St. Mary's County, where it works to really

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eliminate health disparities and improve health throughout the various communities and to all the various community members in making sure that we can get not just quality, but also affordable care to all of our folks. It will also be federally qualified to help provide mental, medical, dental, pediatric, and expanded behavioral healthcare services. And so we're very excited about seeing the work they're going to continue to do.

Madam Comptroller, I know you have some other comments on the DGS Agenda.

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

I just want to highlight a couple items. I was just at Howard Community College for their commencement. It was fantastic. It's Item 22 on the DGS Agenda. We have the grants to eight of our community colleges in Item 22 today, and these funds provide really just dedicated State funding to address critical improvements, repairs, and deferred maintenance at our 15 local government-governed community colleges and Baltimore City Community College. For the over 112,000 Marylanders enrolled in community colleges, this money means better classrooms, more reliable heating and cooling systems, safer labs, and facilities that support present and future instructional needs of the present and future. So really pleased to be able to support that investment in Maryland's future today.

And then, I also just wanted to note sort of generally, although I have it pegged at Item 24-C, is that this is our last meeting before the new advisory on climate and sustainability takes effect. So items like this one, I'm really excited to make sure that we are spending in a way that builds on our climate goals and builds a more resilient and sustainable future. So I look forward to seeing how the advisory will be implemented and bringing a more

transparent, climate-conscious look at all of this work.

So thank you, Mr. Secretary, for all of your work and help towards meeting that. I really appreciate it.

MR. CHAUDHRY: Thank you. It's a team effort. I really appreciate it.

TREASURER DAVIS: I also think there's an extension. I think there's two bond extensions past the seven years, Item 47-CGL. So I just ask that we just pull those out. And the rest, I don't have questions on anything else. Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Item 47?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yep.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much.

If there's no further discussion, Mr. Secretary, we'll pull Item 47 out for a separate vote. So first, we'll take a bite at Item 47. On that item, do I have a motion to approve?

TREASURER DAVIS: So moved.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. I will be the second. And so the item will pass two to one, Comptroller voting in the negative.

On the remaining items for the DGS Agenda sans Item 47, may I have a motion to approve that agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the DGS Agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much.

And before we conclude today's meeting, I want to turn it over to the Treasurer.

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TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you, Governor.

First of all, let me do something impromptu. I want to mention the passing of former Senator Nathan Irby. This is one of the few that I didn't get to serve with that that I've brought before you, but Senator Irby -- I believe, he served for 12 years. And before that, he was on the Baltimore City Council for another eight years, I believe. Reading through his bio, he has an extensive public service record. From talking to former legislators that did serve with him, he just sounded like a terrific legislator -- someone to aspire to be. And I believe, if I'm not mistaken, he was about 95 when he passed or thereabouts, so he -- you know, he had a nice long journey and certainly a life well lived. And I'm sure he's going to be truly missed by all of us. So I just wanted to mention that.

Secondly, and this will be brief. When I was a delegate, there was a project called the Hampton Park Project that was in my district in District 25. I tell you what, in the interest of expediency, is there someone maybe from Department of Human Services that could give us just a brief synopsis of the Hampton Park Project as it relates to DHS. I know it's a very vast thing. We don't need to hear about the other stuff, but just as it relates to this issue.

MR. GONTRUM: Secretary Rodgers is here.

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you, sir.

(Pause.)

MS. RODGERS: Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, and Mr. Treasurer, thank you. For the record, my name is Stacy Rodgers and I have the honor of serving as the Acting Secretary of the Maryland State Department of Human Services. We are here today to provide some background information on the project. The staff briefed me recently on this incredible project that has been underway for about 10 years. And I would just like to say the agenda for us is about efficiency and effectively serving the residents of Prince George's County.

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Co-location is a common theme among the counties, which I've had the opportunity to visit 22 of our 24 counties since arriving April 1st. And it's a common theme because it helps residents receive the services that they need, whether it's county-based services or State services in a reasonable way, and not to have to go to numerous places to get the services that they need. So it's a very important project for us.

Prince George's County government and colleagues, we've worked collectively to move this project forward. I'd like to have my Chief of Staff, who has been involved in this project for a very long time, Mr. Webster Ye, to give you some high-level information about how critical the project is and how important it is to both Prince George's County and to the State.

Thank you.

MR. YE: Thank you, Madam Secretary.

Webster Ye, Chief of Staff for the Department of Human Services. Mr. Treasurer, to your question. For about a decade, we've been trying to, as the Secretary said, consolidate human services -- health and human services within Prince George's County at Hampton Park. There is a \$35 million office building, 115,000 square-foot, that was built as one of the key anchors for this redevelopment project.

It would have -- it will bring in the county health department, a senior center, an aging center, and also the Prince George's County Department of Social Services. About a week ago, we received notice from the County government saying that they wanted to withdraw from the ongoing lease agreement negotiations, which we would have brought to the Board in July.

TREASURER DAVIS: The reason why -- is everyone finished with why? The reason why I brought that up, see, that project is in Capitol Heights where I grew up. And former Governor Hogan, as a matter of fact, grew

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up there. It was -- that project means a lot to that area, or will mean a lot. Well, not just to that area to the county at large, but certainly to that area. So when I was hearing, the sort of back and forth about is it still on, is it off -- I saw the dueling correspondence, I became concerned because we had to have -- we need -- that project was needed. It was going to benefit certainly our senior population and those with certain disabilities, so it meant a lot.

I reached out to the County Executive. We spoke two days ago, as a matter of fact, on a couple of things. And you know, she had looked into it as well. She had heard word of -- what she told me and what --

(Phone Ringing.)

TREASURER DAVIS: -- and what she assured me was that there was a miscommunication between the State and the County in terms of, I guess, wires being crossed, and that if the State still wanted to be there, that they were more than welcome, that we needed to do this. So I told her that I was going to have this conversation with you all and to ask you all to get in contact with whoever you're working with. If that's a problem or if we're having connection issues, then we can go directly to the County Executive. And I'm happy to help facilitate that. I don't think it's necessary, but to make that happen.

But it was too important for it to fall through the cracks. And you know, I guess that old constituent services in me still sort of kicks in. It's probably not my role, but that's important -- as you so eloquently mentioned, that project is too important to the County, certainly to that area, for a miscommunication to derail it. But again, she assured me that the County is welcoming of the State and that we just need to, I guess, reach out and give a call to get everything ironed out. And I think you all were targeting -- it was sometime in our July meetings or one of our July meetings to get that done, so I think it can still be on track to get it done then. So I just wanted to have that --

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you know, pass that along that we're good. And you know while I'm at it, she also assured me that the little park thing that caused such a stir -- Governor, I don't know what you were thinking.

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: It caused such a stir, but that was going to open as well. So they told me the State money is still -- you know, we're still taking good care of the State money and that those projects are going to go through. So I'll end there. But if you have any problems, I would strongly encourage you all to go directly to the County Executive. And if you need me to help facilitate that, please don't hesitate to ask.

Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you, and thank you for the comments. Thank you for the work too.

Just highlighting -- you're right, this is a project that has been going on now for a decade across administrations, across both State and county administrations. And it is important, because we need to make sure we have that one-stop shop framework for people because, you know, whether you're talking about an older adult or whether you're talking about a veteran, their life is not parsed out within Departments. So therefore, we need to make sure that our services are not necessarily parsed out making it harder than it needs to be for them to get what they need.

TREASURER DAVIS: That's right.

GOVERNOR MOORE: So definitely appreciate that and appreciate the work and the resources that (indiscernible).

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Likewise, we look forward to approving the lease at one of our July meetings. So thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Treasurer.

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MR. CHAUDHRY: I just want to say, Mr. Treasurer, that we appreciate it.

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you.

MR. CHAUDHRY: I just want to give a quick update, Mr. Treasurer. DGS is obviously helping to facilitate the lease negotiations and the coordination of lease. As late as yesterday, we received correspondence from the County willing to meet and reengage in the project. So very hopeful to move this forward. We're right now targeting, hopefully fingers crossed, a July 22nd BPW date with a September 1st commencement date for the lease.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Good to hear.

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you.

MS. RODGERS: We thank you. We thank you for your support.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Hold on.

That concludes today's meeting of the Board of Public Works. Next meeting will be the first day of July. Thanks, everybody.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 10:03 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)