

**Glenmont Exchange, Inc.**  
**GlenmontExchange.com**

### **Minutes of the February 26, 2018 meeting**

Attendees: Josh Goodman, Margit Jochmann, Ian Rothman, Karen McSween, Dorinda Danneman, Rich Burnes, Ernie Benjamin, Barry Gorman, John Bogasky, David Stonehill, Abby H., Rose Hacking, Arquilla Ridgell, Eric Coffman.

The Agenda was approved. The Minutes were approved. Treasurer reported that more dues were received today. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

A candidate forum is planned for April or May; Candidates for the Maryland House of Delegates have been offered some dates. Location may be Mid-County Community Center or Glenallan Elementary School.

Randolph Road and Georgia Avenue Construction: Lanes have been relocated; EB Randolph is going underneath Georgia. There is no signage on EB Randolph to notify drivers where to go when approaching Georgia. Most lane markings are not clear. EB Randolph at Glenmont Circle – Some drivers have been making a left turn from the far right lane to enter the shopping center; the 'jug handle' that is planned for access to the shopping center by turning onto Glenmont Circle is not apparently open. There seems to have been more accidents since the realignment.

Eric Coffman, Chief, Office of Energy and Sustainability, spoke about energy use in county buildings. The objectives of his department include: Greening the county's portfolio, more effective use of resources and a Greener county government.

His office promotes government sustainability efforts, engages employees in sustainable behavior, plans and implements resilient facilities. They help other departments with procurement (such as DOT's Green Buses and Finance going paperless), technical assistance, project prioritization, data analysis and reporting. They represent the county at the Public Service Commission. Day to day, they install solar panels and microgrid systems, purchase clean wind energy, manage utility billing, monitor and analyze energy and water use. They negotiate and purchase power contracts.

The Office of Energy and Sustainability is responsible for identifying and prioritizing energy and water efficiency opportunities in 435 County buildings. Many of the County's buildings are older and have older technology.

Solar energy projects – there are 16 facilities, small to large. Solar is a public-private partnership. The County buys the energy for 15 to 20 years. The county cannot monetize federal tax credits, so the partner benefits, the partner also monitors and maintains the equipment. The Clarksburg jail has a 2MW system covering 2 fields and a roof; there is a canopy system over parking at the Public Safety Headquarters. The fire department has a rooftop training area, without actual panels. The Gaithersburg Library is a green building, they hope to get to be Net Zero.

The Public Safety Headquarters is part of a microgrid project. It is a critical facility of 400,000 square feet. The 200 MW system can supply 95% of its energy needs without PEPCO power.

The Public Purpose Microgrid, required by the Public Service Commission as part of the approval for the PEPCO – Excelon merger, has been proposed for the center of Rockville. If the Public Service Commission approves the location, key public services would be provided with power in an emergency. Power would be provided from a variety of sources, including solar and generator. Plans are to include other services necessary to the community – including Grocery, Pharmacy, Gasoline, and Banking. If successful, this could be the first of many microgrids. Most of the hospitals in our county have robust backup systems. Many public service buildings, such as fire and police, are getting standalone solutions for backup power.

Green buildings over 10,000 square feet must be LEEDS certified. A new standard, the Intergovernmental Green Construction Code (IGCC), is for buildings over 5,000 square feet. 25 buildings are being retrofitted with high efficiency LED lights, etc., with the costs structured into the master lease.

Green fleets – CNG buses, a grant for the first four EV buses, and 16 new Chevy Bolt’s. There are chargers in county facilities and public parking facilities, new facilities will have EV charging.

Montgomery County was carbon neutral in FY2016. 5.4 MW of solar power has been installed in county buildings, with an additional 5.7 MW under way. Petroleum use is down 7.4% compared to FY2014 and 61% of waste is diverted to recycling. The county has 16 LEED buildings.

Other achievements:

\$664K - Utility billing recovery between FY2013 and FY2017.

\$387K savings in sewer cost/per year because of submetering.

\$2.9M – New Grants and Incentive funds obtained.

\$440K – savings from solar power/per year

\$1.1M – annual savings from efficiency/per year

\$550K – savings from advanced energy purchasing – varies based on market.

Discussion with the audience:

Products chosen are a balance of durability and sustainability. These are sometimes new products without a track record. Some products have not performed as hoped, some have performed better than expected.

Wheaton Library – will be a high LEED building, with microgrid technology; backup generators and solar. Gear will be installed after the walls are up.

The Park and Planning building under construction in Wheaton will have green features. It is being built by DOT, not General Services.

The 5 cent plastic bag tax goes into the County’s Water Quality Protection Charge Fund.

The FY2016 Sustainable Government Operations Report is available at

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DGS-OES/Resources/Files/2016SustainableGovernmentOperationsReport.pdf>.

The FY2017 Report goes to the County Council soon.

Old blacktop is recycled – ground up and reused.

DGS buildings have porous pavement. Surface is cool, downside is pores tend to clog, have to vacuum the parking lot. Light colored materials lessen energy use/load.

Goals are to get the most improvement in energy use for each building. Energy performance is contracted for 12 to 20 years, with the vendor guaranteeing savings. Each project must pay for itself over the life of the equipment.

The County Council passed a resolution supporting a 100% reduction in greenhouse gases in Maryland by 2035.

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/res/2017/20171128\\_18-968.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/res/2017/20171128_18-968.pdf)

For residents:

The Department of Environmental Protection and Utilities have programs to help consumers.

Consumers can utilize tracking tools on utility websites to help manage their energy use.

Meters can be recalibrated on request every 12 or 18 months at no charge.

There are rebates for replacing appliances with energy efficient appliances.

Other resources: mcgreenbank.org; mygreenmontgomery.org; EmPower Maryland.

You can reach Eric at:

[Eric.Coffman@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Eric.Coffman@montgomerycountymd.gov)

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DGS-OES](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DGS-OES)

Office of Energy and Sustainability, Department of General Services

240-777-5595

**The next Glenmont Exchange meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 4, 2018**

**NOTE: Meeting location has changed –**

**Bel Pre Elementary School Gym, 13801 Rippling Brook Drive, Silver Spring, 20906**

Minutes submitted by Dorinda Danneman, Secretary.