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# **BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

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

**September 16, 2026**  
**10:13 a.m.**

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# **PRESENT**

**HONORABLE WES MOORE**

Governor

**HONORABLE BROOKE E. LIERMAN**

Comptroller

**HONORABLE DERECK E. DAVIS**

Treasurer

**JOHN GONTRUM**

Secretary, Board of Public Works

**ATIF CHAUDHRY**

Secretary, Department of General Services

**EMILY WILSON**

Director of Legislative and Constituent Services,  
Department of Natural Resources

**THOMAS HICKEY**

Director of Procurement and Real Property Initiatives,  
University System of Maryland

**VALERIE RADOMSKY**

Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Transportation

**LISA GRIGSBY**

Recording Secretary, Board of Public Works

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# PROCEEDINGS

GOVERNOR MOORE: Take a seat. Good morning. Thank you.  
Thank you.

Good morning, and welcome to today's meeting of the Board of Public Works. We will get started with the business of the day.

Mr. Secretary, good to see you and good morning.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Good morning, Governor. Good to see you. And good morning, Mr. Treasurer and Madam Comptroller. There are 22 items on the Secretary's agenda this morning and two reports of emergency procurement contract awards. I'm happy to assist with answering any questions.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much, Mr. Secretary. And I would actually like to start by highlighting Item 17, which is a request from the Department of the Environment to award up to \$16 million in funding to the City of Westminster to supplement the City's water supply without depleting the region's groundwater reserves, which we're very excited about this. In fact, this is going to be the --

Hi, Madam Mayor.

-- that this is going to be the first potable water reuse project for the public water system in the State of Maryland. So this is a very, very big deal. We're excited about this.

We're also excited to be joined by the mayor, Mayor Mona Becker, who we would love to have to talk -- to share a few words.

So Madam Mayor, if you would join us.

Also highlighting that -- that she's also a schoolteacher. And so the fact that we have you here -- and on a school day --

TREASURER DAVIS: Flexible.

MAYOR BECKER: They gave me a personal day. Yeah.  
Personal day and sub plans.

GOVERNOR MOORE: There we go. Great to see you, Mayor.

MAYOR BECKER: So this is exciting. Good morning,  
Governor, Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer. The City of Westminster knows from experience that we cannot take our water supply for granted. In 2002, an extreme drought depleted our water system, forcing us to truck water in from a nearby quarry to keep the hospital open. That experience changed the way we thought about our future. We could wait for the next crisis, or we could prepare for it. Westminster chose to prepare. We implemented conservation measures, carefully planned our water allocations, and maximized our existing groundwater and surface water resources.

But we recognized that if we wanted to secure Westminster's future in the face of climate uncertainty, population growth, and increasing water demands, we needed to think differently. That vision became PUREWater Westminster. Beginning with the pilot project in 2019, Westminster set out to prove that advanced water purification could transform reclaimed water into safe, reliable, and drought-resistant resources.

We partnered with the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins to independently validate the technology. Today, that vision is becoming a reality. Construction is underway on which will become Maryland's first indirect potable water reuse facility. For a small to medium-sized city, that's a pretty big idea, but that's Westminster.

We are forward-thinking, we are willing to innovate, and we believe the size of a community should never determine the size of its vision. The project required years of planning, persistence, creativity, and an incredible commitment from our City staff. It also required strong partnerships and significant outside investment. Westminster braided together local, county,

federal, and state resources to make this project possible.

We simply could not have done this project without the support of MDE and Governor Moore. Those partnerships are a powerful example of what happens when local innovation meets state leadership. Westminster had the vision, our community had the determination, and our state partners helped us get the tools to turn that vision into reality. This is what sustainability looks like. Preparing today for the challenges of tomorrow, investing in resilience, and having the courage to lead before a crisis forces us to act.

Westminster is proud to help lead Maryland into a new era of water security, and we are grateful for Governor Moore, the hardworking staff at the State and the State -- and all the State of Maryland and our partners who are helping us build a more sustainable and secure future. So from the bottom of my heart, thank you very much.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you, Madam Mayor.

TREASURER DAVIS: Great job.

GOVERNOR MOORE: And Westminster has the right mayor. We're grateful, and congratulations. It's a big deal. It's an important and groundbreaking project. So thank you for not just the leadership, but also for being here in person.

MAYOR BECKER: You're welcome. The project will be completed in February '27, so.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Awesome.

MAYOR BECKER: You will have to come by then for a ribbon cutting.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Exciting.

MAYOR BECKER: Thank you, sir.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you, Madam Mayor. Thank you. Thank you.

With that, is there any further discussion on the Secretary's agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Governor. Yeah. I would just like to take a moment on Items 20 and 21 to say thank you to President Wilson who hosted me last week at the national treasure, Morgan State University. We see items like Items 20 and 21 on the agenda quite frequently, which is great, but it doesn't compare to seeing the work the university has been doing in person. And so it was a pleasure to be able to go visit Morgan State, learn more about what they are doing with state money, see the greenhouse that they have built, learn about more -- more about their work on sustainable ag and urban farming.

So huge thank you to the University for hosting us. Congratulations on all their success, and excited to see them keep moving forward on TV, off TV.

GOVERNOR MOORE: They are doing great. Yeah, definitely double-click on that. Shout out to President Wilson. I mean, what Morgan continues to do is just a pride for our entire state, so we're really grateful. Really grateful.

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 proceed with the Department of Natural Resources. Ms. Wilson, good morning.

MS. WILSON: Morning, Governor, Mr. Treasurer, Madam Comptroller. Emily Wilson, Maryland Department of Natural Resources. We

have 12 items on our DNR real property agenda today. We are withdrawing Item 12A. Happy to try to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you so much. Is there any discussion on the DNR agenda?

(No response.)

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the DNR agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much, Ms. Wilson.

MS. WILSON: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

We have next up the University System of Maryland. Mr. Hickey, good morning.

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

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. Is there any discussion on the --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I just wanted to give a shout-out. At 3-C, it's exciting to see, and I wanted to commend College Park for investing in the infrastructure to support a fleet of electric shuttle buses. So fantastic to see, and really a key step as the University transitions from an aging diesel fleet right into this to advance their climate goals. But also, we look at the price of diesel right now and look at, you know, how much more affordable it would be over the

long term to transition our fleets to EVs. So any idea when the new fleet is expected to be deployed, and whether there are other institutions that are working on this same thing?

MR. HICKEY: I do have Bill Olen from University of Maryland, College Park on the line, but it's my understanding -- I reached out to our sustainability person, and College Park was unique in getting this federal grant --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Nice.

MR. HICKEY: -- because they provide residents of College Park free transit in the City of College Park, unlike the other institutions. So I think this grant program, which is still active -- I was shocked to learn it was still active.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Oh, I know.

MR. HICKEY: It's grants to states, local governments, and tribal communities throughout the country, but it's unique that a University got a grant like this.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: That's so interesting. Well, that's fantastic and great to hear. I'm glad it'll support College Park residents, and students, and professors, and staff alike. So great. Congrats. Thank you.

MR. HICKEY: Bill is on the line to answer your question.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay.

MR. HICKEY: Should be.

MR. OLEN: Good morning, Governor, Treasurer Davis, Madam Comptroller.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Good morning. We were just commending your work on this item and wondering when it will all -- when the fleet will launch.

MR. OLEN: So we accepted delivery of the first two buses in the spring and the next six over the summer, so we have eight operating in our fleet right now.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: That's great. Well, congratulations, and hopefully some other municipalities can take advantage of the same grant program while it lasts.

MR. OLEN: Thank you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Nobody tell the president that it exists. Thank you.

MR. OLEN: You're welcome.

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

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the USM agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much. Very nice, Mr. Hickey.

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

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 17 agenda items for your consideration, and we have representatives available to answer any questions you may have.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great. Thank you. Is there any items for discussion for MDOT?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I'll just briefly on Item 2-C, MAA is awarding a contract to refurbish the air traffic control tower, I see. I did have an opportunity -- thank you to Director Griffin, for giving us a chance to visit the tower last fall. It definitely needs some work. We definitely need a new tower.

You know, I was happy to meet and speak with some of the -- Dana Plagmann, the BWI rep for the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, and the reps there, and they obviously have huge challenges in the infrastructure. And, you know, my understanding is we as a State are -- we have to pay for refurbishment of the tower, but then there will be federal money to help us build an entirely new tower. Is that accurate?

MS. RADOMSKY: Yes. And we do have Executive Director Shannetta Griffin on.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay.

MS. RADOMSKY: That's virtually.

MS. GRIFFIN: Good morning, Governor. Good morning, Madam Comptroller. Good morning, Mr. Treasurer.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Good morning.

MS. GRIFFIN: Good to see you all this morning. Yes.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Good to see you. I was just discussing our visit last fall to the air traffic control tower and, you know, saying I'm happy to see that we're doing some work to refurbish some of the space there to get it up to code, but that certainly we need a new tower, as you know and believe, as well. And so my question was, this is State money to refurbish it, but will we not get federal money to help build a new tower? Is that correct?

MS. GRIFFIN: So we won't get federal money in regards to the construction of the new tower.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay.

MS. GRIFFIN: Our hope is that we will get money for the new equipment in the new tower.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: New equipment. Okay. Got it.

MS. GRIFFIN: Yes. For the equipment because that will be FAA equipment. And you know they are going through -- the FAA, the Department is

going through a major rehabilitation of the air traffic control system.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Right.

MS. GRIFFIN: And so when they complete that, then we will be able to -- once we complete our construction -- be able to get some of that new equipment in the new tower.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Understood. Okay. And I believe there is an additional \$33 million to advance the design for the new tower and other critical infrastructure upgrades in this year's draft CTP. So that was good to see, as well. Is that correct?

MS. GRIFFIN: Yes. That is correct, ma'am. Thank you.

Yes, that is correct.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. That's great. Well, thank you, and thanks for giving us a tour of the tower. And just, yeah, we got to get a new one.

MS. GRIFFIN: You're more than welcome.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah.

MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you so much.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thanks.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. Okay.

TREASURER DAVIS: Thank you. Good morning, Ms. Radomsky.

MS. RADOMSKY: Good morning.

TREASURER DAVIS: Forgive me for not getting with you sooner, but this sort of came together for me within the last 12, 24 hours, so just play along with me. I know -- I actually know the answers --

MS. RADOMSKY: Okay.

TREASURER DAVIS: I know the answers to the questions, but I need you to help me do this. First of all, Item 3-AE. Do we know why it's before

us?

MS. RADOMSKY: Yes. Because it is an Architecture and Engineering contract, and those always come before the Board of Public Works when above \$500,000 with the new regulations.

TREASURER DAVIS: And this deals with roads and bridges?

MS. RADOMSKY: It does, but it is design services.

TREASURER DAVIS: Now, I know the answer to this. No, I'm not going to lure you into anything. But herein lies the rub with a point that I think me and the Comptroller have made previously. This is a design -- architectural and engineering contract. It -- and what does that do? It deals with, if I'm not mistaken, engineering calculations, design modeling, specifications for the new bridge, et cetera. All of that, right?

MS. RADOMSKY: Yes, sir.

TREASURER DAVIS: Related to the bridge. But the actual construction of the bridge doesn't come before BPW. So for me, again, it's not a question. This is all statement. It either -- it all should come to BPW, or none of it should come to BPW. It's highly inconsistent to say we want you all to approve the design, the plan, the architecture, the engineering, up to that point, but now the actual construction of it, we got this. Because that -- and I don't know who set this up and when. It was probably before any of us were here. Bruce may have been here. Bruce may have been here. But Bruce, the rest of us, we weren't here. So there's a, to me, sort of a disconnect with that.

And I guess, first of -- when you all -- because this had to come here, from the time that you all said, "All right. It's ready to go. We need it to go before BPW." How long did it take to get on our agenda?

MS. RADOMSKY: So this A&E item that we have on today's agenda was submitted through the Secretary's office four and a half weeks ago.

TREASURER DAVIS: Okay.

MS. RADOMSKY: Which is our due date for items to come in.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Through Transportation.

MS. RADOMSKY: Yes. Sorry.

TREASURER DAVIS: Oh, John Gontrum.

MS. RADOMSKY: Sorry. The Secretary of Transportation -- sorry, to clear, TSO, the Secretary's Office of the Department of Transportation.

TREASURER DAVIS: How long did it take to get to our Secretary from the time it was submitted there to get on our agenda, the BPW agenda?

MS. RADOMSKY: Sure. So we submitted the items to Secretary of the BPW 12 days before this meeting.

TREASURER DAVIS: The reason why I bring that up, because we went round and round in the committees about how long it takes to get on the BPW agenda. And my contention, my statement was the reason why projects take longer, it's not because of BPW, but rather because of the internal systems and controls that, you know, that the agency goes through. I don't really know what those are, so I can only surmise here, but it sounds like it's a more rigorous process when it comes before us versus when it just goes, I guess, on the street or whatever. But it's kind of misleading because people think that we're the problem, that anything that comes before us, we're holding it up, we're taking a long time. And you've just said on arguably the most important construction project we have going, when it reached BPW's hands, we had it up in 12 days. That's not even 2 weeks. It's 12 days. But then what was the other number? You said 16 weeks or 12 weeks or --

MS. RADOMSKY: Four and a half weeks.

TREASURER DAVIS: Four and a half weeks.

MS. RADOMSKY: When it came in to my office to review, to be submitted onto our MDOT agenda. MDOT is the --

TREASURER DAVIS: That's actually not that long either.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: No.

TREASURER DAVIS: But if we're comparing the two processes, it -- that's about six weeks or six and a half weeks. Most -- two-thirds of that was within the Department. One third of that was BPW, and that's just when we, you know, we ask that stuff to be turned in and so forth, and so on. I think an unknown part of that process is it could have actually been brought like the day before. It could even be hand-carried, and we would have took it up right away. Is -- am I misunderstanding that or what the --

MS. RADOMSKY: That's accurate. We try to avoid that as much as possible so that you all have -- you know, you and your staff have the opportunity to be able to review the items and ask us any questions --

TREASURER DAVIS: Oh, no, that's --

MS. RADOMSKY: -- if necessary.

TREASURER DAVIS: Oh, no, you're -- I get that, and I appreciate the courtesy. I guess the point I'm trying to make is, you know, an expediency part of it, that we are very accommodating in that while we definitely appreciate having the time to review, if needed or if necessary, you could have brought it to us yesterday, and it would've been on today's agenda.

So all I'm saying -- I guess the point I'm making is that, from a speed standpoint, the argument that projects that come before BPW causes all of this delay and slowdown, I have to respectfully disagree with because it just -- again, on the most important project -- and granted, this isn't construction. This is architectural and engineering, but it took 12 days to -- for us to get there, and that's more the standard, you know. It's just when it was submitted. We could've done this a lot faster if we needed to do this a lot faster.

So I'll close by saying I think we have a significant policy issue in the State that needs to address -- it just makes no sense to bring the architectural

and engineering component of a roads, bridges, construction contract to BPW, but the actual thing, you know, the main thing can skip it all together. If that part can skip it all together, then it doesn't make sense to bring this, as well. You don't bring bits and pieces of the same contract for review. It's either all of it should be reviewed or none of it should be reviewed.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And we think all of it should be reviewed.

TREASURER DAVIS: And you've been a great -- you've been a great host. I appreciate it, and like I said, it just sort of came together with me. I would've given you a heads up before, but thank you for your patience.

MS. RADOMSKY: You're welcome.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Fair point.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And thank you. And can I just ask? On this contract, there's no work stoppage that -- like everything is continuing? These are subcontractors that are continuing, and this is continuing the work that has been happening, so not like there was any delay at all. Yeah. Great. Thank you.

MS. RADOMSKY: You're welcome.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thanks to your team for briefing us on it, as well, earlier this week.

MS. RADOMSKY: You're welcome.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. Thanks for the great continuing work. And thank you for that because I think that actually is a very important flag. So thank you. Thank you.

MS. RADOMSKY: Thanks.

GOVERNOR MOORE: 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: Excellent. Thank you so much. Thanks, Ms. Radomsky. Thank you.

We will conclude with the DGS agenda. Secretary Chaudhry, good morning.

SECRETARY CHAUDHRY: Morning, sir. Mr. Governor, Madam Comptroller, Mr. Treasurer, for the record, I'm Atif Chaudhry, Secretary of the Maryland Department of General Services. Today, the Department is presenting 57 items in our agenda, including one report of an expedited procurement. We are withdrawing two items today. Those two items are 7-CGL and 46-IT-OPT/MOD.

Our agenda does feature 30 capital grants and loans totaling more than \$16.8 million. I want to highlight one very briefly, and that's Item 15-CGL, which provides a total of \$4.5 million to the Maryland African American Museum Corporation for facility and infrastructure improvements to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum, including HVAC upgrades, lighting upgrades, and capital improvements to their permanent exhibit.

As we continue to keep an eye on our minority business participation, our agenda does include two contract actions to certified minority businesses totaling more than \$24 million, and we have three contract actions to certified small businesses totaling more than \$3 million. We have agency representatives here to answer any questions you may have.

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

And I understand we have a few speaker requests set up for this morning. In the interest of time, I would just ask that they would limit their remarks for -- to three minutes, and Mr. Secretary, I'd ask that you just serve as

timekeeper on that.

The first we have a speaker request for Item 4, which is a request to award a \$100,000 capital grant to the Bailey-Groce Family Foundation to acquire property for use as the Anna Murray Douglass Visitor Center and Museum.

And good to see you, Mr. Ammi. We have Haki Ammi up here to speak to it. So good morning and thank you.

DR. AMMI: Yes. Good morning, Governor. It was great to see you at the Chair Scott Phillips event.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Nice.

DR. AMMI: And it was great to see you --

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yep.

DR. AMMI: -- and Comptroller at the ABC Cookout.

And Treasurer Davis, we have some Ravens tickets for you.

TREASURER DAVIS: I don't think I want --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: He's not allowed to accept them. He's not allowed to accept them.

TREASURER DAVIS: Let's not be hasty.

(Laughter.)

DR. AMMI: Okay. Well, so I'm, Haki Ammi here on behalf of the Bailey-Groce family. I'm a political liaison, and just yesterday we had a groundbreaking for the Anna Murray Douglass Center. And that's going to be in Denton, Maryland. So Murray Douglass was the wife of Frederick Douglass for more than 40 years. In addition, she served as a captain in the Underground Railroad, helping Douglass and other slaves gain freedom. The museum and visitor center will help shed light on the history and impact of Murray Douglass.

The only other thing I wanted to add is to thank Senator Mautz for this. And the look of the museum is going to be centered on the 18th century

during the time that she would've grown up. And so we're going to have classrooms and tours to that site, and it will be the first museum in Caroline County. So that's all I have to say. Thank you.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you.

DR. AMMI: Yeah.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Great work and a great tribute to a great Marylander, too. So thank you so much. Thanks for that work.

Next, we have a speaker request for Item 5, which is a request to award \$600,000 capital grant to God's Best Family, Inc., for the acquisition of a permanent community facility with classrooms and meeting spaces and other childhood facilities. I would like to recognize Ms. LaShawn Gibson to the podium. So Ms. Gibson, good morning. Good to see you.

MS. GIBSON: Good morning, good morning. Thank you. I just want to say on behalf of God's Best Family, thank you, guys. Our project even being considered, oh, it's a blessing to us. Putting together the project or the paperwork to do this, we have to check off a lot of boxes, give a lot of resources and data. There's always one box that's not there, and that's love. This project is grounded in love. Showing love, teaching the community to love one another, and I think that's the thing that sets us apart. So again, I just want to say thank you for considering us.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you for your work. It is not just meaningful, but it's impactful. And thank you for being here this morning, too. Thank you.

Next, we have a speaker request for Item 18, which is a request to award \$100,000 capital grant to Goodwill Volunteer Fire Company Number 1 to purchase a new 2026 engine tanker. I'd like to recognize Robert Ritchie, who is signed up virtually, out there in -- out in Allegany County. So it is great to have

you here, Mr. Ritchie, and good morning, and thanks for your service.

MR. RITCHIE: Good morning, Governor. Thanks for the opportunity to speak, and it's always great to see you when you make it out to Allegany County. I know Mayor Coburn likes to see you, also. But --

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yes.

MR. RITCHIE: -- we just want to speak this morning briefly. I'm actually in Morgantown, West Virginia, this morning for an appointment with my dad. But the tanker that you saw back five -- four years ago, we're finally coming to an attrition where we're going to be able to replace it. It's in its final stages. We're expected to take delivery of it the first or second week of October. So we would just like to thank the Board for the opportunity for this -- this sum of money of \$100,000. The \$1,091,663 has finally come through, and it's been a long, hard road and a lot of hard work, but it looks like we're going to finally get that firetruck, thanks to a lot of parties and donors and things like that.

But you're always welcome back to Western Maryland, and we'll open you with open arms. But if you have any questions, I'll be more than happy to take them. And yeah, Jake's still running fire calls, in case you were wondering.

GOVERNOR MOORE: We would expect nothing different.

MR. RITCHIE: We lost -- he lost his good buddy the other day, Clarence Broadwater, if you remember him. He passed away on the 24th of August for his 90th birthday. It was a hard day.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yeah. Well, please give our condolences to his family, and I'm going to give Jake a call just to say thank you, as well. But please know we're thinking about you guys and just really thankful for your service, everything you continue to do. And please tell Dad that we said hello too, okay?

MR. RITCHIE: Yes, sir. I thank you very much.

GOVERNOR MOORE: God bless.

MR. RITCHIE: If you have any other questions, I'll be on here.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thanks.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you. And lastly, I want to highlight Item 24, which is a request to award a \$1.5 million capital grant to Washington County to modernize their very aging air traffic control tower at the Hagerstown Regional Airport. You know, we were speaking about, you know --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: All the --

GOVERNOR MOORE: -- aging air infrastructure.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: -- air traffic control towers.

GOVERNOR MOORE: So let's talk about it again and why this is a very big deal. Because the Hagerstown Regional Airport, it's not just important in terms of safety. It is absolutely -- it's a vital economic engine and an economic tool for the region. It generates over \$124 million in personal income for Marylanders and over 1,800 direct and indirect jobs.

And so this really is something that's essential, not just to airport infrastructure, keeping it up to date, reliable, but also it's incredibly important to our businesses. It's incredibly important to our economic growth and economic development. And it is absolutely instrumental to not just Hagerstown, but it's instrumental to the entire region. And this grant funding is going to support preconstruction work for a new air traffic control tower, including design, and engineering, and architectural planning. And once that is done, any remaining grant funds will go towards capital equipment and also furnishing needs.

And I do want to give a special shout to someone who couldn't be here today. But John Barr, this would not have happened without John Barr's leadership and continued push and focus. And so, you know -- so again, I know he couldn't be here in person, but I do want to, just for the record, recognize his leadership in helping to make this happen.

With that, is there any further discussion on the DGS agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yes, Governor, just one item.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I have some questions and comments on Item 42. I believe perhaps the Superintendent is joining us or --

SECRETARY GONTRUM: He's set virtually.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay, great.

(Pause)

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Do you see him?

SECRETARY GONTRUM: I do.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay. Great.

MR. BATES: Good morning.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Good morning.

MR. BATES: Aaron Bates, Maryland State Police. Good morning, Mr. Governor, Mr. Treasurer, and Madam Comptroller.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Morning.

MR. BATES: I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Great. Good morning. We can't see you, but we can hear you. Thank you for joining us today. I had some questions on Item 42-IT. Oh, there you are. On Item 42, which is the sole source contract award for Penlink PLX to support the State Police's operations. So certainly you know, this is an important contract. I understand that it's a digital investigation platform that will collect, analyze, and -- actually, could one of you mute? There's a lot of feedback. I'm not sure who that is. Oh, perfect.

It helps you all officially organize your call records or social media data, and you can also use it to locate missing individuals, including children, suicidal persons, and fugitives. So I understand the importance of the contract.

Also, this is a contract that has to do with privacy rights and could be viewed as really impinging on people's privacy rights. And I think especially in these days, when AI makes it easier than ever to scrub our records and impersonate us, privacy feels particularly scarce and needs to be guarded.

So first, I want to thank your team and DGS. We spent hours digging into this contract. Thank you to my team, Michele and Tom, and others. We had multiple conversations about this contract, and I want to thank Superintendent Jackson and his team, all of you, for meeting with me.

I do have a couple questions based on our discussions that I think are important to have on the public record, as well. And the first is that this contract includes a number of different types of software, including the Tangles Software. Is that correct?

MR. BATES: That is -- sorry. That is correct. It does.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Thank you. So I think one of my concerns was that no one reading this agenda item would know that because the description doesn't mention Tangles, and it doesn't explain what Tangles does. We only learned about it during the back and forth that we had with your team. And when the State is buying surveillance tools, you know, I believe that actually a fundamental role of the Board of Public Works and why it's so important that we have construction contracts and others is that it's about transparency and making sure that the public has a clear description up front, and this item just did not provide that. So BPW is an important body in part because it puts on record what we're doing with our dollars, but that only works if the agenda items are clear.

Does this contract then include any other Penlink products that are not mentioned in the agenda description?

MR. BATES: No, it does not.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Great. And so it does not -- also,

the contract does not, including PLX, Tangles, include access to data from the dark web. Is that correct?

MR. BATES: That is correct. Though there is a version of Tangles that allows the dark web as an add-on, the Maryland State Police will not have access to the dark web portion. It's only the public, open-source data searches that we would have access to.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Got it. And thank you for that.

And this product does enable law enforcement to access the precise location of Marylanders, correct?

MR. BATES: Correct. Under certain circumstances.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Right. And my understanding is the product only enables that either with a warrant or in circumstances where there are exigent circumstances, and that the data providers always review any request for precise location data made under exigent circumstances before providing the data. Is that correct?

MR. BATES: That is correct.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Great. And that location data actually comes from cellular and social media companies, too. Is that correct?

MR. BATES: That's correct, pursuant to the court orders or the exigent circumstance.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Okay, thanks. And can you confirm that the State does not use any of the products in this contract to share Marylanders' data with ICE or any other agency that enforces immigration law, including through any features that these products may have that simplify the process of sharing data between and among law enforcement agencies?

MR. BATES: So the Maryland State Police oversees statewide task forces, including drug task forces and crimes against children, which may involve local, state, and federal partners. However, the local, state, and federal agencies

do not have access to the data unless they are participating in the applicable criminal investigation and access is authorized for the specific investigative purpose.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Through a judicial warrant.

MR. BATES: So they would not have access to it otherwise.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Right. And that would be like through a judicial warrant.

MR. BATES: Correct.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Right. Okay. And then just lastly, can you confirm that the State's use of all the products and services under this contract will comply with Maryland privacy laws, including the recently passed laws this past session?

MR. BATES: Yes. The Maryland State Police's use of the software will comply with the applicable state and federal laws, including privacy requirements as required by law.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Great. Really appreciate your time, appreciate you digging in on this contract with us. And certainly, you know, we'll take you at your word, and so I plan to support the contract today.

Thanks so much for all that you do and all your work. Thanks.

MR. BATES: Thank you, ma'am.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Thank you, all.

May I have a motion to approve the DGS agenda?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Motion to approve the DGS agenda.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Is there a second?

TREASURER DAVIS: Second.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Outstanding. Thank you so much.

Before we conclude, would the Comptroller want to make a few

comments about the 10-year yield -- the historic 10-year yield --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Oh my goodness.

GOVERNOR MOORE: -- in the bond market?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: You know what? I think I'm good.

GOVERNOR MOORE: We're good on it?

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah, I -- yeah.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Oh.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: I think I'm good.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Okay.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah.

GOVERNOR MOORE: I'll say this.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Sorry.

GOVERNOR MOORE: The 10-year yield --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: It's crazy.

GOVERNOR MOORE: -- being at five percent --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: It's crazy.

GOVERNOR MOORE: -- people should be taking notice of this.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah.

GOVERNOR MOORE: This is a very big deal, and it's not -- and taking notice of it and not in a good way.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah.

GOVERNOR MOORE: You know, when you're watching the 10-year bond yield hit that kind of number at that kind of speed, it has significant impacts on -- you know, on long-term economic growth. So --

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Huge impacts.

GOVERNOR MOORE: -- 10-year yield, not a good thing.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah. It's not a good thing. It hasn't happened this high since 2007.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Correct.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And it is going to really impact Americans' ability to buy cars, buy homes.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Correct.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: It's pretty devastating where we are right now, and we'll see what the Fed does today.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Yeah.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: And then, as you all probably know, the Board of Revenue estimates will meet next week, as well. So lots going on in the economy and following our finances.

TREASURER DAVIS: But our bond sale went great.

GOVERNOR MOORE: Listen, Maryland bonds are good.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yeah, our bonds are good.

GOVERNOR MOORE: But pay attention to the 10-year. Yes. Pay attention to the 10-year.

COMPTROLLER LIERMAN: Yep.

GOVERNOR MOORE: This will conclude today's Board of Public Works. Our next meeting is on October 7th.

Thank you, all, and the meeting is adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 11:26 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)