BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

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PRESENT

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Comptroller

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PROCEEDINGS

LEIUTENANTGOVERNOR MILLER: Good morning, everyone.

ALL: Good morning.

LEIUTENANTGOVERNOR MILLER: I am so excited to start this Board of Public Works meeting. But before we get started, I wanted to acknowledge that today marks the three-year anniversary of the horrific terrorist attacks of October 7th. Governor Moore and I stand with the Jewish community in Maryland and around the globe as they continue to mourn the tragedy of that day. We hold space for the families who carry unimaginable pain, for those who lost loved ones, and for every life shattered by this tragedy. And as we join the people across the globe in remembering October 7th, we continue to pray for peace and keep all people impacted by the violence in our hearts.

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

Good morning, Secretary Gontrum.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Good morning, Madam Governor, and good morning to you, Madam Comptroller and Mr. Treasurer.

TREASURER DAVIS: Madam Governor, may I say a few words before we get started?

LEIUTENANTGOVERNOR MILLER: Of course.

TREASURER DAVIS: Because I don't want to let it get lost. Excuse, Mr. Executive Director.

It would be remiss of me if I didn't mention the passing of one of my former colleagues from Prince George's County, former Delegate Carolyn J.B. Howard. Delegate Howard, for those -- I'm sure many of you probably knew her, but for those who didn't, Delegate Howard was a longtime advocate for children. She was an educator in the Prince George's County Public School System after

getting her master's from Bowie State. Just a love -- just a love for children. Just a love for children, and she brought that with her to Annapolis. I don't remember the year -- she actually preceded me. I want to say was around '87 or '88 when she first got to Annapolis, and she stayed until I think it was 2019. So she had a nice long career of great advocacy, chair in the Legislative Black Caucus. My former colleague, Talmadge Branch, he can certainly attest to all that Delegate Howard did. She wasn't the type to seek the spotlight or anything, and I think I mentioned in our earlier interview, she wasn't -- one of the things that I liked about her, that I thought was good about her, she didn't mind seeing the younger members advance. Too often, you know, you'll see, you know, the more seasoned folks, and really in any industry, I think, or any field, you know, maybe they're a little nervous about their place, whatever the case may be. So they want the younger people to wait their turn, or "Not yet," or "Get in line," that sort of thing. She didn't have a problem with pushing those with real talent and real skill to the forefront, you know, whenever that may be, not just "wait your time." I always knew where I stood with her.

And I guess over the past week or so since her passing, I've learned a few things. I don't really understand all that it meant, but they told a story yesterday at her funeral that she had a saying that when the horse is dead, it's time to dismount, or something like that. You know, I just -- yeah, I just laugh. I don't really know what that meant, but I just roll with it. So if anybody get a chance, just explain it to me. If it works, I'll repeat it, but if not, I'll, you know, whatever.

But anyway, she was a great legislator. I don't want to take up any more time, Madam Governor, but it would definitely, for someone who served so long and rose so high within the House, I definitely felt like we had to mention her service. I know the Comptroller, she served with her. You did, too, as a matter of fact.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Yeah, yeah.

TREASURER DAVIS: All three of us got to serve with her. So thank you very much for that time.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Absolutely, Mr. Treasurer.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Definitely. To just associate myself with the remarks of Madam Governor and Mr. Treasurer, you know, well said, both of you.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Yeah.

No. I do also want to say that I served with Delegate Howard on the Ways and Means Committee, and I remember she was like a mentor to me. Yeah, I was on the same subcommittee as her. But she had this impeccable way of taking a very tense situation when, you know, emotions were high, and she just come in with this real sweet voice and just calm the situation down. That's what I remember most about her, and she was like that with me many times when I would question things that were happening. She'd take me aside and explain exactly what it meant, but really grateful for her service to the people of Maryland. Most importantly, the person that she was and that impact that, you know, she had as an educator, especially. So I too share your comments, Mr. Treasurer and Madam Comptroller.

Thank you for sharing that.

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: So Members of the Board, there are 20 items this morning on the Secretary's agenda. I'm happy to assist answering any questions.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there any discussion on the Secretary's agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I would just like to make a comment on Item 19. This item has received a lot of attention. So I just want to

be clear what we are voting on, and I don't know if anybody from the Attorney General's office is here, but they're welcome to -- I don't know that I have any questions for them, but they're welcome to be here.

This item sets the rate for outside counsel to assist the Attorney General's office. It's capped at $50,000 for the first phase, which is the motion to dismiss, which has already been filed and which I have read. If that motion succeeds, which I think it probably will, that's where the cost ends. I just want to be clear that the State is covering this representation because the law says that when a public employee is sued in the course of performing their official duties, the State will defend them. And that holds for a state trooper, a park ranger, a professor, and for a governor, and courts across the nation have agreed that speaking to the press about matters of public interest is well within a public official's job. So when Governor Moore goes on the TV networks, he is speaking to the people of Maryland, and he is speaking as our governor elected by 1.3 million voters. And these laws and what is -- the reason that it's important that we vociferously defend the governor in this case, is because we believe in protecting free speech and the free speech of our public officials. We don't want a country -- I certainly don't want a country where anyone with a big legal budget can sue a public servant into silence, or can even chill public servants' speech. I don't want a country where you cannot speak your mind, even when powerful people and corporations disagree. In this country, the answer to speech that you don't like has always been more speech, not enforced silence. I think, at its best, disagreement can drive constructive debate, and that constructive debate offered in good faith can drive progress. That is what representative democracy -- it is how we all progress, and that's how we protect our state in a nation where all of us can speak up and share our ideas without fear of legal retribution.

So at a time when I see our First Amendment rights across the nation under threat, and even the press being silenced, I am confident that the

courts will uphold those values, and I am looking forward to ensuring that our governor, as any public official should have, that we will vociferously defend his right to speak on behalf of Marylanders, and I look forward to voting yes on this item.

Thanks.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Madam Comptroller.

So if there's no further discussion on this agenda, Secretary Gontrum, let's pull the Item 19 for a separate vote.

Let's first take up Item 19. I will abstain from voting on this item.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I'll move to approve.

TREASURER DAVIS: I'll second it.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: The item passes 2-0 with me, the Lieutenant Governor, abstaining.

On the remainder of the Secretary's agenda, may I have a motion to approve the agenda?

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

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

Now we'll proceed to the Department of Natural Resources agenda.

Good morning, Secretary. Oh, sorry.

MS. WILSON: Good morning, Madam Governor, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller. Emily Wilson with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. We do have 14 items on our DNR real property agenda today for your consideration, and I'd be happy to try to answer any questions.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Ms. Wilson. Is there a second discussion or any discussion on the DNR agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No discussion for me.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay. May I have a motion to approve the DNR agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the DNR agenda.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

MS. WILSON: Thank you.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Next up is the University System of Maryland.

Good morning, Mr. Hickey.

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

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Hickey. Is there a discussion on the USM agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I just have one brief question, or maybe you can confirm my understanding, that on Item 2-S, which is the University of Maryland Global Campus Contract for Tuition Assistance Management Services, which is a very large contract, and unfortunately a zero percent MBE participation, that the reason that there is zero percent is because this is a single source of work, and so there is no subcontractable work. Is that correct?

MR. HICKEY: That's my understanding, and also that they did a

search of certified MBEs in this area, and there were none. And one of the requirements for the MBE program, if there's a contract valued at $25 million or more, then an institution or a state agency has to reach out to OSPA and have them review the Procurement Review Group documentation, or PRG for short, and OSPA reviewed that and approved the zero goal.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay, and OSPA is now DOSAM, is that correct?

MR. HICKEY: It's my understanding it's part of DOSAM.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Part of DOSAM. Okay, got it. So there is non-availability of certified small business. Okay, got it. Thank you.

TREASURER DAVIS: You guys feel free to speak out the acronyms.

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I don't know if I can. I don't know that agency.

(Laughter.)

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Hickey.

May I have a motion to approve the USM agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

Now we're going to proceed to the MDOT agenda.

Good morning, Ms. Radomsky.

MS. RADOMSKY: Good morning, Madam Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, my name is Valerie Radomsky, Chief Procurement Officer at the Maryland Department of Transportation. Today we are presenting 16 agenda items for your consideration. The MDOT agenda

includes four awards to duly certified minority and small businesses, totaling $16.9 million. We have representatives available to answer any questions you may have.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you so much. Is there a discussion on the MDOT agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I'll just note that on Item 5-AE, it's nice to see the MBE goal of 32 percent for RK&K. That was a good one. Thank you.

MS. RADOMSKY: Thank you.

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the MDOT agenda.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

All right. Now we're going to conclude with the DGS agenda.

Good morning, Secretary Chaudhry.

SECRETARY CHAUDHRY: Good morning, Madam Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. For the record, I'm the Atif Chaudhury, Secretary of the Maryland Department of General Services. Today the Department is presenting 70 items in our agenda, including one report of an expedited procurement. We're going to be withdrawing two items today. Those two items are 62-RP and 68-IT. Our agenda does feature 48 capital grants and loans, totaling more than $20.9 million.

I did want to highlight one in particular, and that's Item 24-CGL. It provides a total of $3 million to the Kennedy Krieger Institute, which is Baltimore-based and is an internationally recognized leader serving over 27,000

patients and 500 students globally each year through specialized care, education, and research for neurological and developmental conditions. Grant funding will support the construction of a new, 10-story, innovative care center that doubles inpatient and day hospital neuro-rehabilitation capacity and features a very unique "house within a hospital" partnership with the Ronald McDonald House of Charities of Maryland.

As we continue to keep an eye on minority business participation, our agenda does feature three minority business contract actions with certified minority businesses totaling more than $37.4 million, and we have seven contract actions to certified small businesses totaling more than $42.3 million. And we have agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

Now, I understand that we have a few speaker requests this morning. In the best interest of time, we'll ask the speakers to limit their comments to no more than three minutes. And Secretary Gontrum, you get to be the timekeeper.

So first, we have a speaker request for Item No. 13, which is a request to award two capital grants totaling $1.6 million to Friends of the Patapsco Valley State Park for trail stabilization, safer access points, and other improvements at the Patapsco Valley State Park. I'd like to recognize Executive Director Dave Ferraro, who has signed up to speak in support of this item.

Executive Director Ferraro, good morning.

MR. FERRARO: Good morning, Madam Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. Thank you very much for having me here today. I am here basically just to say thank you for your support of Maryland parks and specifically Patapsco Valley State Park. Patapsco Valley State Park is within 50 miles of 95 percent of the citizens of Maryland, and we get two million visitors a

year. These funds will greatly increase access, and I'm just here to say thank you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

MR. FERRARO: Our parks are so important, and these funds really are going to make a difference.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Wow, within 95 percent of Marylanders? They can access this.

MR. FERRARO: Yes, within 50 miles, yes.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Wow, I did not know that.

MR. FERRARO: Yes.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you for sharing that.

MR. FERRARO: You're very welcome.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: And you are very welcome. Thank you. Thank you for being here.

MR. FERRARO: Thank you.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Lastly, we have a speaker request for Item 39, which is a request to award $500,000 capital grant to the Olney Theater Center for the completion of the Makers' Center and the Education Center in Montgomery County. I'd like to recognize Executive Director Debbie Ellinghaus, who has signed up to speak virtually in support of this item.

Executive Director Ellinghaus, good morning.

Maybe not?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: She's here.

MS. ELLINGHAUS: Thank you. Can you hear me?

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Yeah.

MS. ELLINGHAUS: Great, thank you. Thank you, Lieutenant

Governor Miller, Comptroller Lierman, and Treasurer Davis for the opportunity to speak.

Capital funding is revitalizing Olney Theater Center for the Arts, the official state summer theater of Maryland, and now the State's largest regional theater. These funds are vital to getting us closer to completing fundraising goals for our Staging the Future campaign, a $36.5 million campus renovation that first broke ground in 2020. Major construction concluded in 2026, just a few months ago, and all the final details are in progress. Capital funding is helping to transform our 88-year-old theater. Previous phases renovated our intimate black box theater and created an outdoor venue, now home to summer concerts. More recently, we're revitalizing our original 1938 theater into a fully flexible event space. This venue will also hold immersive performances such as our fabulous current production of *Some Like It Hot*, which is receiving box office and critical raves -- come see it -- and a wide range of community events.

Regarding the community, before this campaign started, we were turning away dozens and dozens of peer nonprofits and artists looking for spaces to pursue their missions. We couldn't accommodate them due to aging inadequate facilities. And there are very few other facilities meeting the needs of artists or community organizations, private citizens looking for event space in our area of Montgomery County. We also turned away hundreds of individuals seeking to use our space for special milestone events, weddings, civic meetings, or community gatherings. But thanks to the State's incredible support, we can meet the needs of our neighbors and welcome partners, creating a vibrant center, not just for the performing arts, but for our entire community.

Our first ever education center will allow us to reach more young people during the school day and outside of school. New classrooms are improving training for early career professionals and increasing our capacity to welcome adult learners of all ages. We had a clown class last night; it was

terrific. One of our new classes, Beginning Acting, has already reached capacity and includes students ages 17 to 67. And with four operational stages supported by a new Makers' Center, we'll provide our full-time and guest artists the resources they need to produce more performances at an even higher level. This means inspiring more Marylanders and visitors from across the United States. This season, we drew visitors from 45 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, as well as eight different countries. Four stages also means more jobs for creative workers based here in Maryland. In our 2026-27 season alone, this current season, we will employ more than 500 artists and technician contracts, in addition to our full-time and part-time staff. The campus renovations supported by the State are helping to ensure creative workers can build and sustain successful careers here in Maryland and keep them here in Maryland and not lose them to New York.

Thank you for your support. We hope you'll join us for a tour of the new campus soon.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you so much, Ms. Ellinghaus, that was great. And you're right, we want to keep that business, arts business, all of it here in the State of Maryland. I couldn't agree more. Thank you.

MS. ELLINGHAUS: Thank you.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: So with that, are there any further discussions on the DGS agenda?

TREASURER DAVIS: Can I ask about Item 52, please?

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Of course.

TREASURER DAVIS: Let me know when you're ready, Mr. Secretary.

SECRETARY CHAUDHRY: Ready, Mr. Treasurer.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: He's ready.

TREASURER DAVIS: Oh, okay.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: He doesn't get ready. He stays ready.

TREASURER DAVIS: There you go.

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: MBE goal why wasn't this -- from the research that my office did, this looks very similar to a contract from 2011, DBM Item 1-S involving Periscope, and that had an MBE goal of 15 percent, and I think that the winning bidder committed to doing 30 percent. This appears to be very similar. Why didn't we choose to do an MBE goal for this one?

SECRETARY CHAUDHRY: Great question, Mr. Treasurer. I think there's some distinctions between the 2011 -- so the 2011 agenda item was for a procurement to bring in an e-procurement solution or an IT-based solution for contracting for state government. So that was that 2011 goal -- and that was the goal associated with that.

This particular contract 52 is related to a separate consult contract to have a consultant come in to assist DGS and the Office of State Procurement to collect the 1 percent fee that we normally charge for contracting and utilization of the -- our e-procurement platform, which is an industry best practice and standard across most states where they charge a certain percentage fee associated with that. I think here there was very limited subcontracting capability here associated with this, and that's why there was a zero percent goal associated with this year. While this is not necessarily an IT solution, this is consulting services that come in and support our very manual process for fee collection, to be able to do that in a more structured way as an interim solution while we were building out a more complex, robust IT system that will automate all these processes next year.

TREASURER DAVIS: And so for that reason, you're saying that there -- first of all, let me ask this question. What exactly is a discrete

subcontracting opportunity? What does that mean?

SECRETARY CHAUDHRY: Are you looking at the agenda item?

TREASURER DAVIS: It was just something I had read in the description, and I wasn't sure if that was part of -- is that like official language or that -- was it just something I had read otherwise. Is that a contract term that you all use, or is it just information I had?

SECRETARY CHAUDHRY: Yeah, I'll bring up our Acting Deputy Chief Procurement Officer to speak more related to the -- maybe a technical term there associated with this.

TREASURER DAVIS: And it may not be. It was just --

SECRETARY CHAUDHRY: You're getting into the weeds today with us, Mr. Treasurer. You're really getting into the weeds with us today.

TREASURER DAVIS: Well, that certainly is the goal.

MS. TOMAZEWSKI: Good morning, everyone. Jamie Tomaszewski, Acting Deputy Chief Procurement Officer for the Office of State Procurement within DGS. The discrete, not necessarily terminology, but the functions within this consulting project are specific to getting that fee, and so there was not really opportunity to pull out segments for subcontracting. So there are processes and steps for that consulting project. And so the discreteness of it is that it stays within that one consulting firm for the purposes of maintaining the "chain of custody" kind of deal with the whole process.

TREASURER DAVIS: Okay. And so the 1 percent -- I mean, exactly what is that for? Because -- and I guess I'm asking the question on this. If the purpose is just to, you know, assist with the contract, you could have 1 percent of a small number or 1 percent of a very large number. And if it's a very large number, is that necessary to, you know, to execute the contract? In other words, are we -- by it not being directly related to the cost to administer it. That's the

word I'm looking for, to administer the contract. It's just a blanket number. Are we potentially collecting money that we don't need? And I would think ultimately, wouldn't that increase the cost of the contract? I would just assume whoever's bidding is going to factor that into it and it could potentially impact how much we're paying for that service.

SECRETARY CHAUDHRY: No, great question, Mr. Treasurer. In that regard, you know, law and regulation allow the State to charge a reasonable fee associated with the utilization of an e-procurement system or an electronic procurement system. And here, I think, we utilize that on certain contracts that are issued by DGS for procurement to -- that goes into a non-lapsing fund to support the e-procurement system and the platform and support services there. Obviously, there's licensing fees, there's constant modernization associated with procurement systems, et cetera, that are associated with that. So we don't necessarily -- as of right now, the fee has not been able to meet our expectations of what we need it to be. And that's why we're bringing a consultant in here to help support the capturing of maybe existing fees that are still owed to the State, long standing -- this has been in place since 2011, so some of the existing fees that are outstanding, and to better capture future fees. So some of the contracts that we're issuing here are statewide contracts and utilized by counties, by municipalities, et cetera. And it's very challenging for us. It's a very manual process right now to capture those fees associated with it -- that 1 percent fee. This will allow the vendor to help support us in that regard to better capture that fee, so we're able to do that and support the system and then continue to modernize state procurement as we go forward through these IT-based solutions.

TREASURER DAVIS: So is it up to 1 percent or just 1 percent?

SECRETARY CHAUDHRY: It's a 1 percent flat fee for eligible contracts associated with it, based on the spend. And the challenge associated with that, Mr. Treasurer, sometimes we have large not to exceeds on statewide

contracts, but we've got to capture what the actual spend on that is. Sometimes we never hit that maximum amount to exceed on the contract. So it's capturing that actual spend by various agencies or counties and municipalities leveraging that particular contract. So that's why it can be very challenging to capture a very manual process to be able to capture that fee.

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And my understanding is that this is in response to an audit finding that you were not following along -- that DGS had not been capturing what was contractually allowed and obligated from 2011. Is that correct?

SECRETARY CHAUDHRY: That's correct, Madam Comptroller. As part of the OLA finding, they indicated that there was -- they recognized that there was a fee that was due to the State, and we were not necessarily capturing the full entitlement that we were supposed to associated with that. But this is in response to -- partially in response to the OLA audit finding to be able to go back, bring this vendor in as an interim solution, and we're anticipating to do that between now and the end of calendar year '27. At that point, we'll have our full e-procurement system fully in place -- we're hoping to. And at that point, this will be a more automated process. So right now, this helps us to get caught up on outstanding existing fees, as well as capture more fees between now and when our new system goes online. So it's very much an interim-based solution.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Got it, okay. So, right, so it's an interim solution. So you're going to insource -- is it just very temporary? Like, maybe just a year?

SECRETARY CHAUDHRY: Absolutely, yeah. Just a little over a year to be able to capture and get those fees in place and get structures in place. And then after that, it'll be fully automated and insourced.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Thank you.

TREASURER DAVIS: All right, that's interesting. Let me follow up on that. When were you all given authorization to do this by the General Assembly?

SECRETARY CHAUDHRY: I don't know when the statute was passed. You're really getting into the weeds on me here, Mr. Treasurer. So there was law and regulations that was enacted to authorize the fee. Both law and regulation do require Board of Public Works approval.

MS. TOMAZEWSKI: 2002.

SECRETARY CHAUDHRY: 2002. So 2002, the law was passed. So 2002, it was enacted. Mr. Treasurer may have voted on that.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I did not.

TREASURER DAVIS: I didn't, and I was gone before Brooke -- I mean, Madam Comptroller.

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I did not vote on this.

SECRETARY CHAUDHRY: So 2002 it was enacted, and then both law and regulation both require Board of Public Works approval. And then we've always seen this as that 2011 Board of Public Works agenda item to have been authorized that 1 percent fee for these types of contracts.

TREASURER DAVIS: All right. Thank you. I appreciate your patience.

SECRETARY CHAUDHRY: Thanks. I just want to clarify for the record, too, that this is not a new fee. This is an existing fee that's been in place for many, many years -- for 15 plus years now that we've been leveraging. Just want to get caught up.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And you're going to streamline how you're collecting it, to meet your OLA -- the audit finding under OLA.

SECRETARY CHAUDHRY: Absolutely.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. And Jamie, thank you so much as well.

Is there any further discussion on the DGS agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: No? Okay. So is there a --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Oh, wait, actually. I take it back. I do. Sorry. Sorry, sorry. My bad.

69-IT. I just had a quick question about the request to award a contract for financial management advisory services to support the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Division. Is somebody from Labor here? Are you going to take this?

SECRETARY CHAUDHRY: We have representatives here for Labor.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: 69. Sorry. 69-IT. Sorry.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay, 69-IT.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Welcome to the BPW.

MS. CABELLON: Thank you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: It's your first time, huh?

MS. CABELLON: Good morning, Lieutenant Governor Miller, Madam Comptroller, and Mr. Treasurer. I'm Angela Cabellon, the Deputy Secretary for Modernization of the Maryland Department of Labor, and I'm happy to take any questions.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Thank you so much for being here, and thanks for the discussions to talk through the administration of FAMLI. Can you talk a little bit more -- can you just explain, this contract is a very specific contract for what you plan to do with it. And I was hoping you

could just sort of very briefly explain what exactly it's for.

MS. CABELLON: Absolutely. Maryland's Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program, FAMLI, will ensure Maryland workers have a financial lifeline when attending to urgent medical and caregiving needs. Six months from now, 150,000 employers will start quarterly contributions into the FAMLI Insurance Fund. Nine months after that, in January 2028, the State will pay workers a portion of their salary when they're on leave. Strong financial systems and procedures are core to ensuring the security and integrity of the program. Maryland Labor sought an external partner with distinct technical experience as we build our accounting system and procedures. The selected vendor has industry expertise that will guide the build, testing, accounting controls, and processes at the velocity we need. They will also support Maryland Labor in integrating our financial systems across multiple technical platforms. This contract provides independent expertise and audit support during the build to safeguard public funds.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And so this -- one of the things -- my understanding is that this is quite separate and the financial systems that you're setting up for FAMLI are distinct from Unemployment, from UI, but you believe that at some point in the future, we may be able to consolidate, we may be able to have some savings and some efficiencies, but that FAMLI and what you're doing right now, these financial controls are really essential to ensure the fiscal integrity of the program through an outside auditor and whatnot. Is that correct?

MS. CABELLON: Couldn't have said it better, Madam Comptroller.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yay, auditors. Financial auditors.

(Laughter.)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Good stuff. Okay, I think that is all I have for you. And yeah, I appreciate the explanations and conversations that

we've had about the financial work of the team. Thank you.

MS. CABELLON: Thank you to your teams as well. We greatly appreciate the advising expertise.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Sure.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: And Angela, I just want to say, welcome to the Moore-Miller family. All right.

MS. CABELLON: Thank you. Happy to be here.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Please tell Earl the Pearl I said hello.

MS. CABELLON: I will. Thank you, Lieutenant Governor.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay.

MS. CABELLON: And that is my husband.

(Laughter.)

TREASURER DAVIS: Oh, I was somewhere else for that. I was like, she knows Earl the Pearl?

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Earl the Pearl. That's what he's famously known as.

(Laughter.)

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: So on the Secretary's agenda, may I have a motion to approve it?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion --

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Oh, is there more? I'm sorry.

TREASURER DAVIS: Well, you mean DGS?

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Yes, DGS, yeah, sorry.

TREASURER DAVIS: Can I move to separate out Item 52-S?

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Of course.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And I think we should hold Item

52 for now.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay.

SECRETARY CHAUDHRY: We'll go ahead and withdraw Item 52.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: So should we go ahead and vote on the Secretary's agenda now.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: The rest of the DGS.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: The rest of the DGS agenda.

Okay. Okay, may I have a motion to approve the DGS agenda, the rest of it, with Item No. 52 being separated out?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the DGS agenda.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Okay, is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: All right.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Great.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Should we vote on Item No. 2 now?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No. It's all been withdrawn.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Withdrawn, got it.

Okay, before we conclude, is there any further discussion?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Nope.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: That concludes today's meeting of the Board of Public Works. So thank you all for being here. The next meeting will be on October 28th. The meeting is now adjourned.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

LEIUTENANT GOVERNOR MILLER: Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 10:44 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)