

**VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON
COUNCIL MEETING**

November 3, 2025

Meeting called to order by President Pro Temp. Steve Sekanina.

Motion by Councilperson Febel to accept the resignation of Mayor Jim Chiacchiero effective October 27, 2025

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Swearing in of Mayor:

April Grabman swearing in of Mayor.

Steven Michael Sekanina

Motion by Councilperson Roderick to appoint Councilperson Katy Dreier as President pro- temp for the year 2025

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Pledge of Allegiance:

Moment of Silence:

Opening Prayer: **Rev Jeremy Roseberry Jefferson United Methodist Church**

Roll call of Council Dreier, Febel, Martuccio, Roderick, Orvos- Absent

Corrections or Additions to the Agenda:

Under Safety

Councilperson Martuccio asked to add an Executive Session (Fire Dept staffing) with possible action

Minutes: Approval/Addition/Correction

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Motion by Councilperson Febel to approve the Special Council Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2025.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Febel to approve the Council Meeting Minutes of October 20, 2025.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Febel to accept the Safety Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2025.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Visitor's Comments (five-minute limit per council rule #13)

Also present:

Brian Diehl, Ken Fertig, Maria Abbott, Michele Szewczyk, Kelly Butcher, Dale Haney, Pierino Scrocca, Nick Bolden, Kay Ann Barnender, Rick Hoysen, Pat Bradek, John Perrotti, Judy Maloney, John Szewczyk, Judge Specht, Will Anderson, Heather Rice, Sophia Korelec, Carrie Brown, Mikenzie Brown, Carol MAYlish, Marie Kunar, Jen Skinner, Connie Rice, Ralph Rice, Stefanie Wessell, Adam Lee, Brooke McCroskey, Emma McCroskey, Frank Stone, Robert Gregg, Dave Locy, Kelly Farina, Jacob Peer, Dave Farina, Nathaniel Miller, Rev Jeremy Roseberry, April Grabman, Morghan Pacheco and Heidi Sekanina.

DEPARTMENTS

Administrator Mackensen

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Memo

To: Mayor Chiacchiero
 From: Steven S. Murphy, Members of Council
 Subject: Administrator's Report Village Administrator
 Date: October 29, 2025

Village Administrator's report for the period ending October 31st, 2025.

Projects update:

| Project | Project # | Status | Vendor | Grant/Loan | Total Cost |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| ACTIVE PROJECTS | | | | | |
| WWTP EQ Basin | OPWC – R37 | Submitted to DOD/EPA Resubmitting to OPWC – R37 | VERDANTAS | Engineering grant \$90,000 | \$1,250,000 |
| WWTP Clarifier Improvement Phase 1 | OPWC – R38 | Contracted-Union Industrial. | VERDANTAS | \$207,500 Grant \$50,000 Loan | \$615,000 |
| WWTP Clarifier Improvement Phase 2 | OPWC-R39 | Submitted to DOD/EPA Resubmitting to OPWC – R39 | VERDANTAS | | \$369,000 |
| WWTP Clarifier Improvement Phase 3 | OPWC-R40 | Submitted to DOD/EPA Resubmitting to OPWC – R40 | VERDANTAS | | \$389,000 |
| Village Street Paving Program 2025 | 36360 (Roads) | Completed | Karvo Companies | | \$222,895.00 |

In the Village

2025 Village Street Paving Program is wrapping up. New paved surfaces are complete on S. Poplar and all of Westview Dr. Once milling was completed, a few minor repairs were needed in a couple of spots. Minor grading of the berms will be needed to make sure water will drain properly on Westview.

Street Dept.

The snow will be here before we know it. The Street Dept. will be getting trucks ready for the winter season and conducting routine maintenance on vehicles.

The new 28-foot Christmas tree will be going up soon. The Street Dept. has never put this up before this year and will take some time as they get situated with it.

Zoning:

Permits issued since the last council meeting: 6
 Total permits 2025 = 44

These permits consisted of (2) WWROW, (1) new home construction, (1) addition, and (2) Sewer tap-in permits.

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Recreation Department:

Interviews have begun in the search for a new Recreation Director.

Wastewater Treatment Plant:

Information from the EPA has identified our Wastewater Treatment Plant in violation after three consecutive months of high copper readings. This is nothing to be alarmed about. This is due to historic drought we have experienced this summer and fall. Without additional rainfall, very little water flow is coming into the plant, which causes the copper to be elevated. The lack of stormwater is crucial in diluting the elements in the water prior to reaching the plant. Other wastewater treatment plants in northeast Ohio are also experiencing high levels because of this.

Other notes:

On June 1st, 2025, Administrator Murphy applied for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Nature Works Grant. Total amount available to our county was \$30,244.00. On October 26th, The Village of Jefferson was awarded the full amount. These funds will be used toward the Jefferson Imagination Village and Playground. Administrator Murphy would like to thank ODNR for the opportunity to apply for these funds and help us reach our goal for an amazing park.

Administrator Murphy also applied for the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant in August. The amount requested in this grant was \$150,000, to implement traffic safety and upgrade intersections within the village. The award for this grant has not been announced and will see delays due to the federal government shutdown.

Additionally, Administrator Murphy has applied for the Community Ohio Fund Grant. This grant was initiated for a project to install a lighted crosswalk and new bike path connecting Giddings Park and the New Memorial Park. The reviewing process will start December 15th with an award date undetermined.

On August 27th, 2025, The Auditor of the State, Kieth Faber announced every municipality must adopt a cyber security program as to ORC. 9.64, enacted through House Bill 96. Under this new law, each political subdivision's legislative authority shall adopt a Cybersecurity program that safeguards the entity's data, information technology, and information technology resources to ensure availability, confidentiality, and integrity. The mandatory guidelines also mandate reporting in these events to the Executive Director of Ohio Homeland Security no later than 7 days after the event and the Ohio Auditor of State as soon as possible, not to exceed 30 days.

Administrator Murphy created a policy, which was made in collaboration with Hudson Communications, which is the IT provider for the village. It should be noted, all policies, forms, and information relative to this cybersecurity mandate are NOT part of any public records request(s) and should not be made public per ORC. 9.64.

Lastly, upon my exit, I wish the Village of Jefferson the very best moving forward and know that my time here was devoted to the best intentions for the people of this great village.

Steven S. Murphy

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Auditor of State
Bulletin 2025-007

DATE ISSUED: August 27, 2025

TO: All Public Offices
Independent Public Accountants

FROM: Keith Faber
Ohio Auditor of State

SUBJECT: Adoption of Cybersecurity Program

Background

Ohio Rev. Code § 9.64, enacted through House Bill 96, requires political subdivisions to set and adopt standards safeguarding against cybersecurity threats and ransomware attacks. This bulletin details the requirements of Ohio Rev. Code § 9.64, which are effective September 30, 2025.

Local governments, typically defined as “political subdivisions”¹, have increasingly become targets for cybercriminals. They are vulnerable to cyber-attack schemes because of limited cybersecurity budgets, outdated systems and a range of accessible electronic and digital services. Cyber-attacks—such as ransomware, phishing, social engineering, and data breaches—disrupt government services, expose personal and financial information, incur significant costs, and reduce public trust.

Cybersecurity Program Compliance Requirements

Under this new law, each political subdivision’s legislative authority **shall** adopt a “cybersecurity program” that safeguards the entity’s data, information technology, and information technology resources to ensure availability, confidentiality, and integrity. *See* Ohio Rev. Code § 9.64 (C).

¹ Political subdivision is defined as a county, township, municipal corporation, or other body corporate and politic responsible for governmental activities in a geographic area smaller than that of the state.

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The program shall be consistent with generally accepted best practices for cybersecurity² and may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Identify and address the critical functions and cybersecurity risks of the political subdivision.
- Identify the potential impacts of a cybersecurity breach.
- Specify mechanisms to detect potential threats and cybersecurity events.
- Specify procedures for the political subdivision to establish communication channels, analyze incidents, and take actions to contain cybersecurity incidents.
- Establish procedures for the repair of infrastructure impacted by a cybersecurity incident, and the maintenance of security after the incident.
- Establish cybersecurity training requirements for all employees. The frequency, duration, and detail of which shall correspond to the duties of each employee. Annual training provided by the state and the Ohio Persistent Cyber Initiative (O-PCI) program of the Ohio Cyber Range Institute, satisfies the training requirements. The O-PCI program delivered by the Ohio Cyber Range Institute (<https://www.ohiocyberrangeinstitute.org/opci>) and the Ohio Cyber Reserve (<https://homelandsecurity.ohio.gov/ohio-cyber-integration-center/overview>) includes online, hybrid and in person modules tailored to various types of organizations, from small to large, rural to urban and is funded by the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program.

Political subdivisions should adopt a cybersecurity program/policy that is tailored to the unique environment/needs of their entity.

Cyber Security Program Implementation Due Dates

| <u>Entity Type</u> | <u>Due Date</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| County | January 1, 2026 |
| City | January 1, 2026 |
| All Other Entity Types | July 1, 2026 |

Reporting Requirements after Discovery of Cybersecurity or Ransomware Incident

Upon discovering a cybersecurity incident or ransomware incident, the legislative authority of a political subdivision shall notify both:

- The Executive Director of Ohio Homeland Security within the Ohio Department of Public Safety as soon as possible but not later than 7 days after discovering the incident. Incidents can be reported to Homeland Security's Ohio Cyber Integration Center (OCIC)

² Examples of generally accepted cybersecurity standards that entities use to build best practices for cybersecurity include, but are not limited to, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) cybersecurity framework and the Center for Internet Security (CIS) cybersecurity best practices.

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at: <https://homelandsecurity.ohio.gov/ohio-cyber-integration-center>, OCIC@dps.ohio.gov
or 614-387-1089.

- The Ohio Auditor of State as soon as possible but not later than thirty (30) days after discovering the incident. Incidents can be reported to the Ohio Auditor of State via email to Cyber@ohioauditor.gov using the form located at: <https://ohioauditor.gov/fraud/cybersecurity.html>

Cybersecurity Incident Defined

A cybersecurity incident includes *any* of the following:

- A substantial loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability of a covered entity's information system or network.
- A serious impact on the safety and resiliency of a covered entity's operation systems and processes.
- A disruption of a covered entity's ability to engage in business or industrial operations or deliver goods or services.
 - A disruption could include payment re-direct, payroll re-direct, spear phishing. Refer to AOS Audit Bulletin [2024-003](#) for additional examples.
- Unauthorized access to an entity's information system or network, or nonpublic information contained therein, that is facilitated or is caused by:
 - A compromise of a cloud service provider, managed service provider, or other third-party data hosting provider; or
 - A supply chain compromise.

A cybersecurity incident does not include mere threats of disruption as extortion; events perpetrated in good faith in response to a request by the system owner or operator; or lawfully authorized activity of a United States, state, local, tribal, or territorial government entity.

Ransomware Incident Defined

Ransomware incident is defined as a malicious cybersecurity incident in which a person or entity introduces software that gains unauthorized access to or encrypts, modifies, or otherwise renders unavailable a political subdivision's information technology systems or data and thereafter the person or entity demands a ransom to prevent the publication of the data, restore access to the data, or otherwise remediate the impact of the software.

Ransomware Payment Only Permitted after Public Vote by Legislative Authority

A political subdivision experiencing a ransomware incident shall not pay or otherwise comply with a ransom demand unless the political subdivision's legislative authority formally approves the payment or compliance with the ransom demand in a resolution or ordinance that specifically states why the payment or compliance with the ransom demand is in the best interest of the political subdivision.

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Public Records Exemption

Records, documents, or reports related to the cybersecurity program and framework, and reports of a cybersecurity incident or ransomware incident are not public records under Ohio Rev. Code § 9.64. Records identifying cybersecurity-related software, hardware, goods, and services, that are being considered for procurement, have been procured, or are being used by a political subdivision, including vendor name, product name, project name, or project description constitute “security records” and are exempt from the requirements to produce those records in response to a public records request.

Testing Compliance Requirements

Compliance procedures will be developed and incorporated into the Ohio Compliance Supplement.

Guidance

Additional cybersecurity resources, including incident response tips and free training are available on the Auditor of State’s website at <https://ohioauditor.gov/fraud/cybersecurity.html>.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the information presented in the Bulletin, please contact the Special Investigations Unit at the Auditor of State’s Office at 800-282-0370.



Keith Faber
Ohio Auditor of State

Clerk /Treasurer Fisher

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Payroll Report/Special Pay Report

Chief Mackensen

FYI: October Police Department Reports

Chief Lachey

FYI: October Fire Department Reports

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Lands

Committee Report: No Report

Forestry

Committee Report: No Report

Finance

Committee Report: No report

Ordinance/Resolution to Read:

Reading of Resolution No. 25-R- 3399

An Ordinance for the Appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Jefferson, Ohio during fiscal year ending December 31, 2026.

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**Motion by Councilperson Dreier for the Second Reading of Resolution
No. 25-R- 3399**

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Ordinance/Resolution to Read:

Reading of Resolution No. 25-R- 3400

A Resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or Local Transportation Improvement Program(s), and to execute contracts as required, and declaring an emergency

**Motion by Councilperson Dreier for the First Reading of Resolution
No. 25-R- 3400**

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

**Motion by Councilperson Dreier to Suspend Council Rules on Resolution
No. 25-R- 3400**

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Dreier to Adopt Resolution No. 25-R- 3400

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Ordinance/Resolution to Read:

Reading of Resolution No. 25-R- 3401

A Resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to execute contracts as required, and declaring an emergency.

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**Motion by Councilperson Dreier for the First Reading of Resolution
No. 25-R- 3401**

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

**Motion by Councilperson Dreier to Suspend Council Rules on Resolution
No. 25-R- 3401**

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Dreier to Adopt Resolution No. 25-R- 3401

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Ordinance/Resolution to Read:

Reading of Resolution No. 25-R- 3402

A Resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or Local Transportation improvement program(s), and to execute contracts as required, and declaring an emergency.

**Motion by Councilperson Dreier for the First Reading of Resolution
No. 25-R- 3402**

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

**Motion by Councilperson Dreier to Suspend Council Rules on Resolution
No. 25-R- 3402**

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Dreier to Adopt Resolution No. 25-R- 3402

2nd

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Roll: All yea, motion carried

Recreation

Committee Report: No Report

Safety

Committee Report: No Report

FYI: Fire Department Letter

Councilperson Martuccio read to everyone.

I want to apologize to the Jefferson Fire Department and to the public for how this situation has been handled. We're here to fix it together.

Thank you to the captains and all personnel who spoke up, and to all village staff who have kept things moving—Clerk-Treasurer Patty Fisher and Chief Chris Mackensen in particular.

Our goal tonight is simple: restore full crews on the rigs, restore calm in our village, and bring back transparency, accountability, and trust—for residents of the Village of Jefferson, Jefferson Township, Lenox Township, and all surrounding communities we serve.

The fire department is a family. No one should be pushed out; our job is to keep this family together and land on the best plan forward.

I appreciate Mayor Sekanina's efforts to increase transparency, and I want to recognize Chiefs Dave Locy and Bob Gregg for their years of service to Jefferson and to the JFD family. Fire and Rescue are sister teams—with Police, they show up together. Tonight, we get back to working as one.

Thank you,

Pasquale Martuccio

Councilman, Village of Jefferson

Motion by Councilperson Martuccio to go into executive session at 7:57 p.m. under R.C. 121.22(G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal,

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discipline, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, specifically regarding Jefferson Fire Department staffing and appointments. Possible action to follow upon return to open session.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Martuccio to exit regular session and go into executive session at 7:58 p.m.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Councilperson Martuccio asked the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief to go to attend the Executive session.

Motion by Councilperson Febel to go out of executive session at 10:23 p.m.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Martuccio to go back into regular session at 10:24 p.m.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Mayor Sekanina told everyone we were in executive session, and I can't really speak to what was said in there, however we can say that we did have a very productive meeting, and we think we have a great path forward in the coming weeks.

Utilities/Wastewater Treatment/ Service

Committee Report: No Report

Mayor Sekanina

Mayor Sekanina read a memo to everyone.

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To all members of council, village, and residents,

Tonight, as I officially transition into the mayoral position, I want to address several items. First regarding the role of my preparedness in taking on this endeavor. As many already know I have served on Village Council for the past four years as the finance committee chair, member of the building and lands committee, the design review board, and the planning commission to the name a few. I've been selected by council to serve as President Pro Tempore for the past two years serving as acting Mayor during times of the mayor's absence. I've also been a board member of the Jefferson Emergency Rescue District since 2022. In summary, assuming the mayor's role while unexpected is something I feel well prepared for, and I consider it an honor and privilege.

I want to thank the former Mayor and Administrator for their service to our community, and I wish them well in their future endeavors.

Over the last month a lot has happened in our community particularly as it pertains to our fire department employees. Many citizens have wanted to understand how all of this began, what really happened and why it happened. I will always answer questions to the best of my ability. If I don't have the answer, I will tell you and I will do what I can to find the answer.

Our firefighters regardless of whether they left and were reinstated or remained on the department the entire time care deeply about the community. Over the last few weeks, I have witnessed frustration, sadness, and everything in between. Words have been exchanged, tears have been shed, and I've even watched some of our department employees embracing. It's all because they care so much about serving this community and that's what really matters.

I thank all our first responders. Our firefighters, rescue employees, and our police officers. I have deep respect for all of them and the families who are part of the first responder community. They all make sacrifices including knowing that their loved ones intentionally put themselves in harm's way to protect others including people who they don't even know.

Moving forward we all need to work together. We will of course sometimes have disagreements but there are no sides. We are one and we must practice that in everything we do.

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Lastly, I want to share this. Jean Francois Cope, a former French Mayor said:
“I invite everyone to choose forgiveness rather than division, teamwork over personal ambition.”

Thank you

Steven Micheal Sekanina
Mayor, Jefferson Village, Ohio

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Motion Councilperson Febel to authorize the Village of Jefferson to go into a Severance Agreement with the Administrator Steven S. Murphy.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Martuccio to authorize the Village of Jefferson to go into a parking lot lease agreement with the parking lots located at 12 East Jefferson Street, 22, 26, 34, 38, and 42 South Chestnut Street, Jefferson Ohio 44047 for 25 years beginning May 1, 2025, through April 30, 2049, for \$1.00 dollar a year.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

FYI: Ohio Environmental Protection Agency EPA violation.

FYI: Councilperson Martuccio’s letter sent to Council regarding the Recording of Committee Meetings.

FYI: Material’s Passed out at the October 20, 2025, Council Meeting in the Commissioner’s Room.

FYI: Discuss the process to fill the empty Council seat of Steve Sekanina.

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Mayor Sekanina told everyone that Council has thirty days to pick a successor for the Council seat that opened, since he became Mayor. The Council seat will finish out this term that ends December 31, 2025, and then Council must appoint a person to the new term that starts January 1, 2026.

Councilperson Dreier told everyone they will be advertising for two weeks then set up a meeting to do the interviews.

FYI Discuss timeline for the Village Administrator position.
Mayor Sekanina told everyone that they are going to extend the Administrators position for another two weeks.

The next Village of Jefferson Council Meeting will be on Monday November 17, 2025.

Visitor's Comments (five-minute limit per council rule #13)

CORRESPONDENCE

None

MEETINGS

None

ADJOURN

Motion by Councilperson Martuccio to adjourn the Council Meeting.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried.

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Meeting adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

Submitted by,

Patricia A Fisher, Clerk of Council