

During the October 20th, 2025 meeting of the Monclova Township Board of Trustees, Trustee Chuck Hoecherl read the following statement into record:

Since last meeting, the Township has received nine emails and two requests for public information regarding data centers. With that, I'd like to make a statement.

Today, social media is like the old town crier in days past. It can be a quick, effective way of sharing information with neighbors and friends. Social media can also be like the fable, "The boy who cried wolf," sharing disinformation and spreading false rumor. If you were to believe everything that is stated on social media in the past, the Friendship store on Monclova Road would be a 24-hour truck stop with ladies of the evening soliciting business, versus a valuable part of the community, providing gas and convenience foods and groceries to residents.

During a public meeting on March 31, 2025 the Monclova Township Board of Trustees approved a text amendment to our Zoning Resolution to permit data centers in agricultural zoning as a Conditional Use. This was after this amendment was approved during a public meeting of the Monclova Township Zoning Commission and this was after the Lucas County Plan Commission approved this during a public meeting. All three meetings were public meetings. Comments and questions were permitted. By law, the Board of Trustees must have their public hearing within 30 days of the Zoning Commission meeting.

So why a text amendment versus traditional commercial zoning? The text amendment allows the Township to control aspects of any proposed project such as additional setback requirements, landscaping, lighting, building height, and open space. Traditional commercial zoning requirements are spelled out in our Zoning Resolution but does not offer the Township as much input and flexibility into a proposed project. Additionally, if a parcel was re-zoned commercial for a proposed data center, and if the data center project does not come to fruition, a factory or another industrial user could come in with the commercial zoning in place.

If an application for a data center does come before Monclova Township, after the site plan is reviewed by our Zoning Administrator and fire inspector, the Conditional Use will need to be approved by the Monclova Township Board of Zoning Appeals. All Board of Zoning Appeals meetings are public meetings and have the opportunity for public questions and comments. The BZA can make and require as many conditions as they see fit.

At the current time, Monclova Township does not have any application before us regarding any data center.

I spoke with Matt Heyrman of the Lucas County Economic Development today and he stated that there are no offers on any land in western Lucas County for a proposed data center. Matt is trying to coordinate a community forum in conjunction with the regional growth partnership and WGTE to share information and answer questions from the public. This will be held sometime in November, and they are hoping to have this at Anthony Wayne High School.

Additionally, a large portion of the vacant land on the east side of Black Road between Stitt Road and the Wabash Cannonball bike trail is with the city limits of City of Maumee, this includes 40 or so acres that was approved by Monclova Township for housing but later annexed into the City of Maumee and approved for denser housing then permitted by Monclova Township.

Lastly, I would like to challenge the people who post anonymously on social media and accuse public officials of taking kickbacks and bribes from corporate interest. Get out from behind your keyboard and come to a meeting and be a productive part of the community versus throwing out libelous and false accusations.

Chuck Hoecherl, Chair
Monclova Township Board of Trustees