

one program to another, (8) approve the sale of real estate or personalty or the transfer of property from one state agency to another, (9) approve repairs to state property, (10) approve the write-off of bad debts owed to state agencies, (11) approve local school construction projects for purposes of state financial assistance, (12) approve overtime pay, or extension of sick leave, or travel reimbursement for state employees, and (13) approve investments made by the state treasurer.⁷⁷

Such a meeting—the type and variety of items coming before the board—illustrates graphically both the increased overall role of the state government itself in the general political, economic, and social fabric of the state and the increased role of the Board of Public Works in controlling the manner in which the state government's role would be exercised. Both phenomena arose, quite simply, from the gradual, but in the end dramatic, rethinking of what constituted the “Public Works of the State.”

77. See, for example, BPW Minutes, 10 March 1952, vol. 9 (1951-52), pp. 368-402. Among the items considered were payment of \$16.42 for emergency repairs to a state police barracks, \$52.20 for the repair of lawn mowers for the School for the Deaf, approval to write off \$12.00 in uncollectible debts due the Register of Wills of Frederick County and \$4.75 due the State Barber board, and approval to transfer a dump truck from the Reformatory for Women to the House of Correction. Also approved was the issuance of \$19 million in bonds and some major construction contracts and projects.