

**VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON
COUNCIL MEETING**

October 20, 2025

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Moment of Silence:

Opening Prayer: **Joe Lang of the Bethel Bible Church**

Roll call of Council Dreier, Febel, Martuccio, Roderick, Sekanina, Orvos

Corrections or Additions to the Agenda:

Correction in the Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2025. Tom Lachey retired instead of resigning.

Page 9 of October 6, 2025, Meeting Minutes the Wording Ordinance should be Resolution

Under Safety

Councilperson Sekanina added to the agenda a motion to table the Fire Chief's Recommendation to accept the Fire Chief's recommendation to appoint Franklin Stone and Kyle Blon as Captains to the Jefferson Fire Department for the Village of Jefferson. Effective October 20, 2025.

Councilperson Sekanina added to the agenda a motion to reinstate Captains Jake Rice, David Farina and Joe Edison Aaron Painter, Timothy Harrold, Logan Platt, Nathaniel Miller, Jacob Peer and Christina Edison to the Jefferson Fire Department to their previous roles they held on October 6, 2025, per the wage Ordinance.

Under Finance

**VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON
COUNCIL MEETING**

October 20, 2025

Councilperson Sekanina added to the agenda a motion to go into executive session to discuss the employment of the Village Administrator with potential action followed.

Councilperson Martuccio added under Safety

“Review of Fire Department discipline process and compliance with Village policy.”

Motion — Fire Dept discipline process review:

“I move that Council take up, under Safety, a review of the manner in which recent Fire Department disciplinary actions were initiated and handled, including compliance with Village personnel policies and applicable law; and that Council direct the Administration to provide to Council the written authorization for any internal review, the interview/contact log (names redacted as required), and the decision/discipline packets relied upon. Discussion will focus on process; if individual personnel matters arise, Council may enter executive session under R.C. 121.22(G)(1).”

Councilperson Martuccio added under New Business

Please add the following item to tonight’s agenda under **New Business**:

“Recording & posting of all Council committee meetings held at Town Hall.”

Motion — Record and post committee meetings:

“I move that all Council committee meetings held in the Village Town Hall meeting room be audio/video recorded using the existing system and posted to the Village website as soon as practicable, consistent with Council meeting postings. Committee Chairs are responsible for ensuring the system is activated; the Clerk will receive and post the files. This policy shall take effect as soon as practicable, except during documented equipment failure or emergency relocation.”

Under Mayor

Councilperson Sekanina added to the agenda to remove the motion to form a Council of the Whole Committee to review internal documents related to the Fire

**VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON
COUNCIL MEETING**

October 20, 2025

Department.

Minutes: Approval/Addition/Correction

Motion by Councilperson Febel to approve the Council Meeting Minutes of October 6, 2025.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Sekanina to accept the Jefferson Emergency Rescue Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2025.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Orvos to accept the Safety Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2025.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

President Pro Temp Steve Sekaninsa read a statement to everyone.

10/20/2025

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

October 20, 2025

Before we move on to visitors' comments tonight, I would like to say something regarding the fire department.

At the October 6th council meeting we regrettably received the resignations of nine members of our fire department including three captains, five firefighters and one dispatcher. Our firefighters, both present and past, are revered for their commitment to run towards danger as others run from it.

I urge our employees, members of our community, and elected officials to put aside their differences and come together to strengthen our community. As this public body works to mend and strengthen things that could have been done differently, let's remember, it's not about winning or losing. Our priority is to ensure the safety of the public. We are stronger when we work together. We must feel free to voice our opinions, and respect those of others.

Tonight, I welcome those nine members of our fire department who submitted their resignations on October 6th to come back to our fire department by submitting their letters to be reinstated and returning to service in our great community.

In closing, I will share a quote from Winston Churchill that I hope everyone will keep in mind and employ as we move forward.

“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. It’s also what it takes to sit down and listen.”

Thank you,

Steven Michael Sekanina
Member of Jefferson Village Council, President Pro Tempore

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

Police Chief Chris Mackensen read a statement to everyone.

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

October 20, 2025

10/18/2025

Good evening, everyone.

I want to make it clear that my concern tonight is not about the *outcome* involving the fire department, but rather about the *process* that brought us to this point.

It's understood — and not disputed — that members of the fire department came forward and voiced their opinions. From the administration's own statements, it appears that at that time, the administration did **not** inform or involve the council. Instead, it chose to conduct an internal review on its own.

During that review, the administration met with numerous people to include two civilian staff members, nine members of the fire jets ladies auxiliary who came forward on their own, and fourteen firemen but not all firemen. When the review concluded, the administration still did not share its findings with the council or with the safety committee. Instead, action was taken at the request of the fire chief and assistant chief against three salaried employees.

The most concerning part of this process is what happened next. When council members — after learning of these actions — asked the administration for information about the review, they were told that the findings were private and not subject to release.

That raises serious concerns for me personally and professionally.

In my own department, what's to stop the administration from doing the same thing? Conducting an internal review — meeting with my officers, their spouses, or even members of the public — and then taking action without ever informing the council? Then you'd be asked simply to trust that there are reasons we are not allowed to know, and to accept resignations or terminations based on that secrecy.

Even more troubling is the **impact** this has had on our workforce. Many village employees have told me directly that they will no longer voice concerns or report wrongdoing — because they fear they could be next to face an internal review and be asked to resign. That climate of fear puts not only the **safety** of our village at risk, but also its **integrity**.

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

October 20, 2025

When I came to this village three years ago, it was under three guiding principles: **integrity, honesty, and transparency**. I have carried those same principles with me into both of my roles as Chief of Police, and Administrator and I continue to believe they are essential to good government.

Now, speaking about transparency — the administration was quick to point out that the fire department's resignation numbers were inaccurate. The fire department stated that 13 people had left; the administration corrected that number to eight firemen. But as we all know, the fire department isn't made up only of firemen. There are many others — both paid and volunteer — who keep that department running.

If the administration insists on being transparent about the numbers, then I believe it should also be transparent about how many of the remaining ten members are actually certified those qualified to enter a burning building and save lives. Hiring civilians into the department and calling them firemen does not make them such.

Transparency is how we keep the public informed, and how we prevent rumors and misinformation from spreading.

Had the administration chosen from the very beginning to inform the council — and not to handle this matter privately — I believe this entire situation could have been avoided or, at the very least, managed more professionally and openly.

Because of all of this, I have less confidence in this administration and its integrity for failing to include the elected officials chosen by the residents to make informed decisions in the best interest of the village — decisions that ensure fiscal responsibility, provide proper oversight of the administration, and, above all, protect the safety of our community.

Thank you.

Chris Mackensen

Chief of Police

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

October 20, 2025

Village of Jefferson

Dave Farina read a statement to everyone.

Good evening

My name is Dave Farina, and I have proudly served on the Jefferson Fire Department for the last 16 years. I am writing to express my deep concern and disappointment regarding the decision to demote me from the position as Captain back to firefighter without prior notice, discussion, or opportunity for clarification. Over the past several months I was invited to multiple meetings with the Mayor and/or the Village Administrator. During these meetings, I was asked to provide my honest opinions about the ongoing issues with the department. I answered those questions truthfully and respectfully, believing that the leadership was seeking constructive feedback to improve the department. I was even told that positive changes would result from those discussions.

Instead I was being demoted, with no opportunity for discussion and no prior indication of any performance issues, The only explanation given was alleged “insubordination” for speaking negatively about the former Fire Chief. I want to clearly state that I never intended disrespect- I was asked for my perspective, and I gave it in good faith, with the well being of the department as my top priority. In my 16 years of service, I have never been written up, disciplined, or warned for any reason. I was honored to be named Firefighter of the year in both 2014 & 2024. I have consistently been among the top responders- last year alone, I responded to approximately 214 or 289 calls. These are not just numbers- they reflect my deep commitment to the department and the community we serve. To say I was blindsided by the decision is an understatement. I was under the impression that I was being included in these conversations because leadership saw me as part of the solution. Now, I’m left to believe that I am being viewed as part of the problem, simply for offering the very feedback I was asked to provide. This experience has been both confusing and disheartening, and I respectfully ask that this situation be reconsidered. I am committed to the mission of this department and have always acted in what I believe to be its best interest, that being said, I’m asking to be reinstated as Captain of the Jefferson Fire Department.

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

October 20, 2025

Thank you for your time,
Dave Farina

Jake Rice read a statement to everyone.

October 20, 2025

Council Members, Mayor, Village Administration, and Members of the Public

I come before you tonight with deep concern- concern for how this entire situation has unfolded and the impact it has had on the department, its members, and the community we serve.

First and foremost, to the public: thank you. Your unwavering support for each of us- both as individuals and as a department- has not gone unnoticed. We hear your frustration, and we understand your call for transparency. We feel it as well. Just like you we are seeking answers.

Unfortunately, those answers have not been given. The phrase “we are moving forward” has been repeated far too often without any meaning explanation. That response has been insufficient- for all of us, and most importantly, for the community.

Let me be clear: while the staffing numbers may be reduced, the personnel who remain are mostly trained, dedicated, and fully capable of protecting you. Your safety is not in question. But the way in which this situation has been managed is. To the Mayor and Administrator: I hope you fully comprehend the consequences of your decisions- not just this department, but on the families and individuals who give their time, energy, and lives to serve this community. Personally, I had to cut short a family vacation, leaving my wife and young children several states away tonight because I felt I had to be here to ensure my voice was heard.

Or how about the situation of my child, in tears, begging not to go to school because he didn't know how to answer when asked, “What happened with your dad and the Fire Department?”- this is not the village I have known, nor is it one I recognize today.

Based on how the situation was handled, I no longer have confidence in either of your leadership. The village deserves the very best- its services, and its leadership. Unfortunately, recent actions have demonstrated the opposite.

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

October 20, 2025

To address a few specific concerns related to both of you:

1. It was stated that everyone in the department was spoken to as a part of this process. That is verifiably false. A simple check makes that clear.
2. It was said this decision was based on facts and made to help the department “move forward”. Yet the only “facts” considered came from one side- those supporting a predetermined outcome. This is not a fair or transparent process.

Standing before the public with confidence while delivering half-truths and misinformation is not only disheartening- it’s unacceptable.

I’ll end with this: it was said that “no one was told to leave, they we asked.” If that’s the case and options are now available, I was to make it clear tonight that I will officially hand over this letter for my position as Captain of the Fire Department be reinstated tonight.

It would be an honor to once again serve the incredible people of this village and our surrounding coverage area.

Thank you for your time,

Jacob M. Rice

Joe Edison read a statement to everyone.

Good evening,

I would like to address the recent events involving the Jefferson Fire Department. I am one of the captains who was told to submit my resignation on October 2. No formal paperwork was presented to me for signature, and when I inquired if there was anything I needed to sign, I was told there was not.

During that meeting, I was informed that I needed to resign for being “insubordinate” and for “speaking negatively” about the Fire Chief. When I asked for clarification about what specific actions warranted such a decision, I was told simply, “everything in the last six months.”

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

October 20, 2025

Over the past six months, I have been called into multiple meetings with Mayor Chiacchiero and Administrator Murphy to discuss concerns within the Fire Department. In each of these meetings, I remained professional and provided honest feedback regarding issues that were affecting the department. Following these discussions, I was told that changes would be made and that we would move forward as a team.

In my 19 years of service with the Jefferson Fire Department, I have never been written up or disciplined for insubordination or any other offences. Like many members of the public, I am deeply confused as to what transpired to lead to this decision.

While we cannot change what has already occurred, I would like to share several points of concern and perspective:

To the Public:

The firefighters, dispatchers, and Ladies Auxiliary members who chose to leave did not do so to “pick sides.” Their decision was based on a loss of confidence and trust in Village Administration and the failure to consistently follow established policies. Please know that there are still dedicated individuals serving in the Jefferson Fire Department who are committed to responding to every call. While the number of responders may not be what it once was, the department remains operational and committed to the safety of our community. Rebuilding will take time, but it will happen.

To the Firefighters of the Jefferson Fire Department:

I am truly sorry for how this situation unfolded and for the way it has reflected on the department. The lack of leadership from administration has contributed to this outcome, but I have faith that the department will recover. Continue to put forth your best effort—our community depends on your professionalism and dedication.

To Council:

I apologize that this situation has been placed before you without your full awareness of what was occurring. The intent of the letter read on October 6 was simply to inform you of what has truly been happening within the department and

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

October 20, 2025

the village administration. It is disheartening when council members are not provided accurate or complete information. I would like to thank the council members for reaching out to get the correct information and I have full confidence in the council to do what is right moving forward.

To Village Administration:

If those in leadership cannot uphold the same rules and policies required of every employee, then serious reflection is needed regarding whether those individuals are suited for their positions. In public service—especially in fire and EMS—decisions must always be made in the best interest of residents, patients, and the general public. Unfortunately, recent administrative actions have not reflected that standard.

Lastly, I would like to note that during my meeting on October 2, I was told that I needed to turn in my resignation. However, in the letter Administrator Murphy presented and read at the Safety Council meeting, it was stated that “no individual was fired or forced to resign.”

Given this discrepancy, and out of concern for the safety of the residents of Jefferson Village, Jefferson Township, and Lenox Township, I am formally requesting Council and Mayor to reinstate all Captains, Firemen, and Dispatcher to their original positions of the Jefferson Fire Department.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Joe Edison

Aaron Painter read a statement to everyone.

Good evening council, my name is Aaron Painter former firefighter of Jefferson fire department #28. Tonight, I am here to ask a few questions and voice my concerns with what’s going on with the department. First off, I would like to bring to light a lie that has been said on multiple accounts. I have never had a one-on-one conversation with the mayor like he claimed that we had had. The only meeting that I have had with the administration is with Mr. Murphy around the end of

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

October 20, 2025

August. And in that meeting, I was asked What I felt the problems were in the department and how we could move forward. Also, in that meeting, he stated that there were individuals that would not be put into roles of leadership until they proved to him, they were ready to man those positions if he had anything to do about it. On September 9th We had a mandatory Fire Dept meeting with the mayor, administrator, and the members of safety board at that meeting. It was announced of the retirement of former chief Tom Latchey and to announce the new chief and assistant chief. We were thrilled of the decision that was made. We were all ready to lead under both well-respected men placed in charge of this department. Prepared to rebuild what was broken and start to move forward. Then it happened. Just 36 hours under the newly appointed leadership The knees were cut from the department and the knives came out. When asked if I would come back to the department by multiple council members, I don't quite know what my answer would be because under the current leadership of the mayor, administrator, fire chief and head of safety I'm skeptical of the trust values they hold because in previous meetings, their words to me were we have your back come to us with any concerns and we will get them resolved. If there is an issue with someone within the department both parties will be pulled into a meeting with the chief, and it will be resolved. Why was this never done? Apparently, that was another lie. Others and I also do not agree with the acceptance of new members when asked why they would like to join the department their response was for political reasons. Morally that is not acceptable and certainly not needed. Is this yet another thing that you mayor are ok with? Transparency and communication are a must when rebuilding a broken relationship between family and When the tough questions are asked, the leadership cowards behind the privacy policy of personnel and will not talk about the quote-on-quote alleged accusations. There is no room for this in a fire house nor a family in which all of the leadership preached they wanted this department to get back to. It's abundantly clear that some care more about the color of their helmet than the name of the fire department they are part of.

Furthermore, why Mr. mayor, administrator, fire chief and head of safety ok with losing 8 qualified firefighters? Those with experience and countless hours of their own time, time away from their family and children to that station. Dedication to every event the department put on for ourselves and for the community. Why would you not try and talk to the ones that resigned? Obviously, there is a lack of

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

October 20, 2025

care. It has been said that everyone on the department, before this nonsense happened, played a very crucial role and they didn't want to see anyone leave. To add to that you're ok with spending more of the taxpayer's money in sending these new hires with no fire background whatsoever to school pending they even pass instead of keeping what you already had. Every decision comes with a price and your decision cost this department, village, townships, neighboring townships and anyone in need 8 dedicated men who truly loved what they did

With this statement being read I Aaron Painter am asking for my position back as a firefighter

President Pro Tem Sekanina explained to everyone that Mayor Chiacchiero is out of town for the tonight Council meeting. I personally have asked all the Fire Department employes that have resigned to submit a letter to be reinstated to their positions at the Fire Department before the Council Meeting tonight. There is provision in the employee handbook that Council can reinstate the employees.

Councilperson Martuccio read his statement to everyone

Mayor Chiacchiero, Administrator Murphy, Chief Locy, Clerk, Solicitor, and Members of Council,

I'm writing as one council member and as a neighbor. What happened with the fire department was handled wrong, and it's shaken public trust.

Here's what I see:

- Council wasn't brought in at the start of the "internal review."
- We still don't have a written authorization for that review, a complete interview list, notes, or rule citations tied to specific facts.
- Spouse/auxiliary letters were treated like evidence while many firefighters say they were never interviewed.
- Captains were told "decisions are final," which doesn't look like fair process.
- The fallout hurt staffing and confidence in village government.

**VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON
COUNCIL MEETING**

October 20, 2025

Because of this, **I have lost confidence in the team that ran the process: Mayor Jim Chiacchiero, Administrator Steve Murphy, Safety Committee Chair Councilman Steve Febel, and Fire Chief Dave Locy.** For the good of the village, **I respectfully ask each of you to step down effective immediately** so we can stabilize the department and rebuild trust.

If you step aside, here's what I will move for on Monday:

1. **Interim leadership.** Name interim replacements as needed (mayor per ordinance if applicable), an interim administrator, and an interim fire chief.
2. **Path back for everyone who resigned.** Invite **all individuals who submitted resignations** connected to the department (firefighters and support/auxiliary) to reapply immediately and be considered for **reinstatement consistent with our personnel policy** (the provision permitting reinstatement within one year for those in good standing when it's in the Village's best interest).
3. **Independent review.** Bring in an outside reviewer so Council and the public have one clear set of facts.

For the record, **Councilman Kevin Orvos** relied on the Safety Chair and did not have the file; in my view he, like many firefighters, acted in good faith.

I have also discussed these concerns at length with Councilmembers Steve Sekanina, Kevin Orvos, Katy Dreier, and Steve Febel.

Attachment (IMG_4883.jpeg): a simple interview matrix compiled from information provided to date. If Administration has a different or fuller list, please provide it.

My goal is simple: full crews on the rigs, calm in town, and trust back in the room.

Respectfully,

Pasquale Martuccio
Councilman, Village of Jefferson

**VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON
COUNCIL MEETING**

October 20, 2025

Also present:

Kim Jackson, Josh Jackson, Maria Abbott, Frank Snyder Jr, John Boczar, Scott Barber, Christine Kovacs, Emma Hamper, Harleigh Peck, Kasey Farina, Cole Farina, Lon Damon, Heather Stone, Kelly Fuhrman, Greg Fuhrman, Robin Meighen, Johnny Meighen, Melissa Mott, Michael Schute, Kennedy Dean, Derric Dean, Pat Bradek, John Perrotti, Shawn Osborne, Pam Lancaster, Janet Discher, Kelly Butcher, Rachel Peer, Stefanie Wessell – Gazette, Morghan Pancheco, Piorino Scrocca, Darcie Wehrung, Megan Justice, Diane Gregg, Robert Gregg, Alison Locy, Elliott Boncimino, Michele Lemons, Pastor Jo Lang – Bethel, Bible Church, Dave Locy, Chip Ashcraft, Heather Ashcraft, Marie Kuhan, Lisa Hawkins, Linda Orvos, Linda Licate, Frank Stone III, Kyle Blon, Tim Harrold, Kelly Farina, Lydia Jerina, Jacob Peer, Connie Rice, Ralph Rice, Olivia Springer, John Maylish, Zachary Waters, Heidi Seikanina, Bobbi Jo Murphy, Tracy Stowers, Roy Platt, Kathy Cunningham, Harold Specht, Brittany Drnek, Garrett Drnek, Kenzie Brown, Carrie Brown, Ed Koziol, Sara Mackensen, Diana Mackensen, Scott Dean, Jamie Dean, Brian Diehl, Ken Fertig, Jen Skinner, Jake Rice, Christina Edison, Ty Klingman, Kim Britton, Freya Klingman, Nathaniel Miller, Logan Platt, Joe Edison, Aaron Painter and Dave Farina

DEPARTMENTS

Administrator Murphy

Village Administrator's report for the period ending October 17th, 2025.

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

October 20, 2025

Projects update:

Project		Status	Vendor	Grant/Loan	Total Cost
ACTIVE PROJECTS	Project #				
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)	Bid accepted	Karvo Companies		\$222,895.00

In the Village

The Aqua project is wrapping up on E. Ashtabula St. New sidewalks have been poured and no issues have been reported in this project.

Warranty work on the paving done last year on N. Spruce St. has been completed. Cole Burton Paving warranty 1,000 feet of additional one inch of pavement overlay from E. Beech to 1,000 feet south. In addition, we identified some spots where the base layer under the pavement needed to be built up and repaired before laying down the new pavement. This will eliminate re-occurring issues of soft spots and pot holing . I would like to thank both Verdantas Engineering and Cole Burton for their professional response to our warranty claim.

Karvo Paving Company will begin paving of a portion of S. Poplar St. between E. Jefferson and E. Satin Streets, Westview Dr., and concrete repair on Woodland Way. The total project is estimated to take 1-2 weeks. I have requested with the Karvo, the S. Poplar St. paving will not be during school pick-up or drop off, and residents should see little to no disruption during those times. Work will begin this week, weather permitting.

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

October 20, 2025

Street Dept.

139 catch basins were vacuumed, cleaned and rinsed. This service is completed every 2-3 years to maintain proper storm water drainage and identify any issues. During this service we did identify a few catch basins showing signs of age and will be addressed come next spring and summer. King's Sanitary did the work on this project.

Zoning:

Permits issued since the last council meeting: **3**

Total permits 2025 = **38**

These permits consisted of (1) accessory building, (1) sign, and (1) WWROW permit.

Recreation Department:

I want to thank the Recreation Dept. and Jefferson Area Chamber for putting on yet another successful Haunted Woods this year. We saw an increase in attendance this year having it on two consecutive nights instead of just one night of operation.

Trick or Treat will be October 25th from 4pm-6pm. The Fire Department will be hosting a fundraiser, passing out candy and selling hot dogs as well.

Wastewater Treatment Plant:

Plant is running normally. Some maintenance has been completed on one of the pumps at Woodside Dr. pump station.

Other notes:

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

October 20, 2025

I would like to thank our Recreation Director, Jamie Dean, for the hard work and dedication in this position. This position can have many tall tasks at times and rely on her and her staff to make the Rec Center and events successful. Her last day was October 17th, and I wish her and her family well and she starts her next venture. It has been a pleasure working with you and wishing you nothing but the best.

Reference to the open Rec Center Director position, applications have been received, and interviews will be set up this week with qualified applicants.

I want to remind residents of few zoning ordinances going into the fall and winter seasons. Reminder of travel trailers and they must be parked behind the front line of the main structure on the property and be up to date on registration.

Additionally, no temporary signs may be placed in the right of way anywhere within the village limits. If the sign is moved or missing, please call my office or the Street Dept. to see if one of us took it down. In most cases I or the Street Dept. Supervisor will relocate them to an appropriate location on your property.

Lastly, please maintain all yards, trees, bushes and be mindful of unsightly clutter. Additionally, please make sure all sidewalks are clear of overgrown brush and obstacles heading into the snowy season. We will be plowing sidewalks when necessary.

All village ordinances are listed and searchable on our website for anyone who is interested in learning more about those. Also, I am always available for a phone call and walk-ins at the Village Hall as well.

Administrator Murphy told Council a update on the audio in the Council meeting room. Hudson came and worked on putting new microphones in the Council Chambers. We will test then to see how it works at the next meeting.

Administrator Murphy also told Council the Giddings Park sidewalks are being replaced. An additional foot is being added.

**VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON
COUNCIL MEETING**

October 20, 2025

Administrator Murphy also told Council he wanted to address some of the misconceptions about my involvement in this internal review, everybody needs to be reminded, even council, it appears, that I am not charge of the Fire Department. At no time am I making decisions on any of the stuff that has been going on,” “I identified some key issues. The mayor asked me to do an internal review, talk to as many members of the Fire Department as I could and get that information to him. He is in charge of the Fire Department...Please understand this, that my only involvement in this was to gather the information and supply that information to those who make those decisions. That seems to be forgotten here.”

Clerk /Treasurer Fisher

Payroll Report/Special Pay Report

Chief Mackensen

Chief Mackensen told Council that Jeromey Cummings has been released to full duty on his own. He has been here three and a half months.

Chief Lachey

No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Lands

Committee Report: No Report

Forestry

Committee Report: No Report

**VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON
COUNCIL MEETING**

October 20, 2025

Finance

Committee Report: No report

Ordinance/Resolution to Read:

Resolution No. 25-R- 3395

A Resolution authorizing the transfer of funds from the 704 Unclaimed Funds to the 101 General Fund

**Motion by Councilperson Sekanina for the Third Reading of Resolution
No. 25-R- 3395**

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Sekanina to Adopt Resolution No. 25-R- 3395

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Ordinance/Resolution to Read:

Reading of Resolution No. 25-R- 3396

A Resolution Accepting the Amount and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor.

**Motion by Councilperson Sekanina for the Third Reading of Resolution
No. 25-R- 3396**

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Sekanina to Adopt Resolution No. 25-R- 3396

2nd

**VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON
COUNCIL MEETING**

October 20, 2025

Roll: All yea, motion carried

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.

**Motion by Councilperson Sekanina for the First Reading of Resolution
No. 25-R- 3399**

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Recreation

Committee Report: No Report

Motion by Councilperson Roderick to accept the resignation from Jamie Dean from the Jefferson Recreation Department effective October 17, 2025.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Safety

Committee Report: No Report

Motion to accept the resignations from Captains Jake Rice, David Farina and Joe Edison from the Jefferson Fire Department effective October 6, 2025.

No Motion

Motion Dies

**VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON
COUNCIL MEETING**

October 20, 2025

Motion to accept the resignations from Fire Fighter’s Aaron Painter, Timothy Harrold, Logan Platt, Nathaniel Miller, Jacob Peer, from Jefferson Fire Department effective October 6, 2025.

No Motion

Motion Dies

Motion by Councilperson Febel to reinstate Jake Rice, David Farina and Joe Edison, Aaron Painter, Timothy Harrold, Logan Platt, Nathaniel Miller, Jacob Peer and Christine Edison to the Jefferson fire Department to their previously roles they held October 6, 2025.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Febel to table the Fire Chief’s recommendation to appoint Franklin Stone and Kyle Blon as Captains to the Jefferson Fire Department for the Village of Jefferson. Effective October 20, 2025

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Febel to accept the Fire Chief’s Recommendation to hire Alba Del Valle to the Fire Department at the rate of pay per the Wage Ordinance pending her physical and background check effective October 20, 2025.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Febel to review the Fire Dept discipline process review: a review of the manner in which recent Fire Department disciplinary actions were initiated and handled, including compliance with Village personnel policies and applicable law; and that Council direct the Administration to provide to Council the written authorization for any internal review, the interview/contact log (names redacted as required), and the decision/discipline packets relied upon. Discussion will focus on process; if individual personnel matters arise, Council may enter executive session under R.C. 121.22(G)(1).”

**VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON
COUNCIL MEETING**

October 20, 2025

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Martuccio to go into executive session at 8:34 p.m. to discuss the matters of personnel in the Fire Department and how discipline was handled. Without action after the executive session.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Councilperson Martuccio asked all members of the Fire Department to attend the Executive session.

Motion by Councilperson Febel to go out of Executive session at 10:16 p.m. and back into regular session

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Martuccio to go back into executive session at 10:17 p.m. to discuss the employment of the Village Administrator with potential action to follow.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Febel to go out of Executive session at 10:46 p.m. and back into regular session

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Sekanina to go into an employee severance agreement with the Village Administrator with the last date of employment effective October 31, 2025

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

**VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON
COUNCIL MEETING**

October 20, 2025

Motion by Councilperson Sekanina to appoint Chris Mackensen to the position of Chief/Administrator beginning on November 1, 2025

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Utilities/Wastewater Treatment/ Service

Committee Report: No Report

Mayor

Motion by Councilperson Sekanina to appoint Building and Lands Committee to research and discuss the recording of Committee Meetings

2nd

Febel yes, Martuccio nay, Roderick yes, Sekanina nay, Orvos nay, Dreier yes.

There is a tie vote.

President Pro Temp Sekanina broke the tie saying nay.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Councilperson Martuccio

“Recording & posting of all Council committee meetings held at Town Hall.”

For the record, here is the motion I intend to make:

Motion — Record and post committee meetings:

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

October 20, 2025

“I move that **all Council committee meetings held in the Village Town Hall meeting room be audio/video recorded** using the existing system and **posted to the Village website as soon as practicable**, consistent with Council meeting postings. Committee **Chairs** are responsible for ensuring the system is activated; the **Clerk** will receive and post the files. **This policy shall take effect as soon as practicable**, except during documented equipment failure or emergency relocation.”

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

The next Village of Jefferson Council Meeting will be on Monday November 3, 2025.

FYI: Andrews & Pontius L.L.C. September

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

Police Chief Mackensen asked Council to hold a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the park project and any matters of public concern. Open communication is essential. With this meeting help promote full transparency with the residents of the Village. Additionally, Mackensen extended an invitation to any members of the public that have concerns with the Police Department please come speak with me directly so we can have a constructive conversation and work together to solutions together rather than allowing frustration to play out to negative and hateful post on social media.

President Pro Temp Sekanina closed the meeting by saying we had a lot take place tonight, but we definitely appreciate all of our first responders our Fire Department and Police Department.

Rome was not built in a day, so it is going to take time to get everything ironed out.

Council made a good first step today. Council appreciates everyone’s support and patience and dedication as we move forward.

**VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON
COUNCIL MEETING**

October 20, 2025

Police Chief Mackensen thanked Administrator Murphy for the job he did during his time as Administrator.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

MEETINGS

None

ADJOURN

Motion by Councilperson Febel to adjourn the Council Meeting.
2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 p.m.

Submitted by,

Patricia A Fisher, Clerk of Council