

VOLUNTEERS ABOUND IN OUR NEW TOWN OF POETRY!! Community coming together to restore something is unity. See three examples following:

MARCH 13th Work Day was FANTASTIC!

We had over 20 folks come together to accomplish insulation installation and siding for the Church Annex, which will serve as the new Town Hall of Poetry. [We are required by the state to have a secured exclusive-use building for all municipal records.]



Big Thanks to:

- **Sophia & Obedia Alvarado**
- **Evie & Tom Anderson**
- **Diane & Josh Goellner**
- **Maddie & Addie Goellner w/Boomer**
- **Judy Graham**
- **Mike Griffin**
- **Kim & Kane Hansard**
- **Ken Phillips**
- **Brayden & Tanner Schuelke**
- **Kevin & Tara Senkevech**

- **Andres Vazquez, TAG employee**

ROAD WORK DAY on March 3, covered 3.5 miles of potholes on with **VOLUNTEER** labor and donated equipment! folks on the following streets collected money to cover their roads: CR 2432, 2432, 2426 and 2326, 2433 (partially). Thanks to



Dave Ceella for hosting, and those who assisted; **Kevin Senkevech, 365 crew, Dan Thompson, Kane Hansard, Debbie Emard, Mike & Sue Jaffe, Brian Vinson, Robert Hermann, Steve Price, Cheri Dolan,** and those who spent hours soliciting donations!



APRIL 17th Work Day

Sean, Joe and Sue helped by caulking the siding for hours! Debbie, Sheri, and Tara scraped and stripped the wood flooring. Simeon, Kevin, Brian worked on attaching the siding. Ken Phillips' crew put up sheetrock, tape and bedded the walls during the week. Andres worked on putting in the attic stairs, fascia, and new bathroom window.

So.. if you MISSED the TOWN HALL meeting held at PCCS on April 13th, you can view it online at www.Poetrytexas.org We want to thank our Poetry Elections Team: **Shanna Coury, Terry Chambers and Amy Cernoch Beam** for volunteering their time to serve during this important time in our town. They decided that:

THE SWEARING IN OF OUR NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL AND MAYOR

WILL BE 10 am on Saturday, May 15th at

the New Town Hall parking lot on a trailer **(outside) for the SPRING FESTIVAL.**

Please come for the **pancake breakfast** from 8:30-10:30 am, **flea market, bake sale** and more until 3:30 pm! All proceeds go to **Restore the Church!** It will be outside. Feel welcome to wear a mask or not. Please be considerate of others as you come support this worthy cause for our newly formed town!

If you would like to contribute to this historic cause, please send checks to Poetry Community Campground Cemetery, Inc. and write "**Restore the Church**" in the memo! You can send it via mail to c/o 19012 FM 986 Poetry, TX 75160. All donations are TAX-DEDUCTIBLE as it is a 501c3 non-profit.

What to Expect: Governing by Brian Vinson

Like county, state and federal government, the Town of Poetry is a representative government. The citizens elect a council that represents them to create the laws and ordinances for the town and a mayor to enforce those laws and ordinances.

Elections are held to ensure that the people of the town retain faith in their elected officials. This frees the citizens from the burden of government as well as the research, deliberations, and administration involved in government while ensuring they have acceptable representation.

Your elected officials will be responsible to you the voter for their decisions. They will make decisions constantly throughout their term, so the voice of the citizen will be heard constantly through citizen involvement.

Referendums have been referenced by candidates and non-candidates lately. Texas law allows the municipality to call a referendum for a few, specific circumstances. The primary use of a referendum, however, is for the citizens to force the municipality to address something it otherwise wouldn't or hasn't. A referendum is a public vote and it is handled like an election. By state law it must be handled (with few exceptions) on a uniform election date (twice a year) and must be paid for by the person or group

calling for it. Therefore, if the town called a referendum the tax payers would have to pay for it.

What to Expect: Open Meetings

by Brian Vinson

Every elected official will to be certified in the Open Meeting Act within 90 days of taking office. I went ahead and got my certification so I could create this post and share the information with you, the voters.

Texas has an *Open Meetings Act* that is an attempt to ensure the decision making of government is open and transparent to the people. Governing officials violating the Open Meeting Act can be held criminally or civilly (fines and/or incarceration) liable for such violations. Texas takes it very seriously.

You should be able to understand what decisions are being made on ordinances and laws that impact you. Discussions must meet certain requirements.

Meetings must be announced - usually at least three days ahead of time - and must include when and where the meeting will be held as well as an appropriate agenda of what will be discussed.

There are only a few - and very specific - exceptions to what can be discussed in closed session, but no final vote can be held in closed session. **Final votes must be made in open session.** Gone are the days of 'smoky back room deals', at least if the law is followed properly.

New rules do allow for deliberations and discussions to be held online. However, the site must be controlled by the governing body (the town in our case), must allow for 30 days of online archiving and 6 years of offline archiving and have proper notices. Holding deliberations (which could be a councilperson just sharing random thoughts on a subject) through other online sites or social media could be a violation.

Another new rule establishes that meetings must include time for public feedback. The town can establish a fair time limit for feedback, but anyone who wants to address the town must be allowed to do so.