Delaware Gazette

Trenton Twp. to Sunbury: Delay data center

By Gary Budzak – March 11, 2026

SUNBURY — The Trenton Township Board of Trustees sent Sunbury City Council a letter last week indicating its concern over a possible data center on annexed property.

"Dear Ladies and Gentlemen," began the letter, dated March 4.

"The purpose of this correspondence is to express the unanimous concern of the Trenton Township Board of Trustees about your current consideration of the rezone request of allowing a data center to be constructed on the 330 acres that were recently annexed from the township. Recently built data centers have already had a significant impact on the cost of living in our community.

"An estimate of the demand for electricity of such data centers are huge and directly impact the cost of living in central Ohio," the letter continues. "Published statistics show that a large-scale data center's demand for electricity is comparable to the total electrical requirements of a community of 40,000 residents, about the size of Westerville.

"The demand for electricity in the already existing data centers in central Ohio has caused American Electric Power to buy more power off of the national grid and the increase in the cost of doing this is reflected in the price per kilowatt hour delivered to homes. Estimated cost increases to homeowners in the past year range from 7.4% to 13%. It is also a concern that the proliferation of more data centers in central Ohio could lead to a collapse of failure of the grid in the next decade.

"Another major concern is the amount of water required by data centers to provide cooling for the equipment. Again, depending on size, the daily demand for water is between 1 million and 15 million gallons per day. The current per day delivery of water by Del-Co Water Company is 23 million gallons for the 150,000 people they serve in central Ohio. The company has already encountered problems meeting demand during dry periods.

"Alternatively, if a data center opted to obtain some or their entire water requirement through a well field it would have a significant, negative effect on nearby residents in the area who use a well as their only source of water for residential and agricultural requirements."

The letter concludes, "We urge you to consider having Sunbury join the growing list of local communities whose elected officials have adopted long term delays and referendums on issuing rezoning permits for data centers. This includes Dublin, Jerome Township, South Bloomfield, Washington Township and West Jefferson. The quality of life of the residents of Sunbury and Trenton Township is important. Sincerely, Richard Fisher, Chairman; Mark Almendinger, Vice-Chairman; Kevin Justice, Board Member."

Trenton topics

• The Trenton Township Trustees are Mark Almendinger, Richard Fisher, Kevin Justice. Keith Barney is Road and Cemetery Supervisor, Mike Dattilo is Zoning Inspector, Cindy Walton is Fiscal Officer. They typically meet first 7 p.m. Wednesdays of the month at the township maintenance and office building, 15495 Hartford Road, Sunbury.

• The Zoning Commission is Nancy Fay, Bill Gorsuch, Kevin Kline, Greg Leaf, Larry Walton and alternates Heather Day and Ron VanWinkle.

• The Board of Zoning Appeals are Keith Barney, George Burger, alternate Richard Day, Kurt Ide, George Justice, and Mike Mucci.

• For more information, visit www.trentontwp.com (website).