

## Candidate Questions – Patrick Smith

**Why do you wish to serve in the government of Poetry?**

**Response:** For the last two years too much of the Town's decision-making, deliberations and business have been veiled in secrecy. This has caused mistrust by many residents. If I am elected to serve I will work hard to ensure that Town business and the Council's deliberations are conducted in the open and, to the extent possible, that every aspect of the decision-making process is clearly visible to the Citizens.

**There will be much to do in the first term for the Mayor and Town Council. What three things do you most hope to accomplish, if elected?**

**Response:** Not applicable. See response to question ten.

**What makes you stand out from other candidates?**

**Response:** The education and extensive legal experience I have enables me to professionally negotiate and draft contracts and various legal documents including resolutions and ordinances which are essential to running a local government. I am uniquely qualified to help bring the Town in compliance with state law and to avoid potential liability as a result of the Town's repeated failures to comply with the Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act.

**If elected, you will serve a two-year term. What changes to Poetry do you envision over the next two years?**

**Response:** As little as possible. See also response to question ten.

**If you are NOT elected, what would you do to try to help work on ideas or issues that are important to you?**

**Response:** I would continue to attend and actively participate in Town Council Meetings.

**How would you plan to involve residents in the decision-making process in the Town?**

**Response:** I would work tirelessly to enable all citizens to participate in their local government. This would include fighting for all of the rights bestowed on citizens by state law and the Town's Decorum and Procedure Policies. These include Citizen's rights to: speak at Town Meetings, ask questions of their elected and other officials and observe how public officials are conducting the people's business.

**What would you describe as your primary leadership quality?**

**Response:** To deal with others openly and honestly as well as the ability to analyze legal and factual issues objectively and resolve them in a manner that is reasonable, fair and which will withstand legal scrutiny.

**If you are not elected, what would you do to try to help work on ideas or issues that are important to you?**

**Response:** See response to question five.

**How would you plan to involve residents in the decision-making process in the City?**

**Response:** See response to question six.

**What three things do you hope to accomplish most?**

**Response:** 1. Stop the secrecy – make every possible aspect of the Town’s business and decision making process clearly visible to the Citizens. 2. Bring the Town in compliance with state law and its own ordinances and resolutions. 3. Ensure the Town is accountable to all of its Citizens.

**Poetry is currently a very rural area with a “country” lifestyle. How much do you think that lifestyle should be allowed to change, and how would you ensure the town stay within the bounds you would set?**

**Response:** How much the “country” lifestyle will be allowed to change was determined by the spider-web style Town limits. Two different Town attorneys have basically acknowledged this fact, even referring to the Town limits as gerrymandered. The Town’s ability to restrict land in the ETJ is very limited.