

Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office

February 9, 2010

RECEIVED

Richard A Oliver
901 New York Ave, NW
Ste 200
Washington DC

2010 MAR -2 P 4: 21

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Sir:

I am writing concerning the temporary suspension of the Post Office at Claremont, SD 57432. This rural Post Office had service suspended on December 30, 2008. It is still in suspension even though the original building is now available with the problems that caused the suspension corrected.

The reason for the suspension was that the furnace was broken and that the current lessor refused to repair the furnace and stated that the lease would not be renewed when it was due for renewal in two years. Initially the USPS indicated that they would repair or replace the furnace and deduct the cost from the lessor's payments. Later, they decided that even though there was ample time left on the lease to recoup their expense they were concerned that some other problem would arise and they would have to repair that too; so the USPS terminated the lease. Subsequently the rural route was pulled from the office (effective 12-20-08) and letters (copy enclosed) were sent to customers on December 15th indicating that the office would be suspended. A meeting for customers was held on December 29th at 12:00pm to 1:00 pm. Even though our community is very rural, many of the customers work in other towns and were not able to attend.

The Claremont Post Office is still in suspension and discontinuance proceedings have not been instituted.

A petition was circulated (and signed by 128 customers) starting on December 14th and mailed to district manager, Clem Felchle on January 30th. Many letters and phone calls from the "Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office" were sent to Mr Felchle. We also have worked extensively with our congressional delegation.

On April 3, 2009 a letter and survey was sent by the USPS to customers explaining Postal Change Regulations. The Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office also sent a survey and received over 60 responses from customers indicating the many

ways they had been inconvenienced. Several of the responses said that not being able to send outgoing letters at the close of business without traveling at least 28 miles round trip to the Langford Post office was very inconvenient and was costing them money in lost interest.

The Claremont Post Office was a level 11 office that was providing many services to its customers. By moving services to Langford SD 57454, the USPS effectively delayed customers' ability to receive same day services without traveling the 14 miles to Langford. If customers wished to respond to received mail they needed to wait until the next day when the carrier comes back to their box. If customers need to purchase postal supplies such as padded bags or boxes they must request them one day, receive them the second and, until recently, wait until the third day to mail them. Mailing parcels too large for post boxes requires that customers either place them outside their box where they are available to passers by and the elements until the rural carrier picks them up or travel the 14 miles to Langford to mail them. After almost a year of waiting, a blue collection box was finally reinstalled in Claremont and customers are able to send outgoing mail after the rural carrier has gone. Getting this collection box is a small victory and does not take the place of having an operating post office.

I am enclosing copies of all the correspondence between the Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office, District Manager Clem Felchle, and our congressional delegation. As you can see, we have been lied to, manipulated, ignored, and generally dismissed. I hope that you will be able to help us with our dilemma with this situation.

Sincerely,

The Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office

Judy Pierson, contact person

11542 411 Ave

Claremont SD 57432

605 294-5862

email jpierson@nvc.net

You may also contact Roger Schuller, 11456 410 Ave. Claremont SD 57432, rsschuller@nvc.net
Wanette Lenling, 305 5th Ave, Claremont SD 57432, wlenling@nvc.net
Robert Thompson, 605 4th Ave, Claremont SD 57432

March 2, 2010

Joyce Taylor
PRC Clerk

Dear Ms Taylor:

I would like to request a grant of waiver for filing comments electronically for docket PI2020-1. I am inexperienced in sending documents and have scanned them in a jpeg format. Since I have many documents I do not have sufficient time left today to re-scan them in a pdf format.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Judith Pierson
11542 411 Ave
Claremont SD 57432
605-294-5862
jlperson@nvc.net

From : J Pierson **Date :** Mon, 15 Dec 2008 11:15:06 -0600
To : Jason Lorenz - St. Thomas office
Subject : Claremont SD Post Office

Dear Sir:

The Claremont rural route will be removed from the Claremont PO because the office has had no heat since the fall heating season started. Space heaters have been used, but the office is cold. When the problem first arose, alternate vacant sites in Claremont were investigated, but none were suitable. The rural route will be moved to the Langford PO effective December 20th.

Since these changes were started, the city has offered to vacate their office and offer that site to the PO. This is located in a newer building and is handicapped accessible. In my opinion, this office could be made to work for the PO by simply installing dead bolt doors, removing a window and installing a door and partitioning off a mail vestibule. We have funding available to make whatever changes the USPS would deem necessary to make this site usable for a Post Office.

A petition has been started requesting that the USPS investigate the site and move the PO and the rural route into this building as soon as it could be made secure. Unless many changes were required, it could be made available in a matter of weeks. Our community of many elderly people will be greatly inconvenienced by the loss of their Post Office.

Please do whatever you can to make sure that the USPS investigates the available site in a timely manner and moves the Claremont Post Office to new quarters in town.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Judy Pierson, Postmaster retired
11542 411 Ave
Claremont SD 57432
(605) 294-5862

COPY

January 29, 2009

Mr Clem Felchle
Dakotas District Manager
United States Postal Service

Dear Mr Felchle:

I am enclosing a petition signed by the patrons of the currently suspended Claremont, SD Post Office. When our office was closed on December 29, 2008, we were told that an engineer would be sent out to let us know what modifications would be necessary on the alternate site that we would like to use for our Post Office. It has been one month today and we have received no written communication about this, or had no call from the engineers.

While Claremont is a very small community, we do have several businesses, and they (especially our bank) have been very much inconvenienced by not receiving their mail early in the day; and by not being able to mail any outgoing mail late in the day. Some of our businesses deal with large amounts of money and the interest they have to pay by having their deposit delayed by one day is significant. Many patrons have also complained about not being able to go (without driving 34 miles round trip) to the Post Office for accountable mail or to purchase products they need.

We request that someone examine our alternate site and tell us what modifications are necessary. We need our local Post Office and hope to be able to revoke the emergency suspension that is now in place.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Judy Pierson
11542 411 Ave
Claremont SD 57432
(605) 294-5862
email jlpierson@nvc.net

Copy - Also sent to Johnson & Thone

January 30, 2009

Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
331 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Representative Herseth Sandlin:

I am enclosing copies of a letter and a petition that I have sent to the Manager of the Dakotas District, USPS. As you probably know, service to the Claremont SD PO was suspended on December 29, 2008. This has created an inconvenience for all of the patrons, and a hardship for most of the businesses.

I hope that your office can do something to encourage the USPS to investigate the alternate site that our community has and to seriously consider revoking the suspension. I realize that our community is very small, but we should have access to the same services that other South Dakotans have without having to drive an excessive distance to obtain them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Judy Pierson
11542 411 Ave
Claremont, SD 57432
(605) 294-5862
email jlpierson@nvc.net

THE COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE CLAREMONT POST OFFICE

JUDY PIERSON

11542 411TH AVE.

CLAREMONT, SOUTH DAKOTA 57432

May 5, 2009

Clem Feichle
United States Postal Service
Dakotas District Manager
320 S 2nd St.
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

RE: Claremont Post Office Suspension

Dear Clem:

Thank you for your return call this morning. I felt we had a good exchange of facts in regards to the Claremont Postal situation.

Let me go over some of the comments I shared with you and facts as I know them.

1. We were aware that building problems had arisen.
2. We felt they were being addressed by the Postal Service and the current landlord. It was rumored that various options were being pursued.
3. At the public suspension meeting held over the noon hour on December 29th, 2008, we learned new facts.
 - a. We had not been on any closure list.
 - b. The current landlord had sent a letter refusing to make repairs and effectively terminated the lease. This came as a shock to the community.
 - c. We offered to buy the existing Post Office building and fix it. The old landlord has since sold the building to a willing landlord.
 - d. We offered as an alternative site the City Hall offices in the Claremont Fire Hall.
 - e. We were told by a Postal official at that meeting the cost of repairs could be \$50,000.00. That figure was backed by no facts. This was viewed as an attempt to deflate the communities hope of getting the Post Office back.

THE COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE CLAREMONT POST OFFICE

May 5, 2009

- f. The community requested that the Postal Engineer come to Claremont to review the sites as the community stood ready to make the necessary repairs. Mr. Turnbull said that could be done. A month later we learned that would not be done.

The general feeling after the meeting was that the Postal Service had not come to help our community. As time went on it became clear that the meeting was the first step in the permanent closure of our Post Office.

The struggles the Postal Service are having is not unlike the struggle our community is having. We look around and see many small communities just like ourselves. If all Class 11 Post Offices in the state are being closed that is one thing. But that is not the truth of the matter.

As I stated our community is ready to do business. We feel we have been discriminated against because of lease problems between the Postal Service and the old landlord. The community did not have the chance to make things right. The Postal Service concentrated on the lease problems and forgot our community.

I feel from our conversation that you may be willing to give us a chance. As I stated please do not start the closure process until we are able to meet with you and / or your Postal Engineer to review our sites.

I have enclosed a list of contact people in our community. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours truly,

Roger A. Schuller

Roger A. Schuller

Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office
11456 410th Ave.
Claremont, South Dakota 57432
605-294-5882

List attached

cc: Judy Pierson
Wanette Lenling
Robert Thompson
Senator Tim Johnson
Senator John Thune
Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin

THE COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE CLAREMONT POST OFFICE

CONTACT PERSONS

Judy Pierson
11542 411th Ave.
Claremont, SD 57432
605-294-5862
jlperson @ nvc.net

Robert Thompson
605 4th Ave.
Claremont, SD 57432
605-294-5252
605-294-5261

Wanette Lenling
308 5th Avenue
Claremont, SD 57432
605-294-5231
wlenling @ nvc.net

Roger Schuller
11456 410th Ave.
Claremont, SD 57432
605-294-5882
rsschuller @ nvc.net

File copy

August 14, 2009

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to urge you to revoke the suspension of the Claremont Post Office. Our community is very inconvenienced by having our post office closed. Our businesses have been affected by not being able to receive parts a timely manner and also by not being able to get their out-going mail out after the morning rural delivery time. Some businesses receive their mail so late in the day; they are not able to make a bank deposit the same day. Since these businesses deal in farm chemicals or livestock sales, these checks are sizable and one day's interest is significant.

I am secretary for the local church and have been forced to make the over 40 mile round trip to enter my monthly newsletter at a post office. I am not able to prepare bulletins for our sister church and mail them out when necessary because there is not time to get them prepared and mailed without adding an extra day for mailing on the rural route.

The state of the economy has caused many of our fixed income elderly residents to reduce the number of trips that they make for shopping or business, which furthers the inconvenience of not having a local post office.

Please consider lifting the emergency suspension of the Claremont Post Office and reopening it in the renovated building that is available.

Sincerely,

Judy Pierson
11542 411 Ave
Claremont, SD 57432

Copy Also sent to Johnson & Thune

August 15, 2009

Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
Aberdeen Office
121 4th Ave Ste 1
Aberdeen SD 57401

Dear Representative Herseth Sandlin,

On behalf of the "The Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office" I want to thank you for the effort that you made for us. We appreciate your communications with the United States Postal Service. Because of the work your office did, the USPS sent out an engineer to evaluate the building that we have available and the renovations that the new owner either has done already or is planning to do. The engineer gave us the impression that the site was more than adequate, however; we have not heard anything from the Postal Service. It has been more than a month since the building was evaluated and we feel that without additional intervention on your part, the USPS will continue to put off making a decision and hopefully moving forward with lifting the emergency suspension.

I am enclosing a letter that I have sent to Dakotas District Manager, Clem Felchle. Anything that you could do in the future to help us will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Judy Pierson, contact person
The Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office
11542 411th Ave
Claremont SD 57432

COPY

September 21, 2009

Clem Felchle
District Manager
United States Postal Service
Sioux Falls SD 57104

Dear Mr Felchle:

The Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office has been notified by our congressional delegation that you estimated the costs to modify the sites recommended by our community at over \$73,000 for the former post office building and over \$115,000 for the current city hall. In order for our community to decide what they want to do about these sites, we need a copy of the completed facilities study detailing the break down of the cost of each option.

We hope that you will be able to act on our request as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

The Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office
Contact person: Judy Pierson
11542 411 Ave
Claremont SD 57432

Cc: Senator Johnson, Senator Thune, Representative Herseth Sandlin

Copy - sent to Thune, Johnson
Herseth Sandlin

September 21, 2009

Senator John Thune
493 Russell Office Bldg
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Thune:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter that I have sent to the Manager of the Dakotas District, USPS. As you probably know, service to the Claremont SD PO was suspended on December 29, 2008. This has created an inconvenience for all of the patrons, and a hardship for most of the businesses.

I hope that your office can do something to encourage the USPS to send us the information that we are requesting.

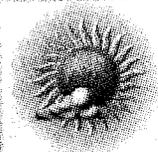
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office
Judy Pierson, contact person
11542 411 Ave
Claremont, SD 57432
(605) 294-5862
email jlpierson@nvc.net

Aberdeen American News
Aberdeen SD

MOBRIDGE 5-4-09
Good morning!



Today
66 / 41

news & notes

CLAREMONT

Town wants post office back

A committee formed to save the Claremont Post Office has taken a survey of local postal patrons. The results of that survey are overwhelming in favor of reopening the post office, said the committee.

Services at the post office were suspended Dec. 29 over repairs that the Postal Service said were necessary. "We were told too late to take action to remedy the problems," committee member Roger Schuller said in a press release.

The mail is currently being handled at the Langford Post Office.

In hopes of getting the suspension lifted, the survey comments were presented to South Dakota's congressional delegation and mailed to the Postal Service on Monday.

Claremont resident Wanette Lenling, a member of the post office committee, has purchased the post office building from the previous owner.

"I'm offering to make the necessary repairs to the existing building to get the Post Office back," Lenling said. "Also, the town has offered the City Hall portion of the Fire Hall for a Post Office site."

The Post Office was not on any closure list, residents said. "The Claremont community is telling the Postal Service we are ready to do business," said Judy Pierson, another member of the committee. "We only want back what was taken from us. We are not asking for anything more than what we had."

TIM JOHNSON
SOUTH DAKOTA

RAPID CITY OFFICE: (605) 341-3990
PO BOX 1098, RAPID CITY, SD 57709

ABERDEEN OFFICE: (605) 226-3440
PO BOX 1554, ABERDEEN, SD 57402

SIOUX FALLS OFFICE: (605) 332-8896
PO BOX 1424, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57101

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
136 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
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TDD: (202) 224-8279

TOLL FREE
1-800-537-0025

E-MAIL: tim@johnson.senate.gov
WEB SITE: <http://johnson.senate.gov>

October 28, 2009

Judy Pierson
"Committee to Save the Claremont Office"
11542 411th Avenue
Claremont, South Dakota 57432

Dear Judy:

As your committee reviews your options regarding the status of the Claremont Post Office, I did want to remind you of the statement in Mr. Felche's letter of September 2, 2009. He stated, "If a suitable location is found and someone will be responsible for the maintenance of the box year round, we would reinstall the box." Although this would not be your preference, I did want to reiterate his offer. A copy of this correspondence is enclosed.

If you have additional questions or comments regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me in the Aberdeen office listed above.

Sincerely,



Sharon Stroschein
Northeast Area Director
U.S. Senator Tim Johnson

Enclosure

cc: Roger Schuller

RECEIVED SEP 04 2009



September 2, 2009

THE HONORABLE TIM JOHNSON
UNITED STATES SENATE
PO BOX 1554
ABERDEEN SD 57402-1554

Dear Senator Johnson:

This is in response to your August 19 inquiry from the Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office, concerning an update on the facility review of the buildings in Claremont.

As you are aware, postal services were suspended at the Claremont Post Office due to unsafe working conditions that existed at the facility. These conditions required considerable repairs, estimated to be in excess of \$10,000. The lessor refused to make these repairs, and notified us of the non-renewal of their lease. As the conditions were not conducive to postal operations, and the present working environment was not suitable for our employees as well as our customers, mail delivery was moved to Langford SD, and operations at the Claremont Post Office were suspended.

The community has offered two sites in which to continue postal services. One was the previous Post Office building, and the other, the existing Town Hall. In good faith, I agreed to see if our Facility Service Office (FSO) would complete a facility site study to review and inspect these buildings. That study has been completed and the findings provided with consideration for two options.

It is noted in the facility report that because the facility was vacated and the lease terminated, if the USPS moves back into that facility or leases a new facility, the latest USPS Building Design Standards would be required to be met. The design standards are defined in the December 17, 2008, "Standard Design Criteria" (Handbook AS-503). This document clearly defines that ALL facilities must meet the standards defined in the handbook. The following is an excerpt from the handbook stating the need to meet the standards: ***"The Building Design Standards are to be used on all facility-related projects, using the appropriate documents based on facility size and type. This policy applies equally to all design and construction related activities regardless of size, whether new construction or repair and alteration, owned or leased. Where any requirement is specified by a particular program name, such requirements shall be construed as applicable to any facility of that size range."***

Option 1 provided in the report was to re-occupy the original building. This includes the landlord making all required improvements plus updating to meet the current code, design, and construction standards as indicated above. Estimated cost for this option is \$73,392.00. This does not include additional costs for PO Boxes, parcel lockers, moving and transportation costs, and any other operational costs not addressed.

PO BOX 7500
SIOUX FALLS SD 57117-7500

WWW.USPS.COM

Option 2 provided in the report was to occupy the existing Town Hall building. Again, because the Postal Service cannot move into a new space or lease a new space without following present design criteria, it was estimated this option would cost \$114,895. Additional costs not included are the cost of PO Boxes, parcel lockers, moving and transportation costs, and other operational costs not addressed.

Because of a number of business challenges, most notably a rapid decline in mail volume, we are projected to lose as much as \$7.5 billion this year. Thus, we are evaluating every facet of our organization and our operations to identify effective ways to reduce costs while maintaining reliable, efficient service to the communities we serve.

We feel that we are meeting our universal service obligation to the Claremont community. We are continuing to provide effective and efficient delivery service to the community via rural delivery service from the Langford Post Office, approximately 14 miles away.

After full review of the facility site study including the costs associated to occupy a new leased space, postal equipment required, personnel and operational costs and considering our financial obligations and current situation, we find that it would be cost prohibitive and fiscally irresponsible to move forward with a new facility project for Claremont SD.

We have also reviewed and considered the request by the Claremont community to reinstall the outgoing collection box. If a suitable location is found and someone will be responsible for the maintenance of the box year round, we would reinstall the box.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. If I can be of further assistance in this or other postal matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Clem Felchle
District Manager, Customer Service & Sales

Cc: Paul Turnbull, Manager, Post Office Operations, Huron SD
Mona Nickelson, Postmaster, Langford SD

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 17, 2008

Judy Pierson
11542 411th Avenue
Claremont, SD 57432

Dear Judy:

Thank you for contacting me regarding your concerns with the United States Postal Service (USPS). I appreciate you taking time to contact my Aberdeen office.

Your frustration with the potential closing of the Claremont Post Office is certainly understandable. On your behalf, I have contacted USPS officials to request a full and expeditious review of this matter. As soon as any response is received, I will be back in touch with you.

If you have questions in the meantime, please contact Jason Lutz of my Aberdeen office at (605) 225-8823.

Kindest regards,



JOHN THUNE
United States Senator

JT:jl

TIM JOHNSON
SOUTH DAKOTA

RAPID CITY OFFICE: (605) 341-3990
PO BOX 1098, RAPID CITY, SD 57709

ABERDEEN OFFICE: (605) 226-3440
PO BOX 1554, ABERDEEN, SD 57402

SIOUX FALLS OFFICE: (605) 332-8896
PO BOX 1424, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57101

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104

March 3, 2009

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E-MAIL: tim@johnson.senate.gov
WEB SITE: <http://johnson.senate.gov>

Judy Pierson
11542 411th Avenue
Claremont, South Dakota 57432

Dear Judy:

In further response to your inquiry, we have contacted USPS officials in Huron and Sioux Falls requesting the possibility of placing a blue collection box in Claremont. They indicated it is currently under consideration. However, they express concerns about where it might be located and who would be responsible for keeping the area clear of ice and snow. Your community would need to be prepared to answer these concerns.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, Judy, please do not hesitate to contact me in the Aberdeen office listed above.

Sincerely,



Sharon Stroschein
Northeast Area Director
U.S. Senator Tim Johnson

Dakotas District
District Manager



May 12, 2009

Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
Member of Congress
13 Second Ave., SE, Suite 1
Aberdeen SD 57401-4239

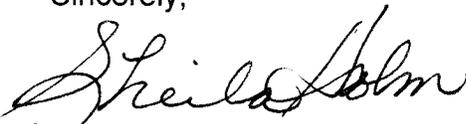
Dear Representative Herseth Sandlin:

I have received your correspondence dated May 7, 2009 on behalf of The Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office of Claremont, South Dakota, concerning the status of their Post Office. I appreciate you bringing this matter to my attention.

My staff is investigating the issues, and a response will be sent to you as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in the interim if you have any additional concerns.

Sincerely,


for Clem Felchle
District Manager

CF/sh

TIM JOHNSON
SOUTH DAKOTA

RAPID CITY OFFICE: (605) 341-3990
PO BOX 1098, RAPID CITY, SD 57709

ABERDEEN OFFICE: (605) 226-3440
PO BOX 1554, ABERDEEN, SD 57402

SIOUX FALLS OFFICE: (605) 332-8896
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104

May 11, 2009

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Judy Pierson
11542 411th Avenue
Claremont, South Dakota 57432

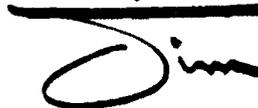
Dear Judy:

In response to my inquiry on your behalf, I have received a letter from Clem Felchle, District Manager, United States Postal Service. A copy of his correspondence is enclosed.

As you will note, his staff is investigating this issue and will send a response as soon as possible. I will contact you when I receive any correspondence from them.

Once again, Judy, I am happy my office can be of assistance. If you have any questions or comments regarding this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact my Staff Assistant, Sharon Stroschein, in my Aberdeen office listed above.

Sincerely,



Tim Johnson
United States Senate

TJ/sms
enclosure

DISTRICT MANAGER
DAKOTAS DISTRICT



REC'D MAY 11 2009

May 6, 2009

The Honorable Tim Johnson
United States Senator
Attn: Sharon Stroschein
PO Box 1554
Aberdeen SD 57402-1554

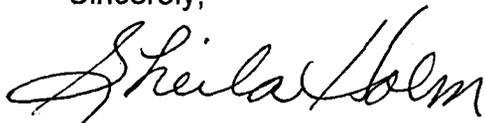
Dear Senator Johnson:

I have received your correspondence dated May 5, 2009 on behalf of the Claremont community of Claremont, South Dakota, concerning the Post Office status and mail service for Claremont. I appreciate you bringing this matter to my attention.

My staff is investigating the issues and a response will be sent to you as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in the interim if you have any additional concerns.

Sincerely,

for 
Clem Felchle
District Manager

CF/sh

STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN
AT LARGE, SOUTH DAKOTA

WASHINGTON, DC
331 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE (202) 225-2801
FAX (202) 225-5823

<http://hersethsandlin.house.gov/>



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 20, 2009

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION, CREDIT,
ENERGY, AND RESEARCH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES
AND RISK MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,
FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING

Judy Pierson
11542 411 Avenue
Claremont, SD 57432

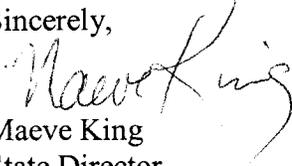
Dear Judy:

In reference to Congresswoman Herseth Sandlin's inquiry on your behalf, we have received a response from the Dakotas District of the U.S. Postal Service. A copy of that correspondence is enclosed for your review.

As you will note, District Manager Clem Felchle states his staff is looking into this situation and will respond to our office as soon as possible.

When we receive further information regarding this matter, we will be in contact with you. In the interim, please share this information with the Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office. If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (605) 626-3440 in the Aberdeen office.

Sincerely,


Maeve King
State Director

Enclosure

SIoux FALLS, SD
326 E. 8TH ST., SUITE 108
SIoux FALLS, SD 57103
PHONE (605) 367-8371
FAX (605) 367-8373

RAPID CITY, SD
343 QUINCY ST., SUITE 102
RAPID CITY, SD 57702
PHONE (605) 394-5280
FAX (605) 394-5282

ABERDEEN, SD
121 FOURTH AVENUE SW, SUITE 1
ABERDEEN, SD 57401
PHONE (605) 626-3440
FAX (605) 626-3441

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 15, 2009

Judy Pierson
11542 411th Avenue
Claremont, SD 57432

Dear Judy:

Thank you for contacting me regarding your concerns with the United States Postal Service (USPS). I appreciate you taking time to contact my Aberdeen office.

Your frustration with the closing of the Claremont Post Office is certainly understandable. As you are aware, I have been working to resolve this issue. On your behalf, I have recently made further contact with USPS officials to request an update on this situation. As soon as any response is received, I will be back in touch with you.

If you have questions in the meantime, please contact Jason Lutz of my Aberdeen office at (605) 225-8823.

Kindest regards,



JOHN THUNE
United States Senator

JT:jl



June 23, 2009

THE HONORABLE STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
121 4th AVE SW STE 1
ABERDEEN SD 57402-4133

Dear Congresswoman Herseth Sandlin,

This is in response to your May 7, 2009, inquiry on behalf of the community of Claremont SD and the emergency suspension of the Claremont Post Office. A series of unexpected and unplanned events occurred resulting in the emergency suspension of the Claremont Post Office on December 29, 2008.

Since that time, my office has responded to a number of inquiries from the community on this matter. Additionally, last month I received a call from Mr. Robert A. Schuller, a member of the Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office. During that conversation I indicated I would contact the Facility Services Office (FSO) in Denver regarding the community's request for someone to come and review the building sites they were proposing for continuing postal services in Claremont.

The FSO contacted me and they are in the process of contracting with a third party to review the proposed building sites in Claremont. That review, when completed, will provide the cost to postalize the facility, meeting all regulations and specifications that are required. At this time, no final decision has been made regarding the Claremont Post Office. We continue to provide effective and efficient delivery service to the community via rural delivery service emanating from the Langford Post Office, approximately 14 miles away.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. As this review and process moves forward, we will keep your office informed. If I can be of further assistance in other postal matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clem Felchle".

Clem Felchle
District Manager, Customer Service & Sales

Cc: Paul Turnbull, Acting, Manager, Post Office Operations, Huron SD
Mona Nickelson, Postmaster, Langford SD

TIM JOHNSON
SOUTH DAKOTA

RAPID CITY OFFICE: (605) 341-3990
PO BOX 1098, RAPID CITY, SD 57709

ABERDEEN OFFICE: (605) 226-3440
PO BOX 1554, ABERDEEN, SD 57402

SIOUX FALLS OFFICE: (605) 332-8896
PO BOX 1424, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57101

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104

June 25, 2009

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
136 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104
(202) 224-5842

TDD: (202) 224-8279

TOLL FREE
1-800-537-0025

E-MAIL: tim@johnson.senate.gov
WEB SITE: <http://johnson.senate.gov>

Judy Pierson
11542 411th Avenue
Claremont, South Dakota 57432

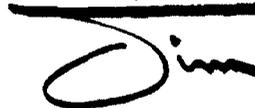
Dear Judy:

In response to my inquiry on your behalf, I have received a letter from Clem Felchle, District Manager, United States Postal Service. A copy of this correspondence is enclosed.

As you will note, Mr. Felchle has contacted the Facility Services Office [FSO] in Denver regarding the community's request for a review of the building sites they had proposed for continuing postal services in Claremont. The FSO is currently in the process of contracting with a third party to review the proposed building sites in Claremont. I will contact you when I receive any further correspondence from them.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact my Staff Assistant, Sharon Stroschein, in my Aberdeen office listed above.

Sincerely,



Tim Johnson
United States Senate

TJ/sms
enclosure

cc: Roger Schuller

RECEIVED JUN 25 2009



June 23, 2009

THE HONORABLE TIM JOHNSON
UNITED STATES SENATE
PO BOX 1554
ABERDEEN SD 57402-1554
ATTN: SHARON STROSCHEIN

Dear Senator Johnson:

This is in response to your May 5, 2009, inquiry on behalf of the community of Claremont SD and the emergency suspension of the Claremont Post Office. A series of unexpected and unplanned events occurred resulting in the emergency suspension of the Claremont Post Office on December 29, 2008.

Since that time, my office has responded to a number of inquiries from the community on this matter. Additionally, last month I received a call from Mr. Robert A. Schuller, a member of the Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office. During that conversation I indicated I would contact the Facility Services Office (FSO) in Denver regarding the community's request for someone to come and review the building sites they were proposing for continuing postal services in Claremont.

The FSO contacted me and they are in the process of contracting with a third party to review the proposed building sites in Claremont. That review, when completed, will provide the cost to postalize the facility, meeting all regulations and specifications that are required. At this time, no final decision has been made regarding the Claremont Post Office. We continue to provide effective and efficient delivery service to the community via rural delivery service emanating from the Langford Post Office, approximately 14 miles away.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. As this review and process moves forward, we will keep your office informed. If I can be of further assistance in other postal matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clem Felchle".

Clem Felchle
District Manager, Customer Service & Sales

Cc: Paul Turnbull, Acting, Manager, Post Office Operations, Huron SD
Mona Nickelson, Postmaster, Langford SD

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 2, 2009

Judy Pierson
11542 411th Avenue
Claremont, SD 57432

Dear Judy:

Please find enclosed a copy of the letter I have received from the Dakotas District Office of the United States Postal Service (USPS) in response to my inquiry on your behalf.

As you will note, the Facility Services Office is currently contracting with a third party to review the proposed building sites in Claremont. The completed review will provide the cost to convert the facilities, meeting all required USPS regulations and specifications. At this time, no final decision has been made by the USPS regarding the Claremont Post Office. I hope this information is helpful to you. Be assured that I will continue to monitor this situation closely and update you as the process moves forward.

If you have questions in the meantime, please contact Jason Lutz of my Aberdeen office at (605) 225-8823.

Kindest regards,



JOHN THUNE
United States Senator

JT:jl

Enclosure



June 23, 2009

THE HONORABLE JOHN THUNE
UNITED STATES SENATE
320 S 1ST ST STE 1
ABERDEEN SD 57401-0969

Dear Senator Thune,

This is in response to your June 17, 2009, inquiry on behalf of Ms. Judy Pierson, Claremont SD and the closure of the Claremont Post Office. A series of unexpected and unplanned events occurred resulting in the emergency suspension of the Claremont Post Office on December 29, 2008.

Since that time, my office has responded to a number of inquiries from the community on this matter. Additionally, last month I received a call from Mr. Robert A. Schuller, a member of the Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office. During that conversation I indicated I would contact the Facility Services Office (FSO) in Denver regarding the community's request for someone to come and review the building sites they were proposing for continuing postal services in Claremont.

The FSO contacted me and they are in the process of contracting with a third party to review the proposed building sites in Claremont. That review, when completed, will provide the cost to postalize the facility, meeting all regulations and specifications that are required. At this time, no final decision has been made regarding the Claremont Post Office. We continue to provide effective and efficient delivery service to the community via rural delivery service emanating from the Langford Post Office, approximately 14 miles away.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. As this review and process moves forward, we will keep your office informed. If I can be of further assistance in other postal matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clem Felchle".

Clem Felchle
District Manager, Customer Service & Sales

Cc: Paul Turnbull, Acting, Manager, Post Office Operations, Huron SD
Mona Nickelson, Postmaster, Langford SD

STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN
AT LARGE, SOUTH DAKOTA



WASHINGTON, DC
331 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE (202) 225-2801
FAX (202) 225-5823

<http://hersethsandlin.house.gov/>

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION, CREDIT,
ENERGY, AND RESEARCH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES
AND RISK MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,
FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

July 14, 2009

Judy Pierson
11542 411th Avenue
Claremont, SD 57432

Dear Judy:

In reference to Congresswoman Herseth Sandlin's inquiry on your behalf, we have received a response from Clem Felchle, District Manager for the Dakotas District of the U.S. Postal Service. A copy of that correspondence is enclosed for your review.

As you will note, the Facilities Services Office (FSO) is in the process of reviewing the proposed building sites in Claremont. Since this letter was written, I have spoken with Mr. Felchle and he said he hoped to have more information from the FSO by next week.

When we receive further information regarding this matter, we will be in contact with you. In the interim, if you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (605) 626-3440 in the Aberdeen office.

Sincerely,

Maeve King
State Director

Enclosure

SIOUX FALLS, SD
326 E. 8TH ST., SUITE 108
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57103
PHONE (605) 367-8371
FAX (605) 367-8373

RAPID CITY, SD
343 QUINCY ST., SUITE 102
RAPID CITY, SD 57702
PHONE (605) 394-5280
FAX (605) 394-5282

ABERDEEN, SD
121 FOURTH AVENUE SW, SUITE 1
ABERDEEN, SD 57401
PHONE (605) 626-3440
FAX (605) 626-3441

TIM JOHNSON
SOUTH DAKOTA

RAPID CITY OFFICE: (605) 341-3990
PO BOX 1098, RAPID CITY, SD 57709

ABERDEEN OFFICE: (605) 226-3440
PO BOX 1554, ABERDEEN, SD 57402

SIOUX FALLS OFFICE: (605) 332-8896
PO BOX 1424, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57101

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
136 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104
(202) 224-5842

TDD: (202) 224-8279

TOLL FREE
1-800-537-0025

E-MAIL: tim@johnson.senate.gov
WEB SITE: <http://johnson.senate.gov>

August 19, 2009

Judy Pierson
"Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office"
11542 411th Avenue
Claremont, South Dakota 57432

Dear Judy:

In response to your recent correspondence, I have again contacted the United States Postal Service to ask them for an update on their engineer's evaluation of your proposed upgrades to the Claremont Post Office. I will contact you again as soon as I receive a response.

In the meantime, if you have further information or concerns, please contact my staff assistant, Sharon Stroschein, at my Aberdeen office listed above.

Once again, thank you for contacting my office and bringing this to my attention.

Sincerely,



Tim Johnson
United States Senate

TJ/sms

TIM JOHNSON
SOUTH DAKOTA

RAPID CITY OFFICE: (605) 341-3990
PO BOX 1098, RAPID CITY, SD 57709

ABERDEEN OFFICE: (605) 226-3440
PO BOX 1554, ABERDEEN, SD 57402

SIOUX FALLS OFFICE: (605) 332-8896
PO BOX 1424, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57101

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104

August 24, 2009

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
136 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104
(202) 224-5842

TDD: (202) 224-8279

TOLL FREE
1-800-537-0025

E-MAIL: tim@johnson.senate.gov
WEB SITE: <http://johnson.senate.gov>

Judy Pierson
Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office
11542 411th Avenue
Claremont, South Dakota 57432

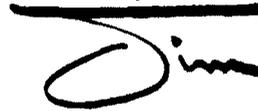
Dear Judy:

In further response to my inquiry on your behalf, I have received a letter from Clem Felchle, District Manager, USPS. A copy of his correspondence is enclosed.

Per his letter, his staff is still investigating the issues concerning the Claremont Post Office. I will contact you when I receive any additional correspondence from them.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, Judy, please do not hesitate to contact my Staff Assistant, Sharon Stroschein, in my Aberdeen office listed above.

Sincerely,



Tim Johnson
United States Senate

TJ/sms
enclosure

RECEIVED AUG 24 2009

DISTRICT MANAGER
DAKOTAS DISTRICT



August 21, 2009

The Honorable Tim Johnson
United States Senator
Attn: Kati Bachmayer
PO Box 1554
Aberdeen SD 57402-1554

Dear Senator Johnson:

I have received your correspondence dated August 19, 2009 on behalf of the Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office, Claremont, South Dakota, concerning the postal facility. I appreciate you bringing this matter to my attention.

My staff is investigating the issues and a response will be sent to you as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in the interim if you have any additional concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clem Felchle".

Clem Felchle
District Manager

CF/sh

RAPID CITY OFFICE: (605) 341-3990
PO BOX 1098, RAPID CITY, SD 57709

ABERDEEN OFFICE: (605) 226-3440
PO BOX 1554, ABERDEEN, SD 57402

SIOUX FALLS OFFICE: (605) 332-5896
PO BOX 1424, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57101

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104

(202) 224-3044
TDD: (202) 224-8279

TOLL FREE
1-800-537-0025

E-MAIL: tim@johnson.senate.gov
WEB SITE: <http://johnson.senate.gov>

September 8, 2009

Judy Pierson
Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office
11542 411th Avenue
Claremont, South Dakota 57432

Dear Judy:

In response to Senator Johnson's inquiry on your behalf, we have received a response from Clem Felchle, District Manager, United States Postal Service. A copy of his correspondence is enclosed.

We had hoped this response could have been more positive. As you will note, the USPS states that two options were considered, the previous Post Office building and the existing Town Hall facility. Due to design standards quoted in Mr. Felchle's response, the estimates for repairs to meet these standards are quoted in the amounts of \$73,392.00 and \$114,895.00 respectively. The greater concern may be his statement, "because of the rapid decline in mail volume, we are projected to lose as much as \$7.5 billion this year. Thus we are evaluating every facet of our organization and our operations to identify effective ways to reduce costs while maintaining reliable, efficient services to the communities we serve." On the positive side, they have reviewed and considered the request to reinstall the outgoing collection box if a suitable location is found and someone will be responsible for maintenance of the box year round.

Sincerely,



Sharon Stroschein
Northeast Area Director
U.S. Senator Tim Johnson

Enclosure
Cc: Roger Schuller, Claremont, SD

RECEIVED SEP 04 2009



September 2, 2009

THE HONORABLE TIM JOHNSON
UNITED STATES SENATE
PO BOX 1554
ABERDEEN SD 57402-1554

Dear Senator Johnson:

This is in response to your August 19 inquiry from the Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office, concerning an update on the facility review of the buildings in Claremont.

As you are aware, postal services were suspended at the Claremont Post Office due to unsafe working conditions that existed at the facility. These conditions required considerable repairs, estimated to be in excess of \$10,000. The lessor refused to make these repairs, and notified us of the non-renewal of their lease. As the conditions were not conducive to postal operations, and the present working environment was not suitable for our employees as well as our customers, mail delivery was moved to Langford SD, and operations at the Claremont Post Office were suspended.

The community has offered two sites in which to continue postal services. One was the previous Post Office building, and the other, the existing Town Hall. In good faith, I agreed to see if our Facility Service Office (FSO) would complete a facility site study to review and inspect these buildings. That study has been completed and the findings provided with consideration for two options.

It is noted in the facility report that because the facility was vacated and the lease terminated, if the USPS moves back into that facility or leases a new facility, the latest USPS Building Design Standards would be required to be met. The design standards are defined in the December 17, 2008, "Standard Design Criteria" (Handbook AS-503). This document clearly defines that ALL facilities must meet the standards defined in the handbook. The following is an excerpt from the handbook stating the need to meet the standards: ***"The Building Design Standards are to be used on all facility-related projects, using the appropriate documents based on facility size and type. This policy applies equally to all design and construction related activities regardless of size, whether new construction or repair and alteration, owned or leased. Where any requirement is specified by a particular program name, such requirements shall be construed as applicable to any facility of that size range."***

Option 1 provided in the report was to re-occupy the original building. This includes the landlord making all required improvements plus updating to meet the current code, design, and construction standards as indicated above. Estimated cost for this option is \$73,392.00. This does not include additional costs for PO Boxes, parcel lockers, moving and transportation costs, and any other operational costs not addressed.

Option 2 provided in the report was to occupy the existing Town Hall building. Again, because the Postal Service cannot move into a new space or lease a new space without following present design criteria, it was estimated this option would cost \$114,895. Additional costs not included are the cost of PO Boxes, parcel lockers, moving and transportation costs, and other operational costs not addressed.

Because of a number of business challenges, most notably a rapid decline in mail volume, we are projected to lose as much as \$7.5 billion this year. Thus, we are evaluating every facet of our organization and our operations to identify effective ways to reduce costs while maintaining reliable, efficient service to the communities we serve.

We feel that we are meeting our universal service obligation to the Claremont community. We are continuing to provide effective and efficient delivery service to the community via rural delivery service from the Langford Post Office, approximately 14 miles away.

After full review of the facility site study including the costs associated to occupy a new leased space, postal equipment required, personnel and operational costs and considering our financial obligations and current situation, we find that it would be cost prohibitive and fiscally irresponsible to move forward with a new facility project for Claremont SD.

We have also reviewed and considered the request by the Claremont community to reinstall the outgoing collection box. If a suitable location is found and someone will be responsible for the maintenance of the box year round, we would reinstall the box.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. If I can be of further assistance in this or other postal matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Clem Felchle

District Manager, Customer Service & Sales

Cc: Paul Turnbull, Manager, Post Office Operations, Huron SD
Mona Nickelson, Postmaster, Langford SD

STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN
AT LARGE, SOUTH DAKOTA

WASHINGTON, DC
331 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE (202) 225-2801
FAX (202) 225-5823

<http://hersethsandlin.house.gov/>



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION, CREDIT,
ENERGY, AND RESEARCH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES
AND RISK MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,
FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING

September 10, 2009

Judy Pierson
11542 411th Avenue
Claremont, SD 57432

Dear Judy:

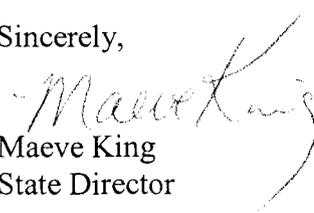
In reference to Congresswoman Herseth Sandlin's inquiry on behalf of The Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office, we have received a response from Clem Felchle, District Manager for Customer Service and Sales for the United States Postal Service (USPS). A copy of that correspondence is enclosed for your review.

As you will note, Mr. Felchle indicates it would be cost-prohibitive to bring either of the two proposed facilities up to the required USPS code, especially in light of the current financial state of the USPS and the need to cut costs. He states the needs of the community are being met. USPS will reinstall the outgoing collection box if a suitable location is found and someone will assume responsibility for maintenance of the box and location.

After receiving the enclosed letter from USPS, I received a call from Wanette Lenling. She has seen the response from Mr. Felchle and does not believe the \$73,392.00 accurately reflects the cost of updates needed to the facility she owns, the former site of the Claremont Post Office. Since Ms. Lenling has already completed many repairs, such as installing a new furnace and air conditioning, fixing the roof, and mold abatement, she believes the costs to reoccupy the building would be considerably less than the stated cost of \$73,392.00. She is sending the enclosed letter to Mr. Felchle to dispute the findings of USPS.

When we receive further information regarding this matter, we will be in contact with you. In the interim, if you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (605) 626-3440 in the Aberdeen office.

Sincerely,


Maeve King
State Director

Enclosures

SIoux FALLS, SD
326 E. 8TH ST., SUITE 108
SIoux FALLS, SD 57103
PHONE (605) 367-8371
FAX (605) 367-8373

RAPID CITY, SD
343 QUINCY ST., SUITE 102
RAPID CITY, SD 57702
PHONE (605) 394-5280
FAX (605) 394-5282

ABERDEEN, SD
121 FOURTH AVENUE SW, SUITE 1
ABERDEEN, SD 57401
PHONE (605) 626-3440
FAX (605) 626-3441

September 14, 2009

Dear Sir or Madam,

Enclosed is a copy of the letter I have sent to Clem Felchle, District Manager of the Postal Service in South Dakota concerning the upgrades I have made to the post office building in Claremont. I have also enclosed a copy of the letter Clem Felchle sent to Senator Tim Johnson concerning the post office in Claremont. Senator Johnson sent our Committee to save the Claremont Post Office a copy of the letter from Clem. If you have any questions concerning the Claremont Post Office building, feel free to contact me:

Wanette Lenling
308 5th Ave
Claremont, SD 57432
605-294-5231

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wanette Lenling". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Wanette Lenling

September 14, 2009

Wanette Lenling
308 5th Ave
Claremont SD 57432

Clem Felchle
Dakotas District Manager
United States Postal Service
281 S Kiwanis Ste 400
Sioux Falls, SD 57105-8122

Dear Mr. Felchle,

I am the new owner of the post office building in Claremont. I am the person that offered to buy and remodel the post office building before the former lease was up during the town meeting in Claremont with the postal service representative in December 2008. I was told to call Linda McCloskey to discuss my offer further. When I called Linda McCloskey of the postal service to discuss the situation I was told it was no longer possible. I made the call before the lease on the building was terminated. I am writing to you now to report that I have completed the following updates on the post office building. I have installed a forced air heating system that is compatible with a central air cooling system, a water heater has been installed and the mold issue in the basement has been remedied. Per my understanding from the town hall meeting in December 2008, these were the upgrades that were deemed necessary to keep the post office open. They are now completed. In addition, I have also installed new electrical wiring and breaker box, all new water lines, completed repairs to the rest room and added a digital thermostat to compliment the new heating system in the building. A new metal roofing system will be installed later this year. The total cost of upgrades so far is \$6000.00. I paid for this myself as I said I would at the town hall meeting.

In regard to the handicap ramp, I am willing to have it built as soon as you send me the postal service's specifications on said structure. I have already obtained permission from the town of Claremont and the property owner next door to build the ramp as necessary on the sidewalk in front of the post office building.

I am willing to make other reasonable upgrades to the building to suit the needs of the postal service if you send me a complete list and we can agree the recommended upgrades are in fact reasonable. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Wanette Lenling

Cc The Honorable Senator Tim Johnson
The Honorable Senator John Thune
The Honorable Representative Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin
Judy Pierson, Committee to Save the Claremont Post office
Roger Schuller, Committee to Save the Claremont Post office



September 2, 2009

THE HONORABLE STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
121 4TH AVE SW STE 1
ABERDEEN SD 57402-4133

Dear Congresswoman Herseth Sandlin:

This is a courtesy response to your office concerning an update on the facility review of the buildings in Claremont SD.

As you are aware, postal services were suspended at the Claremont Post Office due to unsafe working conditions that existed at the facility. These conditions required considerable repairs, estimated to be in excess of \$10,000. The lessor refused to make these repairs, and notified us of the non-renewal of their lease. As the conditions were not conducive to postal operations, and the present working environment was not suitable for our employees as well as our customers, mail delivery was moved to Langford SD, and operations at the Claremont Post Office were suspended.

The community has offered two sites in which to continue postal services. One was the previous Post Office building, and the other, the existing Town Hall. In good faith, I agreed to see if our Facility Service Office (FSO) would complete a facility site study to review and inspect these buildings. That study has been completed and the findings provided with consideration for two options.

It is noted in the facility report that because the facility was vacated and the lease terminated, if the USPS moves back into that facility or leases a new facility, the latest USPS Building Design Standards would be required to be met. The design standards are defined in the December 17, 2008, "*Standard Design Criteria*" (Handbook AS-503). This document clearly defines that ALL facilities must meet the standards defined in the handbook. The following is an excerpt from the handbook stating the need to meet the standards: ***"The Building Design Standards are to be used on all facility-related projects, using the appropriate documents based on facility size and type. This policy applies equally to all design and construction related activities regardless of size, whether new construction or repair and alteration, owned or leased. Where any requirement is specified by a particular program name, such requirements shall be construed as applicable to any facility of that size range."***

Option 1 provided in the report was to re-occupy the original building. This includes the landlord making all required improvements plus updating to meet the current code, design, and construction standards as indicated above. Estimated cost for this option is \$73,392.00. This does not include additional costs for PO Boxes, parcel lockers, moving and transportation costs, and any other operational costs not addressed.

PO BOX 7500
SIOUX FALLS SD 57117-7500

WWW.USPS.COM

Option 2 provided in the report was to occupy the existing Town Hall building. Again, because the Postal Service cannot move into a new space or lease a new space without following present design criteria, it was estimated this option would cost \$114,895. Additional costs not included are the cost of PO Boxes, parcel lockers, moving and transportation costs, and other operational costs not addressed.

Because of a number of business challenges, most notably a rapid decline in mail volume, we are projected to lose as much as \$7.5 billion this year. Thus, we are evaluating every facet of our organization and our operations to identify effective ways to reduce costs while maintaining reliable, efficient service to the communities we serve.

We feel that we are meeting our universal service obligation to the Claremont community. We are continuing to provide effective and efficient delivery service to the community via rural delivery service from the Langford Post Office, approximately 14 miles away.

After full review of the facility site study including the costs associated to occupy a new leased space, postal equipment required, personnel and operational costs and considering our financial obligations and current situation, we find that it would be cost prohibitive and fiscally irresponsible to move forward with a new facility project for Claremont SD.

We have also reviewed and considered the request by the Claremont community to reinstall the outgoing collection box. If a suitable location is found and someone will be responsible for the maintenance of the box year round, we would reinstall the box.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. If I can be of further assistance in this or other postal matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Clem Felchle
District Manager, Customer Service & Sales

Cc: Paul Turnbull, Manager, Post Office Operations, Huron SD
Mona Nickelson, Postmaster, Langford SD

STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

AT LARGE, SOUTH DAKOTA

WASHINGTON, DC
331 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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FAX (202) 225-5823

<http://hersethsandlin.house.gov/>



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION, CREDIT,
ENERGY, AND RESEARCH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES
AND RISK MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,
FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

September 23, 2009

Clem Felchle
Manager
USPS Dakotas District
PO Box 7500
Sioux Falls, SD 57117-7500

Dear Mr. Felchle:

I have once again been contacted by Judy Pierson on behalf of The Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office. Enclosed is a copy of that correspondence for your review, as well as a copy of the letter the committee addressed to you.

As you will note, they are seeking a breakdown of the costs to remodel the two sites they have identified as locations in which to reopen the Claremont Post Office.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I have assured Ms. Pierson that I will seek your assistance in facilitating a prompt response to this matter. Please direct your response to my Aberdeen office.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
Member of Congress

SHS/mek
Enclosures

SIOUX FALLS, SD
326 E. 8TH ST., SUITE 108
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57103
PHONE (605) 367-8371
FAX (605) 367-8373

RAPID CITY, SD
343 QUINCY ST., SUITE 102
RAPID CITY, SD 57702
PHONE (605) 394-5280
FAX (605) 394-5282

ABERDEEN, SD
121 FOURTH AVENUE SW, SUITE 1
ABERDEEN, SD 57401
PHONE (605) 626-3440
FAX (605) 626-3441

STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN
AT LARGE, SOUTH DAKOTA

WASHINGTON, DC
331 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE (202) 225-2801
FAX (202) 225-5823

<http://hersethsandlin.house.gov/>



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,
FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

September 23, 2009

Judy Pierson
11542 411th Avenue
Claremont, SD 57432

Dear Judy:

In reference to my inquiry on your behalf, I have again contacted Clem Felchle, District Manager for the United States Postal Service (USPS). A copy of that correspondence is provided for your reference. As you will note, I have asked that a response be provided to me as quickly as possible.

As soon as I receive a response from the USPS, I will be in contact with you. In the meantime, if you feel there is some manner in which my office can be of additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Maeve King at (605) 626-3440 in my Aberdeen office.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hereth Sandlin
Member of Congress

SHS/mek
Enclosure

SIOUX FALLS, SD
326 E. 8TH ST., SUITE 108
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57103
PHONE (605) 367-8371
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ABERDEEN, SD
121 FOURTH AVENUE SW, SUITE 1
ABERDEEN, SD 57401
PHONE (605) 626-3440
FAX (605) 626-3441

TIM JOHNSON
SOUTH DAKOTA

RAPID CITY OFFICE: (605) 341-3990
PO BOX 1098, RAPID CITY, SD 57709

ABERDEEN OFFICE: (605) 226-3440
PO BOX 1554, ABERDEEN, SD 57402

SIOUX FALLS OFFICE: (605) 332-8896
PO BOX 1424, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57101

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104

September 28, 2009

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
136 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104
(202) 224-5842

TDD: (202) 224-8279

TOLL FREE
1-800-537-0025

E-MAIL: tim@johnson.senate.gov
WEB SITE: <http://johnson.senate.gov>

Judy Pierson, Chair
Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office
11542 411th Avenue
Claremont, South Dakota 57432

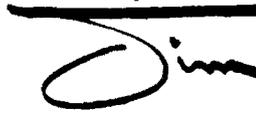
Dear Judy:

In response to my inquiry on your behalf, I have received a letter from Clem Felchle, District Manager, United States Postal Service. A copy of this correspondence is enclosed.

As you will note, they are investigating the issues and a response will be sent as soon as possible. I will contact you when I receive any correspondence from them.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact my Staff Assistant, Sharon Stroschein, in my Aberdeen office listed above.

Sincerely,



Tim Johnson
United States Senate

TJ/sms
enclosure

Cc: Wanette Lenling, Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office
Roger Schuller, Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office

DISTRICT MANAGER
DAKOTAS DISTRICT

RECEIVED SEP 28 2009



UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE

September 24, 2009

The Honorable Tim Johnson
United States Senator
Attn: Kati Bachmayer
PO Box 1554
Aberdeen SD 57402-1554

Dear Senator Johnson:

I have received your correspondence dated September 23, 2009 on behalf of the Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office, Claremont, South Dakota, concerning the postal facility. I appreciate you bringing this matter to my attention.

My staff is investigating the issues and a response will be sent to you as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in the interim if you have any additional concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clem Felchle'.

Clem Felchle
District Manager

CF/sh

STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN
AT LARGE, SOUTH DAKOTA

WASHINGTON, DC
331 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE (202) 225-2801
FAX (202) 225-5823

<http://herethsandlin.house.gov/>



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
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FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

October 8, 2009

Judy Pierson
11542 411 Avenue
Claremont, SD 57432

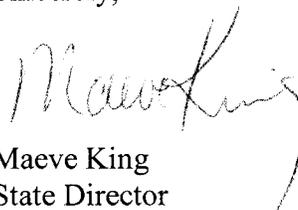
Dear Judy:

In reference to Congresswoman Herseth Sandlin's inquiry on your behalf, this office has received a response from Clem Felchle, District Manager, Customer Service & Sales for the United States Postal Service (USPS). A copy of that correspondence is enclosed for your review.

As you will note, Mr. Felchle has included itemized estimates for bringing both proposed Post Office locations up to code. He further notes that, given the loss of mail volume and current financial situation of the USPS, it would be "fiscally irresponsible" to open a new facility at this time. Because the Claremont Post Office has been closed, he considers any efforts to reopen the Post Office as a new facility.

Although the circumstances of this matter may not allow for the resolution we were seeking, I trust that you will find this provides sufficient clarification of your situation. If, however, you feel there is some manner in which this office can be of assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me at (605) 626-3440 in the Aberdeen office.

Sincerely,



Maeve King
State Director

Enclosures

SIOUX FALLS, SD
326 E. 8TH ST., SUITE 108
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57103
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121 FOURTH AVENUE SW, SUITE 1
ABERDEEN, SD 57401
PHONE (605) 626-3440
FAX (605) 626-3441

DAKOTAS DISTRICT
DISTRICT MANAGER



October 6, 2009

THE HONORABLE STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
121 4TH AVE SW STE 1
ABERDEEN SD 57402-4133

Dear Congresswoman Herseth Sandlin:

This is in response to your September 23, 2009, inquiry on behalf of Judy Pierson, The Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office, Claremont SD, 57432. I apologize for my late response, as I have been out of the office.

Enclosed please find a copy of itemization costs from the Facility Service Office for the reviews performed on the two building sites in Claremont SD. As noted in our previous response to your office, dated September 2, 2009, because the current building that housed the Post Office was vacated and the lease terminated, if the USPS were to consider moving back into that facility, the entire facility would have to be brought up to the latest USPS Building Design Standards. "Standard Design Criteria" Handbook AS-503 clearly defines that ALL facilities must meet the standards defined in the handbook. The estimated cost options for both building sites do not include additional costs for PO Boxes, parcel lockers, moving and transportation costs, salary and benefits for the Postmaster, or any other operational cost not addressed.

With the number of business challenges we face, most notably the decline mail volume, we are evaluating every facet of our organization and operations to ensure we are remaining fiscally responsible with the monies entrusted to us. Based on our financial obligations and current situation, we find it would be cost prohibitive and fiscally irresponsible to move forward with any new facility project at this time.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. If I can be of further assistance in this or other postal matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clem Felchle".

Clem Felchle
District Manager, Customer Service & Sales

Cc: Paul Turnbull, Manager, Post Office Operations, Huron SD
Mona Nickelson, Postmaster, Langford SD

PO BOX 7500
SIOUX FALLS SD 57117-7500

WWW.USPS.COM



USPS Estimate

Date: 7/23/2009

Claremont, SD Alternate Quarters MPO - FMS#: E84287
 Option #1 - Original Site (906 Sq. Ft.) - USPS Standards

Item	Units	UOM	\$/unit	Total
DIVISION 1				
Labor & Supervision	24	HR	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,200
Permits & Fees	1	EA	\$ 350.00	\$ 350
Freight Charges	1	EA	\$ 2,625.00	\$ 2,625
Negotiated Travel Costs	1	EA	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 3,750
DIVISION 2				
Rough Grading for Loading Area	150	SY	\$ 3.35	\$ 503
Base Course for Paving of Loading Area	75	CY	\$ 35.14	\$ 2,636
Asphalt Paving for Loading Area	150	SY	\$ 8.72	\$ 1,308
Concrete Sidewalk - ADA Curb Cut	1	EA	\$ 500.00	\$ 500
4" Steel Bollards	16	LF	\$ 28.45	\$ 455
DIVISION 6				
Wall Framing	176	SF	\$ 3.65	\$ 642
Demolition	22	LF	\$ 2.68	\$ 59
Built in place Cabinets	6	LF	\$ 135.61	\$ 814
DIVISION 8				
Metal Door Frames	4	EA	\$ 205.78	\$ 823
Metal Doors	2	EA	\$ 384.72	\$ 769
Wood Doors	2	EA	\$ 200.93	\$ 402
Alum Storefront System	56	SF	\$ 21.14	\$ 1,184
Alum Storefront Door	1	EA	\$ 3,215.58	\$ 3,216
Heavy Duty Door Closer	4	EA	\$ 265.54	\$ 1,062
Entrance Lock	2	EA	\$ 383.03	\$ 766
Storeroom Lock	1	EA	\$ 217.34	\$ 217
Storefront Emergency Exit	1	EA	\$ 1,530.45	\$ 1,530
Exterior Service Door Lock	1	EA	\$ 1,058.46	\$ 1,058
DIVISION 9				
5/8" Drywall - Taped & prepped	2,576	SF	\$ 3.20	\$ 8,243
Resilient Vinyl Tile	906	SF	\$ 4.36	\$ 3,952
Paint Door & Frames	4	EA	\$ 130.24	\$ 521
Paint Interior Drywall (Primer & 2 coats Paint)	5,152	SF	\$ 1.01	\$ 5,216
Paint Interior Drywall Ceiling (Primer & 2 coats Paint)	906	SF	\$ 1.13	\$ 1,019
DIVISION 10				
2x2 Corner Guards	48	LF	\$ 5.56	\$ 267
USPS Illum Vert Cabinet RCS64	1	EA	\$ 2,267.31	\$ 2,267
USPS Blank PO Box panel - Full Ht.	4	EA	\$ 137.75	\$ 551
USPS Electrical Feed Base	1	EA	\$ 123.45	\$ 123
USPS Std Workstation Base Unit	1	EA	\$ 4,467.27	\$ 4,467
USPS 5-Dwr Kit Non POS	1	EA	\$ 920.34	\$ 920
USPS 32" Handicap Side Counter	1	EA	\$ 571.77	\$ 572
Install USPS furnished PO Box Rack Assembly	12	EA	\$ 145.00	\$ 1,740
Wall mounted fire extinguisher	1	EA	\$ 77.54	\$ 78
DIVISION 12				
USPS Slatwall Panel 42" C206	1	EA	\$ 420.19	\$ 420
USPS Waste Unit C314	1	EA	\$ 1,116.60	\$ 1,117
USPS ADA Writing Desk C341	1	EA	\$ 2,068.52	\$ 2,069
USPS Storage Cabinet C412	1	EA	\$ 3,236.42	\$ 3,236
DIVISION 16				
Re-Work existing electric & lighting as req'd	1	LS	\$ 750.00	\$ 750
New Electrical Panel/Service	1	LS	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000
subtotal				\$ 63,399
General conditions	5%			\$ 3,170
subtotal				\$ 66,569
Overhead and profit	5%			\$ 3,328
subtotal				\$ 69,897
Contingency	5%			\$ 3,495
Total				\$ 73,392



USPS Estimate

Date: 7/23/2009

Claremont, SD Alternate Quaters MPO - FMS#: E84287

Option #2 - Alternate Site (542 Sq. Ft.) - Town Hall

Item	Units	UOM	\$/unit	Total
DIVISION 1				
Labor & Supervision	48	HR	\$ 50.00	\$ 2,400
Permits & Fees	1	EA	\$ 350.00	\$ 350
Freight Charges	1	EA	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500
Negotiated Travel Costs	1	EA	\$ 11,250.00	\$ 11,250
DIVISION 2				
Rough Grading for Parking	450	SY	\$ 3.35	\$ 1,508
Base Course for Paving	250	CY	\$ 35.14	\$ 8,785
Asphalt Paving	450	SY	\$ 8.72	\$ 3,924
Concrete Sidewalk	500	SF	\$ 4.83	\$ 2,415
4" Steel Ballards	16	LF	\$ 28.45	\$ 455
DIVISION 6				
Wall Framing	360	SF	\$ 3.65	\$ 1,314
Demolition	124	LF	\$ 2.68	\$ 332
Built in place Cabinets	6	LF	\$ 135.61	\$ 814
DIVISION 8				
Metal Door Frames	4	EA	\$ 205.78	\$ 823
Metal Doors	2	EA	\$ 384.72	\$ 769
Wood Doors	2	EA	\$ 200.93	\$ 402
Alum Storefront System	120	SF	\$ 21.14	\$ 2,537
Alum Storefront Door	1	EA	\$ 3,215.58	\$ 3,216
Heavy Duty Door Closer	4	EA	\$ 265.54	\$ 1,062
Entrance Lock	2	EA	\$ 383.03	\$ 766
Storeroom Lock	1	EA	\$ 217.34	\$ 217
Storefront Emergency Exit	1	EA	\$ 1,530.45	\$ 1,530
Exterior Service Door Lock	1	EA	\$ 1,058.46	\$ 1,058
DIVISION 9				
5/8" Drywall - Taped & prepped	1,440	SF	\$ 3.20	\$ 4,608
Resilient Vinyl Tile	542	SF	\$ 4.36	\$ 2,364
Paint Door & Frames	4	EA	\$ 130.24	\$ 521
Paint Interior Drywall (Primer & 2 coats Paint)	1,920	SF	\$ 1.01	\$ 1,944
Paint Interior Drywall Ceiling (Primer & 2 coats Paint)	542	SF	\$ 1.13	\$ 610
DIVISION 10				
2x2 Corner Guards	96L	F	\$ 5.56	\$ 534
USPS Illum Vert Cabinet RCS64	1	EA	\$ 2,267.31	\$ 2,267
USPS Blank PO Box panel - Full Ht.	4	EA	\$ 137.75	\$ 551
USPS Electrical Feed Base	1	EA	\$ 123.45	\$ 123
USPS Std Workstation Base Unit	1	EA	\$ 4,467.27	\$ 4,467
USPS 5-Dwr Kit Non POS	1	EA	\$ 920.34	\$ 920
USPS 32" Handicap Side Counter	1	EA	\$ 571.77	\$ 572
Install USPS furnished PO Box Rack Assembly	12	EA	\$ 145.00	\$ 1,740
Wall mounted fire extinguisher	1	EA	\$ 77.54	\$ 78
DIVISION 12				
USPS Slatwall Panel 42" C206	1	EA	\$ 420.19	\$ 420
USPS Waste Unit C314	1	EA	\$ 1,116.60	\$ 1,117
USPS ADA Writing Desk C341	1	EA	\$ 2,068.52	\$ 2,069
USPS Storage Cabinet C412	1	EA	\$ 3,236.42	\$ 3,236
DIVISION 15				
Re-Work existing electric baseboard heat as req'd	1	LS	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500
DIVISION 16				
Re-Work existing electric & lighting as req'd	1	LS	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500
subtotal				\$ 82,569
General conditions	10%			\$ 8,257
subtotal				\$ 90,826
Overhead and profit	10%			\$ 9,083
subtotal				\$ 99,909
Contingency	15%			\$ 14,986
Total				\$ 114,895

TIM JOHNSON
SOUTH DAKOTA

RAPID CITY OFFICE: (605) 341-3990
PO BOX 1098, RAPID CITY, SD 57709

ABERDEEN OFFICE: (605) 226-3440
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PO BOX 1424, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57101

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
136 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104
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TOLL FREE
1-800-537-0025

E-MAIL: tim@johnson.senate.gov
WEB SITE: <http://johnson.senate.gov>

October 8, 2009

Judy Pierson, Chair
Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office
11542 411th Avenue
Claremont, South Dakota 57432

Dear Judy:

In response to our inquiry on your behalf, we have received a letter from Clem Felchle, District Manager, USPS. A copy of his correspondence is enclosed.

As had been requested, Mr. Felchle provided the estimate information from the Facility Service Office for both the town hall and the original USPS site. Mr. Felchle states that since the original facility's lease had been terminated, the entire facility would have to be brought up to the latest USPS Building Design Standards.

We had hoped these estimates might have been more favorable. In either situation, it is a huge amount of money for your small community to negotiate for local postal services.

If our office can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Aberdeen office listed above.

Wishing you the best.

Sincerely,



Sharon Stroschein
Northeast Area Director
U.S. Senator Tim Johnson

enclosure

cc: Roger Schuller
cc: Waynette Lenling

RECEIVED OCT 08 2009



October 6, 2009

THE HONORABLE TIM JOHNSON
UNITED STATES SENATE
PO BOX 1554
ABERDEEN SD 57402-1554
ATTN: SHARON STROSCHEIN

Dear Senator Johnson:

This is in response to your September 23, 2009, inquiry on behalf of the Committee to Save the Claremont Post Office, including a letter from Ms. Judy Pierson, 11542 411 Ave Claremont SD, 57432. I apologize for my late response, as I have been out of the office.

Enclosed please find a copy of itemization costs from the Facility Service Office for the reviews performed on the two building sites in Claremont SD. As noted in our previous response to your office, dated September 2, 2009, because the current building that housed the Post Office was vacated and the lease terminated, if the USPS were to consider moving back into that facility, the entire facility would have to be brought up to the latest USPS Building Design Standards. "Standard Design Criteria" Handbook AS-503 clearly defines that ALL facilities must meet the standards defined in the handbook. The estimated cost options for both building sites do not include additional costs for PO Boxes, parcel lockers, moving and transportation costs, salary and benefits for the Postmaster, or any other operational cost not addressed.

With the number of business challenges we face, most notably the decline mail volume, we are evaluating every facet of our organization and operations to ensure we are remaining fiscally responsible with the monies entrusted to us. Based on our financial obligations and current situation, we find it would be cost prohibitive and fiscally irresponsible to move forward with any new facility project at this time.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. If I can be of further assistance in this or other postal matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clem Felchle".

Clem Felchle
District Manager, Customer Service & Sales

Cc: Paul Turnbull, Manager, Post Office Operations, Huron SD
Mona Nickelson, Postmaster, Langford SD



USPS Estimate

Date: 7/23/2009

Claremont, SD Alternate Quaters MPO - FMS#: E84287
 Option #2 - Alternate Site (542 Sq. Ft.) - Town Hall

Item	Units	UOM	\$/unit	Total
DIVISION 1				
Labor & Supervision	48	HR	\$ 50.00	\$ 2,400
Permits & Fees	1	EA	\$ 350.00	\$ 350
Freight Charges	1	EA	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500
Negotiated Travel Costs	1	EA	\$ 11,250.00	\$ 11,250
DIVISION 2				
Rough Grading for Parking	450	SY	\$ 3.35	\$ 1,508
Base Course for Paving	250	CY	\$ 35.14	\$ 8,785
Asphalt Paving	450	SY	\$ 8.72	\$ 3,924
Concrete Sidewalk	500	SF	\$ 4.83	\$ 2,415
4" Steel Bollards	16	LF	\$ 28.45	\$ 455
DIVISION 6				
Wall Framing	360	SF	\$ 3.65	\$ 1,314
Demolition	124	LF	\$ 2.68	\$ 332
Built in place Cabinets	6	LF	\$ 135.61	\$ 814
DIVISION 8				
Metal Door Frames	4	EA	\$ 205.78	\$ 823
Metal Doors	2	EA	\$ 384.72	\$ 769
Wood Doors	2	EA	\$ 200.93	\$ 402
Alum Storefront System	120	SF	\$ 21.14	\$ 2,537
Alum Storefront Door	1	EA	\$ 3,215.58	\$ 3,216
Heavy Duty Door Closer	4	EA	\$ 265.54	\$ 1,062
Entrance Lock	2	EA	\$ 383.03	\$ 766
Storeroom Lock	1	EA	\$ 217.34	\$ 217
Storefront Emergency Exit	1	EA	\$ 1,530.45	\$ 1,530
Exterior Service Door Lock	1	EA	\$ 1,058.46	\$ 1,058
DIVISION 9				
5/8" Drywall - Taped & prepped	1,440	SF	\$ 3.20	\$ 4,608
Resilient Vinyl Tile	542	SF	\$ 4.36	\$ 2,364
Paint Door & Frames	4	EA	\$ 130.24	\$ 521
Paint Interior Drywall (Primer & 2 coats Paint)	1,920	SF	\$ 1.01	\$ 1,944
Paint Interior Drywall Ceiling (Primer & 2 coats Paint)	542	SF	\$ 1.13	\$ 610
DIVISION 10				
2x2 Corner Guards	96L	F	\$ 5.56	\$ 534
USPS Illum Vert Cabinet RCS64	1	EA	\$ 2,267.31	\$ 2,267
USPS Blank PO Box panel - Full Ht.	4	EA	\$ 137.75	\$ 551
USPS Electrical Feed Base	1	EA	\$ 123.45	\$ 123
USPS Std Workstation Base Unit	1	EA	\$ 4,467.27	\$ 4,467
USPS 5-Dwr Kit Non POS	1	EA	\$ 920.34	\$ 920
USPS 32" Handicap Side Counter	1	EA	\$ 571.77	\$ 572
Install USPS furnished PO Box Rack Assembly	12	EA	\$ 145.00	\$ 1,740
Wall mounted fire extinguisher	1	EA	\$ 77.54	\$ 78
DIVISION 12				
USPS Slatwall Panel 42" C206	1	EA	\$ 420.19	\$ 420
USPS Waste Unit C314	1	EA	\$ 1,116.60	\$ 1,117
USPS ADA Writing Desk C341	1	EA	\$ 2,068.52	\$ 2,069
USPS Storage Cabinet C412	1	EA	\$ 3,236.42	\$ 3,236
DIVISION 15				
Re-Work existing electric baseboard heat as req'd	1	LS	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500
DIVISION 16				
Re-Work existing electric & lighting as req'd	1	LS	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500
subtotal				\$ 82,569
General conditions	10%			\$ 8,257
subtotal				\$ 90,826
Overhead and profit	10%			\$ 9,083
subtotal				\$ 99,909
Contingency	15%			\$ 14,986
Total				\$ 114,895



USPS Estimate

Date: 7/23/2009

Claremont, SD Alternate Quarters MPO - FMS#: E84287
Option #1 - Original Site (906 Sq. Ft.) - USPS Standards

Item	Units	UOM	\$/unit	Total
DIVISION 1				
Labor & Supervision	24	HR	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,200
Permits & Fees	1	EA	\$ 350.00	\$ 350
Freight Charges	1	EA	\$ 2,625.00	\$ 2,625
Negotiated Travel Costs	1	EA	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 3,750
DIVISION 2				
Rough Grading for Loading Area	150	SY	\$ 3.35	\$ 503
Base Course for Paving of Loading Area	75	CY	\$ 35.14	\$ 2,636
Asphalt Paving for Loading Area	150	SY	\$ 8.72	\$ 1,308
Concrete Sidewalk - ADA Curb Cut	1	EA	\$ 500.00	\$ 500
4" Steel Bollards	16	LF	\$ 28.45	\$ 455
DIVISION 6				
Wall Framing	176	SF	\$ 3.65	\$ 642
Demolition	22	LF	\$ 2.68	\$ 59
Built in place Cabinets	6	LF	\$ 135.61	\$ 814
DIVISION 8				
Metal Door Frames	4	EA	\$ 205.78	\$ 823
Metal Doors	2	EA	\$ 384.72	\$ 769
Wood Doors	2	EA	\$ 200.93	\$ 402
Alum Storefront System	56	SF	\$ 21.14	\$ 1,184
Alum Storefront Door	1	EA	\$ 3,215.58	\$ 3,216
Heavy Duty Door Closer	4	EA	\$ 265.54	\$ 1,062
Entrance Lock	2	EA	\$ 383.03	\$ 766
Storeroom Lock	1	EA	\$ 217.34	\$ 217
Storefront Emergency Exit	1	EA	\$ 1,530.45	\$ 1,530
Exterior Service Door Lock	1	EA	\$ 1,058.46	\$ 1,058
DIVISION 9				
5/8" Drywall - Taped & prepped	2,576	SF	\$ 3.20	\$ 8,243
Resilient Vinyl Tile	906	SF	\$ 4.36	\$ 3,952
Paint Door & Frames	4	EA	\$ 130.24	\$ 521
Paint Interior Drywall (Primer & 2 coats Paint)	5,152	SF	\$ 1.01	\$ 5,216
Paint Interior Drywall Ceiling (Primer & 2 coats Paint)	906	SF	\$ 1.13	\$ 1,019
DIVISION 10				
2x2 Corner Guards	48	LF	\$ 5.56	\$ 267
USPS Illum Vert Cabinet RCS64	1	EA	\$ 2,267.31	\$ 2,267
USPS Blank PO Box panel - Full Ht.	4	EA	\$ 137.75	\$ 551
USPS Electrical Feed Base	1	EA	\$ 123.45	\$ 123
USPS Std Workstation Base Unit	1	EA	\$ 4,467.27	\$ 4,467
USPS 5-Dwr Kit Non POS	1	EA	\$ 920.34	\$ 920
USPS 32" Handicap Side Counter	1	EA	\$ 571.77	\$ 572
Install USPS furnished PO Box Rack Assembly	12	EA	\$ 145.00	\$ 1,740
Wall mounted fire extinguisher	1	EA	\$ 77.54	\$ 78
DIVISION 12				
USPS Slatwall Panel 42" C206	1	EA	\$ 420.19	\$ 420
USPS Waste Unit C314	1	EA	\$ 1,116.60	\$ 1,117
USPS ADA Writing Desk C341	1	EA	\$ 2,068.52	\$ 2,069
USPS Storage Cabinet C412	1	EA	\$ 3,236.42	\$ 3,236
DIVISION 16				
Re-Work existing electric & lighting as req'd	1	LS	\$ 750.00	\$ 750
New Electrical Panel/Service	1	LS	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000
subtotal				\$ 63,399
General conditions	5%			\$ 3,170
subtotal				\$ 66,569
Overhead and profit	5%			\$ 3,328
subtotal				\$ 69,897
Contingency	5%			\$ 3,495
Total				\$ 73,392

TIM JOHNSON
SOUTH DAKOTA

RAPID CITY OFFICE: (605) 341-3990
PO BOX 1098, RAPID CITY, SD 57709

ABERDEEN OFFICE: (605) 226-3440
PO BOX 1554, ABERDEEN, SD 57402

SIOUX FALLS OFFICE: (605) 332-8896
PO BOX 1424, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57101

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
136 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104
(202) 224-5842

TDD: (202) 224-8279

TOLL FREE
1-800-537-0025

E-MAIL: tim@johnson.senate.gov
WEB SITE: <http://johnson.senate.gov>

January 15, 2010

Judy Pierson
11542 411th Avenue
Claremont, South Dakota 57432

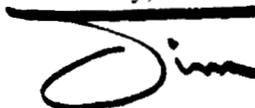
Dear Judy:

In response to my inquiry on your behalf, I have received a letter from Clem Felchle, District Manager, USPS. A copy of this correspondence is enclosed.

As you will note, his staff is investigating the issues and will send a response as soon as possible. I will contact you when I receive any correspondence from them.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact my Staff Assistant, Sharon Stroschein, in my Aberdeen office listed above.

Sincerely,



Tim Johnson
United States Senate

TJ/sms
enclosure

RECEIVED JAN 15 2010



January 13, 2010

The Honorable Tim Johnson
United States Senate
ATTN: Sharon Stroschein
PO Box 1554
Aberdeen SD 57402-1554

Dear Senator Johnson:

I have received your correspondence dated January 12, 2010, on behalf of your constituents, the citizens of Claremont, South Dakota, regarding the installation of an outgoing collection box in their community. I appreciate you bringing this matter to my attention.

My staff is investigating the issues and we will send you a response as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in the interim if you have any additional concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clem Felchle".

Clem Felchle
District Manager

CF/ci

TIM JOHNSON
SOUTH DAKOTA

RAPID CITY OFFICE: (605) 341-3990
PO BOX 1098, RAPID CITY, SD 57709

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104

January 18, 2010

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
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WEB SITE: <http://johnson.senate.gov>

Judy Pierson
11542 411th Avenue
Claremont, South Dakota 57432

Dear Judy:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding your concern that a blue collection box had still not been installed in Claremont, SD by the post office. On your behalf, I contacted the United States Postal Service in Sioux Falls, SD and I am pleased to inform you that your request has been resolved. Enclosed is a response from the USPS.

Again, Judy, thank you for contacting my office. I appreciate hearing from you. If you should have any further concerns with this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact my Aberdeen office listed above.

Sincerely,



Tim Johnson
United States Senate

TJ/sms
enclosure



January 13, 2010

THE HONORABLE TIM JOHNSON
UNITED STATES SENATE
PO BOX 1554
ABERDEEN SD 57402-1554
ATTN: SHARON STROSCHEIN

Dear Senator Johnson:

This is in response to your inquiry I received this afternoon regarding the Claremont citizens and their request for an outgoing collection box.

Your inquiry states that the Claremont citizens informed you that the First State Bank of Claremont agreed some time ago to maintain the collection box year round and provide snow removal, yet it still is not installed. I apologize that no one informed us of that decision.

Coincidentally, we were trying to resolve this situation as well. I assumed the collection box had been re-installed but found out it was not, and that we had not received verification that the box would be maintained. I had a staff member call the First State Bank President, Mr. Jeffry Stohr, this morning, January 13, 2010. Mr. Stohr assured us that between the Bank and the City, the collection box would be kept clear for delivery service.

The Manager of Post Office Operations for this area, Mr. Paul Turnbull, will be arranging with our maintenance personnel to complete the re-installation of the collection box ASAP. Once installed, we will provide an update to Sharon at your Aberdeen office. The pickup for the box will be added back into the collection route, and the pickup time for mail from this box will be 5 PM, excluding Sundays and holidays.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clem Felchle".

Clem Felchle
District Manager, Customer Service & Sales

Cc: Paul Turnbull, Manager, Post Office Operations, Huron SD
Mona Nickelson, Postmaster, Langford SD

TIM JOHNSON
SOUTH DAKOTA

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104

January 20, 2010

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4104
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TDD: (202) 224-8279

TOLL FREE
1-800-537-0025

E-MAIL: tim@johnson.senate.gov
WEB SITE: <http://johnson.senate.gov>

Judy Pierson
11542 411th Avenue
Claremont, South Dakota 57432

Dear Judy:

In further response to my inquiry about the placement of a blue collection box in Claremont, SD, my office received this email from Patti Larson, Congressional Liaison, United States Postal Service.

According to Ms. Larson, the blue collection box has been installed and is in place to receive mail. USPS will begin picking up any mail that was deposited in the box today, at 5PM tonight when the star route driver goes through. The posted pickup time is 5PM Monday through Saturday, excluding Sundays and holidays.

Our office was pleased to assist in your request for extended mail service. I know how important this issue has been to all the citizens in your community.

Again, thank you for contacting my office. I appreciate hearing from you, and am glad that I could be of assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Tim Johnson
United States Senate

TJ/sms