

MARYLAND
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

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February 15, 2017

House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Public Safety and Administration
Room 121, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Delegate Haynes and Members of the Subcommittee:

We welcome the opportunity to appear before you on behalf of the Board of Public Works. Today's presentation supports our fiscal year 2018 operating budget. We are pleased that the Department of Legislative Services' analysis supports the Board's proposed operations budget.

Board budget overview. The Board's budget comprises two types of appropriations: agency operations and pass-through accounts. Our two perennial pass-through grantees, Historic Annapolis Foundation and the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, are outstanding guardians of State treasures and are prepared to comment on their requests. The Western Maryland Scenic Railroad also seeks operating money for its important contribution to Maryland heritage.

Board operations. As for Board of Public Works operations, the amount budgeted comprises primarily personnel expenses (88% v. 12% for non-personnel expenses). Our mission remains to enable the Board members to carry out the myriad duties involved in stewarding State assets and also to assure public and intra-governmental access to Board deliberations, decision-making, and records, all of which are vitally important to the Board and to Maryland citizens.

Notable Trends.

- The number of single-bid-received procurements approved by the Board of Public Works continues to drop from its high of 93 contracts in fiscal year 2014 to 31 contracts in fiscal year 2016. We anticipate that trend to hold steady.
- The Board of Public Works complied with the *Board of Public Works Transparency Act of 2016*.¹ The Board Office is efficiently able to comply with this law – a law that requires that proposed budget reductions be posted publically three days before consideration – because the Board Office’s mission is focused on assuring inter-governmental and public access to the Board record.
- Board Office staff worked with the Lieutenant Governor’s staff in 2016 on the Commission to Modernize State Procurement. Members of the Commission included Comptroller Franchot and Treasurer Kopp, as well as your correspondent.

We continue to do an excellent job of managing our resources and meeting the tasks – expected and unexpected – assigned to us.² Thank you for your continued support of our sustained efforts to improve our operations and service to the Board members, the General Assembly, and the public.

Sincerely,



Sheila McDonald

¹ Section 7-213, State Finance & Procurement Article, Annotated Code of MD (as amended by Chapters 14 and 15 [2016 MD Laws]).

²Even thirty years ago, now-retired Judge Wilner noted, “As an institution the board has managed to earn and retain the confidence of the General Assembly, which has heaped more and more responsibility on it.” *The Maryland Board of Public Works: A History* by Alan Wilner (1984) at 123-24.