

Postal Regulatory Commission

Submitted 3/9/2010 10:48:56 AM

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ATTACHMENT PART B

**Motion of the Public Representative
to Include Public Comments in Docket
(March 9, 2010)
Docket No. PI2010-1**

PORT BYRON
IL 61275

Dear Sir

Please bring back our post
office in Port Byron IL
If Mr. Wendell doesn't want
to recover the building let us move
on to another building in town.
There's lots of empty buildings.

Norma Prokay
308 N. Main St
Port Byron IL 61275

Norma Prokay
308 N. Main St
Port Byron IL 61275



Postal Regulatory
Commission
901 New York Ave
N.W. Washington DC

000151

Received

MAR 2 2010

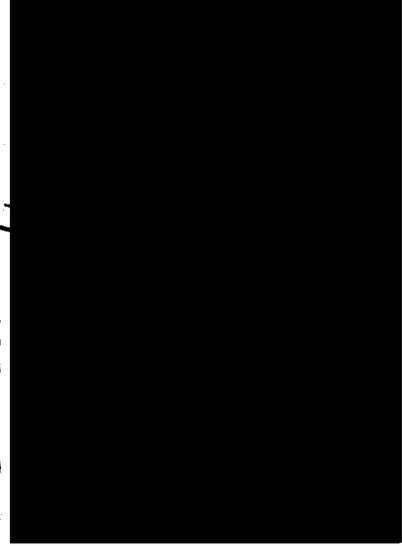
Office of PAGR

P12010-1

Dear U.S. Postal Service

Our Post office in Port Byron, IL has been temporarily shut down. I would like you to know that it is very important to my family and all the residents of Port Byron, both in town and rurally that it reopen. We miss our Post office. It is a necessity for our town. Please help us to remain a viable community.

Sincerely,



PORT BYRON
IL 61275

000153

Port Byron
IL 61275

P120107



23821 66TH AVENUE NORTH • PORT BYRON, ILLINOIS 61275 • (309) 523-3687 • FAX (309) 523-3752

Postal Regulatory Commission
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

JAN 1 2010
MAR 90

February 22, 2010

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20268-001

Re: Closure of Port Byron, Illinois post office

Gentlemen:

We are very concerned with the possible permanent loss of postal services in our town. The temporary closure was the result of building condition issues. With this in mind, financial solvency is not the issue.

We urge you to consider possible solutions so that we may keep this critical service in our community. There are several businesses who contribute thousands of dollars in revenue to the postal service in Port Byron, Illinois and we must rely on a favorable decision from your Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.



Marjorie Valroth



000154

RECTOR
PA 15677

January 24, 2010

Received

FEB 03 2010

Office of PAGR

To: Postal Regulatory Commission

Dear Sir:

I am having this letter written for me as I am over 90 years old and my writing is not that good anymore. I send packages to my niece and it means I have to travel 10 miles round trip to mail it or have someone take it when they are going to the post office especially in the winter. When we had our local post office I could put it out and the postmaster would take care of it and return the change or put her own money in and send me a slip of the cost. Without the post office the community has lost it's communication because it was a place people could go to visit and find out what was happening in the community. Closing the post office was wrong because there was a place for the post office to go but they did nothing and did not even let the people on the route now it was closing. Rector needs a post office to avoid the unnecessary transportation for us elders who do not have computers. Thank-you

000155

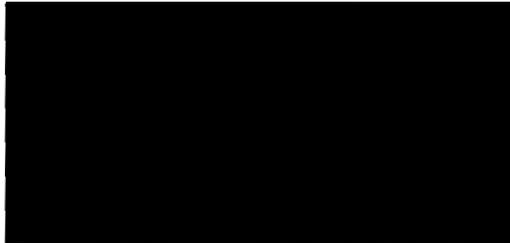
Received

DEC 28 2009

Office of PAGR

Rector
PA 15277

PI 2010-1



16 December 2009

Ms. Annie Kennedy, Consumer Relations Specialist,
Office of Public Affairs and Government Relations,
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

RE: PUBLIC INQUIRY, DOCKET No. P12010

Dear Ms. Kennedy,

Your 3 December letter advising on the Commission's public inquiry on the 77 post offices, including our Rector, PA post office, suspended due to lease expiration was welcome news. I was heartened to learn that our experience, views, and comments will be heard.

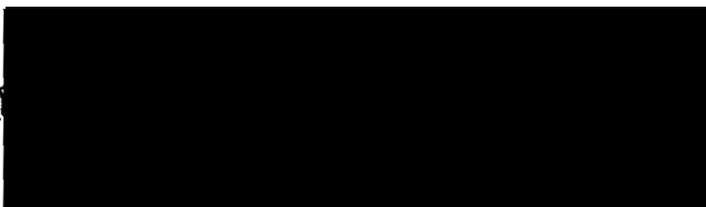
Your letter was forwarded to my winter address and received 14 December here in Takoma Park MD where a Rector friend had just sent me a copy of a USPS optional comment form on the proposed discontinuance of the Rector Post Office. Herewith I attach my comments, mailed on 24 November 2009 to: Postmaster Margaret Herr
708 Corbett Street
Tarentum, PA 15084-9998

I hope to go to the local Takoma Park, MD library for help in checking out your website at www.PRC.gov and filing my comments online.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your attention to our needs and concerns for our village postal service.

Sincerely,

Lillian Brown DiPaul,



atch. USPS comment form (completed)

000156

OLIVER, RICHARD A

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 12:58 PM
To: GROVE, SHOSHANA M
Cc: RAVNITZKY, MICHAEL J; KENNEDY, ANNIE L; OLIVER, RICHARD A; KLINGENBERG, JOHN P
Subject: RE: Here is my contact information

2-3-2010/1207

Dear Secretary Grove,

Thanks for sending your email contact.

Also thanks for all your hospitality when I visited the "First Wednesday open meeting" in January and met two public representatives who patiently listened to my tale of woes since the suspension of Rector post office in 2005, gave me a list of information they needed, and made some helpful suggestions.

Mea culpa, mea culpa-I have been unable to send copies of the USPS Pittsburgh district manager's 27 July 2005 letter to post office users notifying of the temporary suspension/our petition protesting the closing & requesting a hearing/district manger's denial that we were entitled to a hearing since Rector post office was not closed. Hope to make renewed efforts to supply these documents on my home visit this weekend.

Meanwhile we hope that JP Klingenberg would provide us with a clarification on my understanding that USPS cannot close a post office for financial reasons, as so many friends in my community feel is the real reason for closing the Rector post office. What are the official valid reasons for closing a post office?

Sincerely, Colleen DiPaul, [REDACTED]

Subject: Here is my contact information
Date: Wed, 3 Feb 2010 09:41:34 -0500
From: shoshana.grove@prc.gov
To: [REDACTED]
CC: michael.ravnitzky@prc.gov; annie.kennedy@prc.gov; john.klingenberg@prc.gov

Thank you so much for calling. We regret you will be unable to attend the meeting today, but hope to see you in at future meetings.

NOTICE: This e-mail message and any attachments transmitted with it contains confidential and proprietary information intended solely for the use of the addressee in its interactions with the Postal Regulatory Commission.

Shoshana Grove
Secretary and Chief Administrative Officer
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue N.W. Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001
Telephone: 202-789-6842
Fax: 202-789-6891
Shoshana.grove@prc.gov

Hotmail: Free, trusted and rich email service. [Get it now.](#)

000157

OLIVER, RICHARD A

From: KENNEDY, ANNIE L
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2010 9:43 AM
To: OLIVER, RICHARD A
Cc: KLINGENBERG, JOHN P; FISHER, ANN C; ANASIEWICZ, LEONA T
Subject: Rector PO

Richard,

I received a call today from Colleen DePaul regarding the closing of the Rector post office and PAGR's outreach letter for PI2010-1. She said she is currently in the Washington DC area and is planning to attend the Commission's monthly meeting this Wednesday. She will be calling you or John to talk about the docket. She also said that as a retired civil servant she much appreciated our outreach letter for this issue.

The number where she is staying is [REDACTED], her cell phone is [REDACTED].

*Annie Kennedy
Consumer Relations Specialist
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave NW Ste 200
Washington DC 20268-0001
202-789-6875
Fax 202-789-6891*

000158

over (12-16-2009)

RECTOR
PA 15677

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the Rector Post Office.

I. Effect on Your Postal Services. Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

The "proposed discontinuance of the Rector Post Office" has already taken effect four years ago in 2005 when the United States Postal Service Pittsburgh District Manager "temporarily" moved the Rector Post Office to Laughlintown, PA, thus denying our request for a public hearing as required before a post office can be closed.

Unfavorable effects have been a hardship on me as an 82 year old widow who goes south in the winter to be near my son and family since my husband's death ten years ago. When the service was provided by our local village post office, I experienced no problems with the forwarding of my mail; when handled by a central system (out of Pittsburgh or wherever?), I have had to pay penalties on overdue bills I never received and official mail did not get through. Laughlintown post office has done an admirable job but had difficulty with seasonal overload and training new workers. Driving to and picking up mail at a location on a major highway has been a safety hazard and an inconvenience not only for Rector users but also for Laughlintown original users. Not to mention having to make a special trip to a town where most of us have no other business-- why not Ligonier, the same distance from Rector as Laughlintown, our township seat where we shop, especially for groceries, and recreate at the library-Y- theatre...? Rural delivery does not suit me as I come and go & prefer my service from the post office, not from a box on the road.

II. Effect on Your Community. Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

The proposal --now four years in effect-- has been devastating to our Rector community-- no community since the post office and store (where USPS had contracted to move service when the 100 year old lease in a private home was not renewed) have been closed.

III. Other Comments. Please provide any other views of information that you believe the Postal service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Many who signed the petition for a public hearing are disenchanted with USPS treatment of our rural community where notices are posted on "public hearings" in the Laughlintown post office, which those out of town for the season or using rural delivery do not see.

Name of Postal Customer: Colleen DiPaul

Mailing Address: [Redacted]

Colleen DiPaul
11-24-2009

000159

-1-

PI2010-1

Received

December 29, 2009

JAN 04 2010

Postal Regulatory Commission
Washington DC

Office of PAGR

Dear Sir:

I did not receive anything regarding the closing of the Rector Post Office but I would like to give you information about how the Pittsburgh District and Mr. Battle handled the situation. I am sure this information is not what Mr. Battle would like you to have since it was him that failed to do his work as the POOM for the Rector Post Office.

The Rector Post office is a level 11 office which had a Postmaster and a PMR in the facility. There is also a route out of the office which was an intermediate highway contract route that the Ligonier Postmaster was the supervisor. This part of the highway contract route was the largest of the route with approximately 150 customers on the route. The office was in the same facility for 107 years. When the facility was 100 years old the postmaster and several members of the community work together to have a celebration and no one from the Pittsburgh District came to the office to represent the postal service. In fact they never even gave recognition for the work by the postmaster to involve the community in the celebration. The postmaster paid for several things and a banner was hung and paid for by a business and that business also had their employees hang it. The postmaster also works with the Red Cross by teaching CPR and received an award for all the hours that she donated. These hours involved teaching CPR on Saturdays. There was an article in the paper with a picture of the postmaster receiving the award. The Pittsburgh District was sent the picture and article and they did not even send her a letter congratulating her or sending it on to higher authority to show how this postmaster went beyond to help meet the needs of the community. This postmaster worked as a registered nurse prior to starting her job with the post office fulltime. The people in the community knew this and would come into the office to obtain information regarding any medical problems they were having or to place drops in their eyes following surgery. She would even go to customer home at lunchtime and after work to delivery post office box customer mail when they were sick or when their was bad weather and to check to see if they needed anything from the grocery store. She also knew her customers and knew when to expect them in the office. When customer did not come in so made telephone calls to the customer to make sure they were okay.

This post office was the center communication for the community. It was the place people came to find out about their neighbors and visit each other. The postmaster shared information as she could and never gave false hope to the customer. When the postal customer found out about the lease being terminated she had to tell the customer the truth which was yes the lease is being terminated but she knew nothing else.

The postmaster was in contact with the Pittsburgh District and on behalf of the leaser she sent an email which is enclosed to Mr. Logan regarding the rudeness of the leasing department. The postmaster also attended a postmaster meeting in February 2005 and talked with the POOM Mr. Rocco in regard to the lease being terminated. He seems not

000160

-2-

to know anything and said he look into it when she asked what was going to be done. She did not hearing anything from Pittsburgh District except that Mr. Battle called her on day at 10 AM and demanded she go out and remove a sign that was placed on the owners private property telling the customer about the lease being terminated. She had to stop sorting the mail and go out and remove the sign and placed in the owner's kitchen. The owner was very upset this was done because the post office had no right to remove a sign that was on private property. About 45 minutes later the Postmaster from Ligonier came out and asked her what she was doing. He also was not aware that the leaser had terminated the lease. He also received a call from Mr. Battle and was ordered to come out to see if the postmaster went out and took the sign down. The postmaster shoed the Ligonier postmaster the sign that she took down and placed in the owner's kitchen.

The postmaster did not hear anything from MR. Battle or the leasing department so she sent an email to the Pittsburgh District Manager regarding the situation on March 10, 2005, and he respond with thanks for the information and they be in touch on March 11, 2005. A copy of these emails is enclosed. The postmaster left for a week vacation with her daughters to Florida and there was no response by the Pittsburgh District over the next month, so the postmaster sent another email to the District Manager in April regarding the lack of communication and how they expect postmasters to communicate with their employees and so why did the District not communicate with her. Mr. Battles came to the office after that email was sent and was rude and belittled the postmaster. She told him that the lease was up on June 1, 2005 and the customer's wanted answers and she could not give them any. He told her she had to tell the customer nothing and made her do a role play that he was a customer and asked about the lease and she had to say she knew nothing. That was not right and the fact was when she told the people that she was not lying because she knew nothing.

The postmaster heard nothing from the Pittsburgh District until Mr. Battle came in on Saturday July 27 and demanded the PMR to call the postmaster in. Upon the postmaster arrival Mr. Battle handle her a letter stating that the office would be temporary suspended as of August 29, 2005 and demanded that the postmaster and the PMR place these letters in the customers post office boxes and he would not leave until they were placed in every customer box.

The Rector Post office had increased revenue over and beyond the amount set by the Postal Service each year. When the Postal Service started the income requirements the Rector Post Office was given revenue of \$28,000 which was more than twice the amount of the other 11 level offices in the district. The office actually had revenue of over \$29,000 that year and the next year the office was given revenue of \$29,000 and the office revenue was greater than \$31,000. Every year the expense amount was below the allotted amount. Every year the Rector Post Office revenue was greater than the amount set by the postal service. In fact in May 2005 the Rector Post Office was again set to obtain greater revenue than allotted and the expense was below the amount set. The Rector Post Office revenue was set at amount twice that of most other 11 level offices in the district. Each year the postmaster was told she met the criteria even though she had greater revenue and less expense account then required. This office went from no meter to two meters and from one nonprofit to 3 nonprofit accounts from 1990-2005. The postmaster also mention on several occasion that she did not have lock boxes and so there was a loss of revenue and yet she still manage to over exceed her revenue.

000161

I know all this is true because I was the Postmaster of Rector when the temporary suspension took place and know for a fact that Mr. Battle fail to do his job. Mr. Flaherty was waiting to hear from the postal service after he submitted the area he was willing to rent to the postal service. He was planning to remodel to meet the specification of the postal service and yet Mr. Battle never met with him nor did anyone from the Pittsburgh District. I took pride in being the Postmaster of Rector as I was the 3rd generation to have that position. I actually took emergency time off and left Rector so the people of the community did not have to protect me from reporters, which they would have done. I did what was necessary to help the community and even on Sunday July 28th I told the people from the pulpit of the local church that I could not be involved but there were things they could do but I can not be involved as I am an employee of the postal service. But in 2006 I resign because I felt that the postal office does not care about the people but just interested in that all mighty dollars. So I am free to let you know the truth about how the Pittsburgh District treated me and the community. There was no need to suspend the post office as there was a placed available and the people of the community agreed that moving it to the store was a great move. As a result of what the postal service did Mr. Flaherty could not do his remodeling because of waiting for the postal service and as a result he lost business because of not being able to remodel and opening his sandwich business up again. He had to close the business and now the town is left with nothing because of the lack of action by the Pittsburgh District. I can only hope that you look into this matter and reopen the Rector Post Office even if it is a station or propose to the Rector Community to make it a contract office. Please do not let the Pittsburgh District get away with the misuse of power they use on the people of Rector. Since the Rector Post office was temporary suspended the Pittsburgh District closed the Export post Office also and I believe if you look into this they did the same thing to this community as they did to the Rector Community. My name is Eleanor Pennington and I am willing to come forward and testified under oath to these facts.

I am enclosing copies of the emails I sent to the Pittsburgh District and if you need any other information please do not hesitate to call me at [REDACTED] or write to me at [REDACTED]. Thank-you for taking the time to read this letter and I hope you do not let the managers of the Pittsburgh District get away with this, but I do know that God will take care of them for what they have done to the community of Rector and other communities like Rector.

Sincerely

Eleanor Pennington

Eleanor Pennington
[REDACTED]

000162

Pennington, Eleanor M - Rector, PA

To... Raymond, R. Logan@usps.gov
CC... Pennington, Eleanor M-Rector,PA
Bcc...
Subject: Lease Agreement

Attachments:

This is in regards to our telephone conversation today, regarding the lease for the Rector Post Office. Mrs. Tenney is very upset with a Mr. Gregg from the postal property Facility in Greensboro North Carolina. She is waiting to discuss the new lease she received today in the mail from Mr. Gregg, but she feel sure she will not be signing it. In October of 2004, she sent a letter asking them to increase her monthly rent \$50 from \$150, to \$200 a month due to the fact that a computer has been installed in the office and she pays the lights bill. She also felt that since heating fuel is so high and she paid the heating cost also a raise should be given. She wanted to continue the month to month lease and to have a new facility for this community. Several years ago Rector was to receive a new facility but right after the groundwork was done the capital freeze occurred and it was put on hold. Nothing has been done since. The office is a front room of a private home with no parking except along the state highway and it can not be made handicap accessible due to the location so near the state highway. I had

sent you copies of the letters she sent to Mr. Gregg. She received a new lease today and it still had in it according to Mrs. Tenney about paying for trash removal. She called Mr Gregg and he tried to tell her what she needed to do but she was not understanding it and so to be sure she ask me to talk with him. He wants her to draw a line thru the trash removal date and initial it, then sign it and they will take care of it when he gets the lease back. Mr. Gregg did not know when he was talking with me on the telephone that I was a Postal Employee. He said that this has been going on for 2 years and that if she did not sign the lease, they would close it. This has not been going on for 2 years, it has only been since October. She spoke with him at the end of December only after she called several times and left message for him, but it was not until after she talked with a woman in Greensboro, that he called her and told her he take care of it Monday. In her original letter she gave us till January 1, 2005 to handle this and she feels Mr. Gregg can't be trusted. In my brief conversation with him I have to agree with her. I don't feel I can trust him in what is best for this office and the community. If you look at the finance of this office, we will see that the total revenue over the past several years has been greater than what they proposed this office to have and that the expenses has been well below the proposed expense budget for this office. My main concern is not only for my mothers health since she has a heart condition but what is best for this office. I take pride in this office because it is unique. It has always been in the front room of this house and that the same family has been postmasters of the office. This includes Mrs. Tenney who retired 15 years ago as postmaster of this office. I can only hope that a satisfactory solution to this problem can be reach before it is to late.

000163

Pennington, Eleanor M - Rector, PA

From: Beppler, Keith J - Pittsburgh, PA
To: Pennington, Eleanor M - Rector, PA
Cc:
Subject: RE: Rector Post Office
Attachments:

Sent: Fri 3/11/2005 6:48 AM

Eleanor

Thank you for the information and we will be in touch with you.

Keith

-----Original Message-----

From: Pennington, Eleanor M - Rector, PA
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2005 10:37 AM
To: Beppler, Keith J - Pittsburgh, PA
Subject: Rector Post Office

I received a copy of the letter you sent to a Mr. Flaherty regarding the building of a Postal Facility at Rector. In the letter you stated there was no immediate plans for a new facility in Rector. I contact Mr. Logan in December 2004 regarding that the leasor had given notice that she was terminating the lease. Since then I spoke with Rocco and Diane because the leasor has notified Greensboro through her attorney she was not signing a new lease as it is a month to month lease and that she has given the Postal Service until June 1, 2005 to vacate the present facility. The facility is the front room of the leasor home.

000164

-6-

Pennington, Eleanor M - Rector, PA

From: Pennington, Eleanor M - Rector, PA
To: Beppler, Keith J - Pittsburgh, PA
Cc:
Subject: Rector Post Office
Attachments:

Sent: Tue 4/19/2005 11:50 AM

Keith,

The post office tells us we need to communicate with our employees. To communicate with my PMR, I leave her notes and articles that she needs to read and have her initial and date them for documentation. I have communicate with the post office operation managers since the initial letter was sent to North Carolina by the lessor regarding the lease for this facility. I email you on March 10,2005 and you responded back on March 11,2005, thanking me for the information and your be in touchwith me. The customer are asking me about the facility and I told them I do not know anything except that there is noi lease for the facility and yes June 1 is the deadline date. They are also concern about me and I told them I have a job but that is all I know. I feel that I am operating in the dark. No one has contacted me or has been out to this office since I notified Ray in December. Diane called and I told her the information but since I sent you the last email, I have not had any communication from any one except to be given the order to take down a sign that was put up by the owner and then the Postmaster at Ligonier came out to see if I actually took down the sign. The customers are complaining that when they call to find out information that no one can tell answer their questions. When they are given any information it is not the same as what another customer had been told. I have a deep love for this office as it has been here for over 107 years in the same room and the same family has served as postmaster the entire time. So why do you tell us to communicate when the higher authority does not communicate. If I just had some information that can help relieve the anxiety the customers are having it can go a long way to improve customer sastifaction in this office because right now if the customer where to rate the service it would be very low due to the lack of communication .

Eleanor Pennington Postmaster

000165

- 7 -

Rector
PA 15658

Received

FEB 22 2010

To: Annie Kennedy

February 11, 2010

Office of PAGR

From: Patrick Flaherty

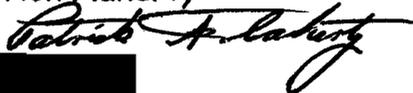
I am offering my building and/or property to lease to the USPS and would be pleased to make accomadations to suit.

Some of the advantages of re-opening the Rector post office... Carnegi museums Powdermill Nature Reserve has recently and significantly expanded it's Rector facility, education center,also, new to Rector the former CEO of US Steel has invested time and energy in a summer camp for city children. Along with the population of our village, the post office would be utilized by the churches in Rector and the Valley School of Ligonier.

In addition to these reasons, on most days the Laughlintown post office is a 10 mile round trip via route 381, however a portion of the road is prone to flooding during heavy rains and barricades are put up closing off access to route 30 from route 381.

I believe the re-opened Rector post office will do more business than ever for more reasons than are stated here, and I am offering my full co-operation for a smooth transition.

Patrick Flaherty



The Inquirer & Review

000167

An edition of the TRIBUNE-REVIEW
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2009

Voice of the Ligonier Valley
Since 1888

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TRIBUNE

Fight for return of post office begins

Rector residents get chance to plead case.

By JEWELS PHRANER
LIGONIER ECHO

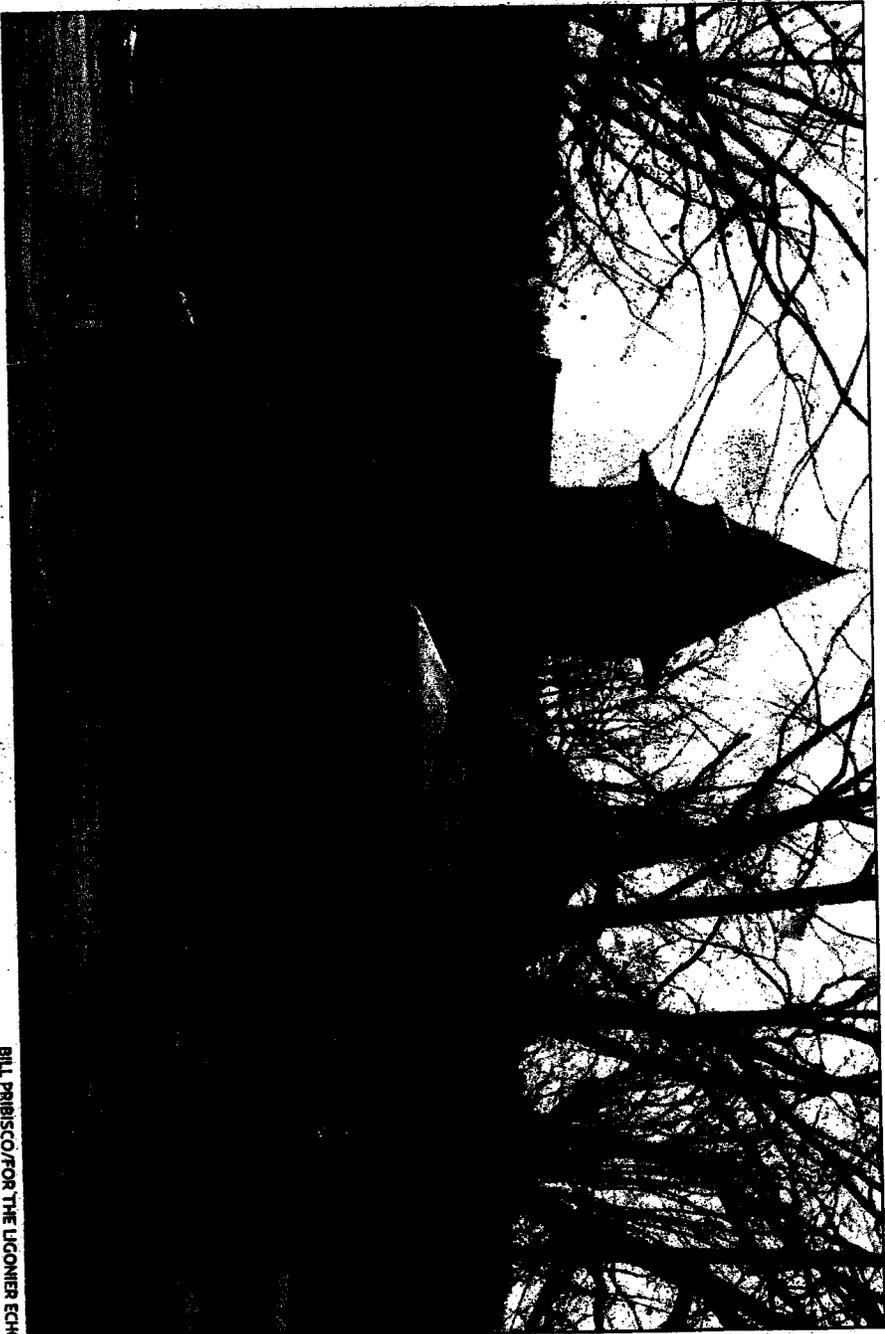
Rector residents want their post office back, and after what the United States Postal Service is calling a "temporary closure" in 2005, residents will get a chance to plead their case.

In a letter sent to former Rector post office customers, the Postal Regulatory Commission — an independent

agency created to oversee the postal service — will decide whether to reopen the office or close it permanently. In the letter, the commission requested related written comments by Jan. 15, 2010.

At 105 years old, the Rector post office was one of the last still operating inside a private residence, near Jacob Miller Road. But in a letter dated July 27, 2005 to postal customers, the post-office said the landlord had terminated the lease. Postal

SEE POST OFFICE • 3



BILL PRIBISCO/FOR THE LIGONIER ECHO

Ligonier dons frosty coat

The Starobee Bulletin

Time 108 - No. 32

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2010

50¢ Newsstand

hat's
side
ports



its set to take
defeated Kiski
in semifinals
action team
ling playoffs;
y's 22 points
dy Trojans to
ord section
with win over
hmoreland.

Flooding closes two state roads in Ligonier Twp.

BY MARIE MCCANDLESS
Bulletin News Editor

Two state roads in Ligonier Township remained closed this morning because of flooding. Ligonier Township Police Chief Michael Marturics reported that Route 381 and SR2045 (Two Mile Run Road) were still closed as of 7 a.m. today.

Route 381 was closed early Monday as the Loyallhanna Creek swelled with persistent rainfall Sunday and Monday. The closure extended between Club Stable Road and Route 30, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation spokesperson Jay Olsank reported.

Marturics said that throughout Sunday night and into Monday morning, the low-lying area about a quarter-mile from Route 30 was monitored.

Even after PennDOT posted the road with "High Water, Road Closed" signs, one woman attempted to drive through the water, became stuck and had to be rescued.

According to Marturics, at 8 a.m. Monday, Bernadette Braszo, 47, Kimberly Drive, Laroke, ignored the posted sign near Rolling Rock Country Club and drove into the high water, disabling her newer-model Pontiac Vibe.

Braszo was rescued by Station 71 Swiftwater Rescue Team from Bradensville Volunteer Fire Department, Waterford and Ligonier Borough VFDs, assisted on scene. Braszo's vehicle had to be towed from the scene.



Route 381 near Recker is usually one of the first roads closed during heavy rain and possibly flooding conditions and that was the case early yesterday morning. However, a motorist ignored the warning signs, attempted to drive through the high water's fast flow roadway and had to be rescued when her vehicle stalled. The left photo shows the scene.

Photos by Frank Stasak

000168

1-238-5612

on for over 63 years!"

EQUALIZING INFLATION

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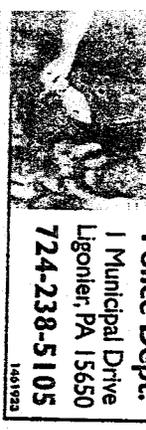
Dr. Ben Helman, DVM
Dr. L. Croft, Jr., VMD

Veterinary Clinic, Inc.

Inking More? Urinating More?
More? Losing Weight?

signs your pet may have diabetes or another
have the same kinds of diabetes as us. If caught
medication may be all that is needed but often
modification and/or insulin is needed. Also
one prone to develop diabetes. So keep your
the above signs, visit the veterinarian.

Send Donations to:
Ligonier Twp.
Police Dept.
1 Municipal Drive
Ligonier, PA 15650
724-238-5105



Flooding closes Route 381

A woman who attempted to drive through approximately three feet of water on the Route 381 at approximately 7:30 a.m. Monday had to be rescued when her car stalled and she was trapped in her vehicle. It took fire departments from Waterford and Ligonier 45 minutes to rescue her. The water rescue team also was called to assist. PennDOT reported that Route 381, and Route 2045, near the intersection of Route 30, both in Ligonier Township, were closed at 9:30 a.m. Westmoreland County Public Safety spokesman Dan Stevens, said several roads along Loyalhanna Creek in the township, including Peters Road, Two Mile Run, and Darlington Run, experienced minor flooding.

MELINDA BEAUFORT-BELL/LIGONIER ECHO

PennDOT announces safety contest

Pennsylvania high schools are invited to help remind motorists to drive safely by participating in a radio contest sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

High school sophomores, juniors and seniors who wish to participate are asked to create a 30-second radio public service announcement focused on safety topics such as aggressive driving, buckling up or driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

The announcement must include the words "Drive Safe PA," which PennDOT introduced last year as a catchphrase.

Entries must be received by Feb. 27 and can be submitted electronically as a .MP3 or .MP4 file, or as a written script. Send files to RA.penn DOTpress@state.pa.us.

New Florence tax increase slated for 2011

New Florence residents are looking at an increase in property taxes for 2011, which will be the first increase in nine years.

A 5-mill tax raise would increase property taxes by about \$95 for the average New Florence property owner, according to a news release.

ing, located on Seventh Street. At the Jan. 7 reorganization meeting, council members Georgia Ludwig, Sharon McChinnis, Dawn Chatter...

Council members also appointed Henry Brinker to fill the vacancy on the board. Members of the council ex-

RECTOR
PA 15677

OLIVER, RICHARD A

From: KLINGENBERG, JOHN P
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2010 3:15 PM
To: OLIVER, RICHARD A
Subject: FW: opposing viewpoint on rector pa closing

From a mrs? herrington

From: Dorothy Herrington [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2010 6:32 PM
To: KLINGENBERG, JOHN P
Subject:

Mr. Klingenberg

In response to the article about the Rector , Pa. post office....I am absolutely against having it opened again.. I am 80 yrs., old & do not want to have to get in my car & drive to get my mail every day, It is too far for me to walk to where the proposed post office would be,. I am perfectly happy & thankful that the mail is delivered to my home. I can not see anything that would be beneficial or practical by opening a post office in this area again. Why would *anyone* want to have to drive in the snow or rain to get their mail? There are a lot of elderly people in Rector. So I am asking you please don't open the post office in Rector,Pa. LET US CONTINUE TO GET OUR MAIL DELIVERED TO OUR HOME.....

Thank you

,Sincerely,
Dorothy D. Herrington

000170

RECTOR
PA 15677

KENNEDY, ANNIE L

From: Jane Kilgore [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2009 2:52 PM
To: PRC-PAGR
Subject: Re:Docket No. P12010-1

I received a letter from the PRC regarding my signature on a petition to NOT CLOSE the Rector, PA postoffice. It stated I could make an informal written response but did not tell me how to do that, hence the email to you.

We are 80 and 73 yrs. of age, and driving 5 miles each way to pick up our mail at the Laughlintown Post office is more than just a hardship. We cannot put up a delivery box as we have a long lane and cannot see the road from here. The bad kids around here delight in knocking down mail boxes, stealing mail, etc. We also travel south in the winter, and have our mail forwarded. There is such a perfect spot for the Rector Post Office near the center of our town, offered by the owner, and rejected by the PO.

Please consider this our informal **and** formal request to reopen the Rector, PA post office IN RECTOR!

Sincerely,
David and Jane Kilgore
[REDACTED]

000171

RECTOR
PA 15677

P12010-1

KENNEDY, ANNIE L

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2010 12:46 PM
To: PRC-PAGR
Subject: Other - Comment

I am in favor of reopening the Rector, PA 15677 Post Office. It has been a great inconvenience and waste of gas to drive to Laughlintown, 7 miles from our office, instead of the 2.5 miles that we travelled when Rector P.O. was open. We are a nature center with a dozen full-time and about 20 part time or seasonal employees. We send lots of letters, large envelopes and packages. I urge you to seriously consider re-establishing Rector post office. Thank you.

Sender Name: C. Lindsay

Sender [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

000172

RECTOR
PA 15677

P12010-1

Anna Marie Leipold

JANUARY 18, 2010

ANNIE KENNEDY
CONSUMER RELATIONS SPECIALIST
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
SUITE 200
901 NEW YORK AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON DC 20268-0001

Received

JAN 26 2010

Office of PAGR

RE: DOCKET No. P12010-1
RECTOR POST OFFICE

DEAR MS. KENNEDY:

I APPRECIATE ALL THE HELP AND INFORMATION THAT YOU HAVE FORWARDED TO COLLEEN DiPAUL. COLLEEN AND I HAVE WORKED TOGETHER ON MANY OF HER PROJECTS.

I OWN AND OPERATE A SMALL BUSINESS IN LIGONIER. I JOKINGLY SAY WE ARE 'A JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES AND MASTER-OF-NONE'. I HAVE A LOT OF DIFFERENT SERVICES AVAILABLE TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES, SPECIFICALLY MY COPY AND HAVE FAX SERVICE AFFORDING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE BEHIND THE SCENES.

ONE OF THESE IS THE CASE OF THE 'TEMPORARY CLOSING' OF THE RECTOR POST OFFICE:

1. I COPIED AND FAXED AND RECEIVED VIA FAX MANY OF PAT FLAHERTY'S CORRESPONDENCES TO AND FROM THE POSTAL COMMISSION ;
2. THERE WERE MANY REGARDING THE SPECIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR ACCOMMODATING A POST OFFICE IN THE EXISTING STORE THAT PAT OWNED IN RECTOR;
3. PAT, AT HIS OWN EXPENSE, MADE ALTERATIONS;
4. I AM FAMILIAR WITH A SOMEWHAT VERBAL AGREEMENT THAT THERE WOULD BE A POST OFFICE IN RECTOR AT HIS STORE; AND
5. THEN SUDDENLY THE POST OFFICE WAS CLOSED.....TEMPORARILY.....FIVE YEARS AGO.

RECTOR IS LOCATED IN A VERY UNIQUE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF THE LIGONIER VALLEY. I HAVE CONTACTED TWO LOCAL BUSINESSMEN THAT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN INSTALLING TELEPHONES AND ON-LINE CAPABILITIES TO THE RESIDENTS ASKING THAT THEY WRITE YOU CONCERNING THEIR PROBLEMS WITH INTERNET AND CELL PHONE SERVICES. ARE YOU AWARE THAT RECTOR:

1. DOES NOT HAVE CABLE TELEVISION,
2. NO CELL PHONES WORK IN THE AREA AND
3. INTERNET SERVICES ARE NON-EXISTANT?

OUR LOCAL LIBRARY DOES HAVE INTERNET ACCESS AND COMPUTERS FOR PUBLIC USE. SOME I KNOW FROM RECTOR DO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS. HOWEVER, RECTOR HAS MANY OLDER RESIDENTS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IS NOT AVAILABLE MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO GET TO LAUGHLINTOWN DAILY FOR THEIR MAIL AND TO LIGONIER. OF COURSE, FUNDING FOR LIBRARIES MAY BE CUT, SO WHO KNOWS HOW LONG THIS WILL LAST.

WITHOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF THE ABOVE SERVICES, NO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND THE CLOSING OF THEIR LOCAL POST OFFICE, THESE PEOPLE ARE DENIED ACCESS TO A TIMELY RECEIPT OF INFORMATION.

I HOPE THAT THE PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES I HAVE CONTACTED WILL RESPOND TO YOUR EFFORT TO RE-OPEN THE RECTOR POST OFFICE, BUT IN THE EVENT THAT THEY DON'T, I THOUGHT IT BEST TO JUMP IN WITH MY RESPONSE.

THANKS, IN ADVANCE FOR LISTENING AND GETTING A POST OFFICE IN RECTOR.

SINCERELY,

000173

Anna Marie Leipold

RECTOR
PA 15677

1/18/10

P/2010-1

Received

JAN 26 2010

Office of PAGR

Dear Sec. S. Grove,
Regarding Investigation of Suspended Post office,
Docket No. PL 2010-1 [Rector, Pa 15677]

We are a small, rural community and have had
a post office for over 100 years and "eliminated"
five years ago. We wish to have our RECTOR, PA
post office reinstated.

Thank you for assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Adelaide R. Murphy



000174

Rector
PA 15677

KENNEDY, ANNIE L

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 02, 2010 10:50 AM
To: PRC-PAGR
Subject: Other - Comment

We feel that the return of the Rector Post Office would be GREAT. We have a country store owned by Pat F. that would be the perfect spot and would open the store to the Rector people. This is needed badly in Rector. This would be the meeting spot to pick up your mail, meet and greet within the community, etc. PLEASE HELP US OUT HERE.

Sender Name: Ronald and Donna Pastor
Sender [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

000175

3

RECTOR
PA 15677

PI 2010-1

Received

JAN 04 2010



Office of PAGR

Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the Rector Post Office.

I. Effect on Your Postal Services. Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

The thing that is unfavorable about the Postal Service is that in order to get my mail, mail a package or get stamps I have to travel 7 miles round trip to get to a post office. This over time gets to be a lot of mileage for a car. Also it is worse in the winter time when the roads are horrible & I cannot get to the Post office to pick up my mail, mail a package or get stamps for a day or even a few days till the roads clear up. when we had the Post office in Rector I was able to walk to the post office & not have to drive, specially in bad conditions.

II. Effect on Your Community. Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

When we had the Post Office in Rector the community was much closer & was able to get & share information with each other thru the Post office which was really nice. Now with the Post office closed the community is distant from one another & information is not easily passed around. Going to the Post office no one talks & the Postmaster just handles your business & doesn't talk or be friendly like the Postmaster at Rector was.

III. Other Comments. Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Friendlyness is a big issue. Postmasters are not that friendly anymore & education is another big issue. You say that they are well educated but in reality they are not.

Mandy Pennington
Name of Postal Customer

Mandy Pennington
Signature of Postal Customer

Mailing Address

1/2/10
Date

000176



RECTOR
PA 15677

PI 2010

Received
P.1

JAN 04 2010

Office of PAGR

Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the Rector Post Office.

I. Effect on Your Postal Services. Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

One thing that is unfavorable about closing the post office is that in order to buy stamps, mail a package is that I have to travel 7 miles round trip in order to do this. This is especially bad in the winter when the roads are not the greatest. Making it very inconvenient. Even though with highway contract box you still have to wait several days to get stamps.

II. Effect on Your Community. Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

An unfavorable affect is that when we had the post office in Rector we were able to find out about things that were happening around the town. People came in + talked to each other all the time. The post master was always very friendly + talked to the ~~too~~ customers. Now I have to ring a bell or yell for the postmaster to get window service. Not like it is now.

III. Other Comments. Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

There is a loss of community fellowship. There was a bulletin board for community activities + now there is nothing. Also there is now a lack of friendship of the post office with the postmaster not like it was when we had our own Post office.

Hope Pennington

Hope Pennington
Signature of Postal Customer

12/28/09
Date

000177

RECTOR
PA 15677



JAN 05 2010

Office of PAGR

Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the Rector Post Office.

I. Effect on Your Postal Services. Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

The service is terrible, I find other customers mention my mail and some I don't pickup my mail daily, they accuse to not get the mail. By having the Post Office in Rector could get my mail daily and I didn't get wrong mail. I receive medicine by mail back here since the Rector Office was closed it has been over 2 weeks until I receive them so that company has agreed to send them via UPS or FedEx and I receive them within 5 days. I also feel there has some problem and to get service at Rector has been very hard to call for help. This should not be.

II. Effect on Your Community. Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on your community.

The suspension has cause a headache as most cities are deleted I live alone they have to have other mail like mail and even with stamps my mail you wait several days. To verify a letter you must travel miles to do that. The suspension should not cause as with gas price and winter weather can make it impossible to get your mail over to the letter box. The community relies on the Post Office for information and also the Postmaster protect out for the elderly by going out of her way to help them through calls and delivery of their mail.

III. Other Comments. Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

This post office should never have been suspended because there was a plan to move the facility and according to the Postal regulations if a place was built then you can not suspend service. Therefore the Pittsburgh manager broke the rules and when you called no customer was given the same information. Rector office did not come out nor even kept the Postmaster info.

Deanna Pennington
Name of Postal Customer



Deanna Pennington
Signature of Postal Customer



12/30/09
Date

RECTOR
PA 15677

Bruce R Poterfields



Received

FEB 02 2010

Office of PAGR

000179

SIR,

WE ARE REALLY WANTING OUR POST OFFICE BACK;

THIS IS AN OLD AND PROUD ZIP CODE.

A LOT OF OLDER PEOPLE LIVE HERE AND IT IS HARD FOR THEM TO GET TO THE LAUGHLIN TOWN POST OFFICE.

WE CAN SPEND BILLIONS ON BARKY

BAI OUTS;

WE CAN SPEND BILLIONS ON AID TO FIGHT IN FOREIGN LANDS;

WE JUST WANT OUR POST OFFICE.

Sincerely

Bruce R Poterfields

RECTOR
PA 15277

P120107

KENNEDY, ANNIE L

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 3:40 PM
To: PRC-PAGR
Subject: Current proceeding before the Commission - Comment

We have a home in Rector, PA in which we reside for about six months a year. Been there since 1963. We're in "downtown" Rector and for years walked to pick up or send mail. It was more than practical, it was pleasurable and we were in constant contact with our neighbors. Now we must drive over 3 miles to Laughlintown. We do have the option of home delivery but with retirement we're somewhat on the "go" and prefer our mail not to sit in the roadside box. We would hope that Rector, PA would reestablish a Post Office of it's own.

Sender Name: R P Rost & Charlotte Rost
Sender Email: [REDACTED]
Daytime phone:
Sender Address:

000180

Office of Secretary
Postal Regulatory Commission
101 New York Ave. N.W. Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Postal Regulatory Commission
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer
FEB 01 2010

Regarding Investigation of Suspended Post Office,
Docket No. PL 2010-1 [Rector, PA. 15677]

Dear Sec. S. Grove,
(comment)

Please return our Post Office. We are a
small - elderly - rural community and
its difficult for most to travel for their
mail.

Mary Margaret Dryan



RECTOR
PA 15677

PL 2010-1

Office of Secretary
Postal Regulatory Commission
New York Ave. N.W. Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

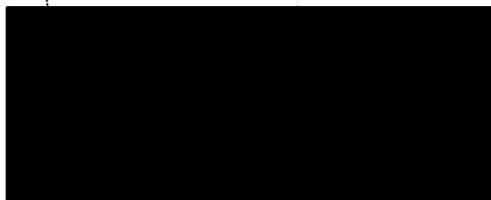
Postal Regulatory Commission
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer
FEB 01 2010

Regarding Investigation of Suspended Post Office,
Docket No. PL 2010-1 [Rector, PA 15677]

Dear Sec. S. Grove,

(comment) WE REALLY NEED TO HAVE A POST OFFICE HERE
IN RECTOR, PA 15677. OUR RESIDENTS ARE MOSTLY
RETIRED & TRAVELING 5 MILES TO THE NEAREST POST
OFFICE IS A REAL HARDSHIP FOR THE PEOPLE.
SOMETIMES THE ROAD (ROUTE 381) IS CLOSED DUE TO
HIGH WATER (LOYALHANNA CREEK) & IS IMPASSABLE.

George H. Springer
Doris M. Springer



RECTOR
PA 15677 Received

MAR 2 2010

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802
specter.senate.gov
Office of PAGR

- STATE OFFICES:
- 600 ARCH STREET, SUITE 9400
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106
215-597-7200
 - REGIONAL ENTERPRISE TOWER
425 SIXTH AVENUE, SUITE 1450
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219
412-644-3400
 - STE B-120, FEDERAL BUILDING
17 SOUTH PARK ROW
ERIE, PA 16501
814-453-3010
 - ROOM 1104, FEDERAL BUILDING
HARRISBURG, PA 17101
717-782-3951
 - SUITE 3814, FEDERAL BUILDING
504 W. HAMILTON
ALLENTOWN, PA 18101
610-434-1444
 - 310 SPRUCE STREET, SUITE 201
SCRANTON, PA 18503
570-346-2006
 - 7 NORTH WILKES-BARRE BLVD.
SUITE 377M
116 S. MAIN STREET
WILKES-BARRE, PA 18702
570-826-6265

February 19, 2010

Congressional Liaison
Director
Office of Public Affairs and Government Relations
United States Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20268

Dear Liaison:

My office has been contacted by Ms. Colleen DiPaul concerning the status of the Commission's inquiry into the suspension of the US Post Office in Rector, Pennsylvania. I am enclosing a copy of the correspondence that I have received.

Your findings and views, along with the return of the enclosure, will be greatly appreciated. Please direct your reply to my assistant, Ms. Elizabeth Fishback, at the following address:



Thank you for your assistance with the aforementioned matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arlen Specter".

Arlen Specter

AS:ef
Enclosures

000183

- / -

Copy for Senator Specter / Encl 1 of 3



Office of Public Affairs
and Government Relations

December 3, 2009

Ms. Colleen Brown DiPaul



Dear Ms. DiPaul:

You wrote the Postal Regulatory Commission (Commission) on June 5, 2006 about your concerns regarding the emergency suspension of the Rector post office in Pennsylvania. This is to inform you that the Commission has opened a case to investigate emergency suspensions of post offices, and that comments on your experience would be welcome in this proceeding. In addition, a public representative, who represents the interests of the public before the Commission, has been assigned to this docket and may contact you about this matter.

During recent Commission consideration of a post office closure appeal for Hacker Valley, West Virginia in Docket No. A2009-1, the Commission became aware that 97 post offices have been suspended due to lease expiration during the past 5 years and most of them remain suspended. The Commission believes it is not sufficient to simply suspend operations at a post office without promptly developing a plan to reopen or close the existing office. To better understand the scope of this problem, on November 9, 2009, the Commission initiated a public inquiry, Docket No. PI2010-1, to look into this matter. Interested persons are invited to provide relevant information and share their views. Written comments may be submitted by January 15, 2010.

Interested persons may submit formal statements regarding this matter for inclusion in the public record in that docket by filing online on our website at www.prc.gov. Informal written responses will be placed in our commenter file for review by the Commission. For your information, the record developed in Docket No. PI2010-1 may be viewed on our web site listed towards the bottom of our homepage.

In closing, please be assured the Commission takes very seriously its oversight role to ensure the accountability and transparency of the Postal Service, and we are looking forward to reviewing your comments on this matter. Please let me know if you have any questions and I will be happy to help.

Sincerely,

Annie Kennedy
Consumer Relations Specialist

000184

- 2 -

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Optional Comment Form

Received by Rector
Branch (Jane Kilgore);
Copy sent as response
to Postal Regulatory Com-
mission 5 Dec 09 letter.

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the Rector Post Office.

I. Effect on Your Postal Services. Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

The "proposed discontinuance of the Rector Post Office" has already taken effect four years ago in 2005 when the United States Postal Service Pittsburgh District Manager "temporarily" moved the Rector Post Office to Laughlintown, PA, thus denying our request for a public hearing as required before a post office can be closed.

Unfavorable effects have been a hardship on me as an 82 year old widow who goes south in the winter to be near my son and family since my husband's death ten years ago. When the service was provided by our local village post office, I experienced no problems with the forwarding of my mail; when handled by a central system (out of Pittsburgh or wherever?), I have had to pay penalties on overdue bills I never received and official mail did not get through. Laughlintown post office has done an admirable job but had difficulty with seasonal overload and training new workers.

Driving to and picking up mail at a location on a major highway has been a safety hazard and an inconvenience not only for Rector users but also for Laughlintown original users. Not to mention having to make a special trip to a town where most of us have no other business-- why not Ligonier, the same distance from Rector as Laughlintown, our township seat where we shop, especially for groceries, and recreate at the library-Y- theatre...?

Rural delivery does not suit me as I come and go & prefer my service from the post office, not from a box on the road.

II. Effect on Your Community. Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

The proposal --now four years in effect-- has been devastating to our Rector community-- no community since the post office and store (where USPS had contracted to move service when the 100 year old lease in a private home was not renewed) have been closed.

III. Other Comments. Please provide any other views of information that you believe the Postal service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

Many who signed the petition for a public hearing are disenchanted with USPS treatment of our rural community where notices are posted on "public hearings" in the Laughlintown post office, which those out of town for the season or using rural delivery do not see.

Name of Postal Customer: Colleen DiPaul

Mailing Address: [redacted]

City, State, and ZIP Code: [redacted]

Colleen DiPaul
11-24-2009

000185

21 December 2009

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Regional Enterprise Tower
425 6th Avenue, Suite 1450
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1870

Dear Senator Specter,

Reference your 1-29-2009 enclosing U.S. Postal Service District Manager's 11-21-2009 letter to you concerning the closing of the Rector Post Office in 2005.

There seems to be some confusion. The U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission has just advised me that in response to my 5 June 2006 letter to them, along with 96 other post offices suspended due to lease expiration, the Commission has opened a case to investigate these suspensions. I am enclosing a copy of that letter dated 3 December 2009 as well as further details the public inquiry, Docket No. P12010-1. The comments ^(written) the Commission welcomes have been returned informally and copies are herewith also forwarded for your review.

Hoping for your support in keeping the Rector Post Office open in our village store as contracted by the USPS leasing decision in North Carolina in 2005. Happy Holidays.

Sincerely,

Calleen DiPaul,

Rector resident since 1976 when my husband and I retired from foreign service

000186

Enclosures (3)

copy to store owner

RUCTOR
PA 15677

P12010-1

KENNEDY, ANNIE L

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 7:41 PM
To: PRC-PAGR
Subject: Current proceeding before the Commission - Comment

I AM 80 YEARS OLD HAVE LIVED HERE FOR 62 YEARS AND HAVE TO CHANGE MY ADDRESS 4 TIMES I AM NOT UP TO CHANGING EVERYTHING OVER AGAIN OR PAYING SOMEONE TO DO IT FOR ME WHY CAN YOU NOT LEAVE OUR POST OFFICE HERE AND LOOK OUT FOR ALL OF US OLD PEOPLE AND NOT JUST FOR YOUR BENEFIT WE PAY ALOT OF TAXES AND WHERE ARE THEY GOING????????????? PLEASE KEEP US THE SAME AND OPEN THE POST OFFICE BACK UP IT IS TO HARD FOR ME TO DRIVE TO LAUGHLINTOWN ESPECIALLY THERE IS NO PARKING AND HARD TO GET IN AND OUT OF AND NO ROOM INSIDE THE LITTLE OFFICE THANK YOU MRS. EARL STEIN.

Sender Name: MRS. EARL STEIN
Sender Email:
Daytime phone [REDACTED]
Sender Address:

000187

RECTOR
PA 15677

P12010-1

KENNEDY, ANNIE L

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 7:27 PM
To: PRC-PAGR
Subject: Current proceeding before the Commission - Comment

I WOULD NOT WANT RECTOR P.O. TO CLOSE I HAVE LIVED HERE 40 YEARS AND HAD TO CHANGE MY ADDRESS 4 TIMES I THINK SOMETHING COULD BE DONE ABOUT THIS WE NEED A POST OFFICE IN RECTOR THE LAUGHLINTONW BRANCH IS TO FAR TO TRAVEL AND NO PARKING VERY DANGEROUS TO BACK OUT NEAR ROUTE 30 ALSO IT IS TO SMALL AND YOU HAVE TO WAIT ALONG TIME TO GET SERVICE ONE MAN AT THE WINDOW AND NO ROOM FOR MORE THAN 4 PEOPLE TO STAND FOR SERVICE LAT ALONE MORE COMING IN FOR THEIR MAIL AND GETTING HIT BY THE DOOR THAT ONLY SWINGS ONE WAY. KEEP OUR POST OFFICE ADDRESS AND OPEN US BACK UP THANK YOU, BARB AND DENNIS STEIN WE HAVE A BUSINESS AND IT IS TERRIBLE TO CHANGE EVERYTHING AND LOOSE MONEY MAYBE THE GOVERMENT WOULD GIVE US SOME OF THE MONEY THAT WE WILL LOOSE. THANK YOU

Sender Name:MR.&MRS. DENNIS STEIN
Sender Email:[REDACTED]
Daytime phone:[REDACTED]
Sender Address:[REDACTED]

000188

RECTOR
PA 15677

P12010-1

KENNEDY, ANNIE L

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 7:54 PM
To: PRC-PAGR
Subject: Current proceeding before the Commission - Comment

I AM SO UPSET ABOUT LOOSING OUR POST OFFICE IN RECTOR I HAVE LIVED HERE FOR 15 YEARS AND HAD TO CHANGE MY ADDRESS 3 TIMES IT IS COSTLY NOW YOU WANT US TO CHANGE IT AGAIN UPON OUR EXPENSE. IT IS HARD TO GO TO THE LAUGHLINTOWN POST OFFICE AND COSTLY TO DRIVE THERE IT IS TO SMALL ,AND YOU HAVE TO WAIT FOREVER ONE CLERK AT THE WINDOW AND NO PARKING AND VERY DANGEROUS TO PULL IN AND OUT OF LEAVE PUT US BACK TO WHERE WE WERE NICE LITTLE COUNTRY POST OFFICE AND ALOT OF BUSINESS I THINK IF YOU WOULD LOOK BACK AT THE LOG IT MADE ALOT OF MONEY WITH THE MELLONS NEAR BY LEAVE US ALONE PICK ON SOMETHING ELSE NOT THE POST OFFICE IN RECTOR

Sender Name:MR.&MRS. DENNIS STEIN
Sender Email [REDACTED]
Daytime phone [REDACTED]
Sender [REDACTED]

000189



Rector
PA 15277

P.1
P12010-1
Received

JAN 15 2010

Office of PAGR

Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the Rector Post Office.

I. Effect on Your Postal Services. Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

The services to the community was lost with the closing of the postal office. The service to the community was lost with the closing of the postal office. This office had a person who took the heart of the community needs before her own. I know this office exceed the expected income and was below expenses every year. The postal office was an access to the postal service as it represented what the postal service was all about, which is service to the community. Many people in the community has gone to route addresses to avoid the drive of 7 miles round trip, but it still takes 2 days to get a book of stamp which was delivered the same day with the Rector Post Office, you could even get your mail if you lived on the route just by calling her.

II. Effect on Your Community. Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects if you believe the proposal would have on your community.

The most unfavorable effect is the lost of the community identity. The Rector Post Office is the life of the small communities like Rector. People relies on their small rural post office not only for mail service but for the communication and information of happenings in the community. Without the post office this service is lost to the rural community which are the backbone to America. This form is a good example of the lack of concern by the postal service. It had to be copied by the post office and also not everyone received a copy to reply which is another disadvantage because the small rural office would see that every community member would have received this letter and in a good copy.

III. Other Comments. Please provide any other views or information that you believe a Postal service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

The postal service used their authority and power without using proper procedure according to their own regulation. When they suspend the office the postal service had a place to move the office but failed to do so according to their own rules. The Pittsburgh management failed to come out and discuss the problem with the leaser and to inform the post employees of the office involved in what was happening. They fail to communicate with the community and ignored a petition to stop the closing. The postal service needs to return the samll rural offices to the community where the service is great and by doing so could increase their mail volume. The postal service has lost why it was created which is to deliver mail. They have too many bosses who are only interested in the mor money.

Name of Postal Customer

Albert E. Tenner

Signature of Postal Customer

1-4-10
Date

000190

Enclosed is a letter I sent to the Ligonier
Paper for Editors PAGE

August 10, 2005

To:

I am writing to complain against the United States Postal Service for closing the Rector PA Post Office at 15677. The lessor gave the Postal Service 5 months to vacate the facility on June 1, 2005. The Postal Service asked the lessor for a couple months more so they could have time to move down to the store 1/4 mile away. Two months after courtesy extending the deadline the people of Rector received a letter in the mail that beginning Aug 29, 2005, we would have to drive to Laughlinton to pick up our mail. This would mean about 40 miles a week and with the price of gas and I find this totally unacceptable.

I have the understanding that the Postal Service and store owner had agreed over the phone on a monthly rent. On the day "Bill Battles Post Office Operation Manager" brought the closer letter out to Rector Mr. Battle did not even have the courtesy to stop at the store to tell the owner the Postal Service would not be using his facility.

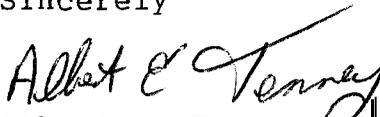
I found by talking to neighbors when they called in May about the lease being cancelled they got all kind of different stories from the Postal Service on what it was going to do.

When the store owner called Jeff Gregg in North Carolina with whom he was talking about the lease Mr. Gregg was dumb founded to hear that the Rector Post Office was to be closed.

I find the Postal Service to be like the rest of government agency all you can expect from them is lies. I saw on Fox News Show that last year the Postal Service sponsored Lance Armstrong Cycle team to the tune of 9 million dollars. This year I understand the Postal Service is sponsoring a race car.

I would like to know why the Postal Service can spend all this money on other things and can't give the hard working taxpayers the same service in their community that they have now. But then again we don't have to worry because it won't be long till the postal service don't have money and expect us to accept a postage stamp increase.

Sincerely


Albert E. Tenney



P.S. Excuse the grammer and spelling but I am just a plain country taxpayer.

000191

TOWNSLEY V

RECTOR
PA 15677

PI 2010-1

December 28, 2009

Received

TO: Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave NW
Washington DC 20268-0001

JAN 04 2010

Dear Sir:

Office of PAGR

Due to the fact that I am now 85 years old and am legally blind, I am having my family write this letter for me. This is the story of the Rector Post Office and how the Pittsburgh District mishandled the entire problem.

First so there is no misunderstanding, I am a retired Postmaster that was the postmaster at Rector, Pa 15677. The facility was located in the front room of a home for 107 years before it was temporarily suspended due to lack of the Pittsburgh District doing their job. The Postmasters that served this office over all those years was from one family and in fact it was being served by the third generation of postmasters.

I am enclosing letters and articles from the paper showing how I as the leaser attempted to work with the postal service and also how the Pittsburgh District refused to answer questions regarding the closing of the Rector Post Office. The Postmaster at the time took an emergency leave and left the community so that no reporter could find her and the community did not have to help her hide to avoid making any comments as she repeatedly told us she could not get involved. But I know for a fact she was devastated with what the Postal Service had done and cried many times when she thought no one was around. This facility was the front room of my home and that is why I know what she did as I could hear her.

In the beginning the Postal Service paid no rent at all. In the late 60's they paid \$25.00 a month for the facility. After I retired in 1990, I asked for a raise and received \$100.00 per month of which I paid both the heat and the electricity. As the years went by the Postal Service added more machines and it became necessary for the equipment to stay on 24 hours a day 7 days a week. In 1999 the post office sent notice they were taking the last 5 year option and that by the end of those 5 years Rector would have a new office. In 2001, I signed a lease that included a raise to \$150.00 per month. In 2005, the post office now had placed a computer with internet service, so I decided I needed a pay raise. I asked for everything to remain the same except to increase the monthly rent to \$200 and have annual increases of 5%. They refused and wanted to add trash removal to my expenses and would give me \$200 a month. I sent letters and when I talked with the man from the leasing department, he told me to sign the lease or they would close the office. To me this was a threat. I then contacted my attorney, who could not believe the demands the leasee was placing on me the leaser. So I came home and my son and I discussed my option. I also did not want them to place renewal options that I could not refuse and also not allow me to sell unless the post office continued to use the front room. You know that no one would purchase a home with that being demanded so I elected to terminate the lease. I gave them until June 1, 2005 to vacate the building. Over the 6 months the lease department talked with me and told me they needed more time to move the office to the local store and would I give them until the end of August. After receiving a verbal agreement that the office

000192

-1-

was moving to the store I agreed verbally to give them more time.

The store owner Mr. Flaherty was also waiting for them to give him the okay to remodel the store to accommodate the post office. Instead on July 27, 2005 a man from Pittsburgh came into the office told the clerk to call the postmaster in and told them they had to place a letter in the customers mailboxes. To the Postmaster surprise it was a letter telling the customer that effected August 29, 2005, that we have to go to Laughlinton to get our mail as the lease was terminated. To me it seem they tried to place the blame on me the leaser and not the fact that the Pittsburgh District did nothing to committed to moving the office to a place that was willing to accomadate the post office and the community was very much in favor of the move. When you called Pittsburgh to get any answers from them about the facility prior to the letter we received different information depending on who you talked with. I feel that the Pittsburgh District had no attention to this proablem and made up their mind to suspend the service to the people without doing anything and refused to talk with the people or to answer question from the newspaper. This is just another way the postal service has gotten away from why they were established and that is to delivery mail. At the time of the closing of the Rector Postoffice the postal service was sponsoring a race car and I have seen many advertisement on television that my son tells me about regarding shipping using the post service. If the postal service would do their job and do it correctly they would not have the low mail volume. Even my own family is sending less and less mail and paying their bill online as they say you can't rely on the postal system to delivery your mail.

You can see by the information I sent you that this letter is the truth and that the postal service did an injustice to the Rector people by suspending the office. The people are basically retired and have trobule getting around and the postmaster that served the office was also a registered nurse and so she was also the medical person available to look at people and to check them out not only in the office but on her lughtime she delivered post office box customer their mail if they were sick and could not get out to get it and also she checked on them to make sure they were okay and did not need anything as she would drive into the grocery store or to the drugstore to get them medicine. She was more than a postmaster but she was the community heart and soul. She never said no to anyone who asked for her help and she was able to know if some one was not in for their mail and would call them to see if they were okay. She was our information person to let people know and had a area for people to place sign regarding events. The people of Rector needs a post office even if it is a station or as my family calls it a contactstation that the fprmer postmaster could run I think the people of Rector would even fund for an office just to help them know what is happening and to avoid driving the 7 miles to mail a package. Thank-you for letting me express my concern as I am getting older and i did not want my son to have to deal with this after I passed as I have a heart condition and am now legally blind. I hope for the sake of the rector community you will not permit them to permanently close this office but would make them reopen it because they had a place to go and did not do it. The town needs their post office bakc and should be rightfully given it and the people in pittsburgh should be held accountable for

000193

and the Pittsburgh District managers should be held accountable for what they did to the Rector Community and be fired for their lack of work. It is so much easier to sit on your rearend and close something than to get out there and work with the people to resolve the issue.

Sincerely

Ida Tenney

Ida Tenney

000194



Columbia Facilities Service Office
PO Box 701, Columbia MD, 21045-0701

DATE: January 12, 1999
OUR REF: Rector, PA-Main Post Office
SUBJECT: Renewal Option Clarification

TO:



The Postal Service has already exercised its final renewal option extending the lease term in your building until December 31, 2001. The Pittsburgh District tells me that the facility is on the five year replacement list and should be completed prior to the expiration date of your lease.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 410-997-6216.


Garry Mattox
Real Estate Specialist

000195



Columbia Facilities Service Office
PO Box 701, Columbia MD, 21045-0701

DATE: March 22, 2001
OUR REF: Rector, PA Main Post Office
SUBJECT: Lease Extension

TO:



The Postal Service is requesting a month to month extension of your current lease effective January 1, 2002. This extension is necessary due to the fact that our current new facility project has been delayed due to a national capital freeze. As a consideration for the extension, I am recommending to the Contracting Officer that the new rent be increased to \$1,800 per annum.

If the lease extension is acceptable to you, please sign, date, and return two copies to this office for processing.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 410-997-6216.
(FAX 410-997-6260)


Garry Mattox
Real Estate Specialist

000196

-5-

CHANGES

~~30~~ month to month

there will Be no changes
made to the structure inside
or outside

All REPAIRS will be decided
on By owner

n of your
ecessary
delayed due
sion, I am
increased

Both PARTIES HAVE Right to
TERMINATE LEASE with 30 day
notice

and return

37-6216.

~~only~~ No changes to the interior or exterior of the existing Facility ^{or} ~~will be required~~ ^{made} and only emergency repairs ^{agreed upon by lessor} will be done

PO Box 35
Rector PA 15677
December 6, 2004



Dear Sir:

This letter is in responds to the lease agreement for the Rector Post Office. I will not sign the agreement. In my original letter dated October 22, 2004, I gave you what I would accept and I told you I would only sign a new lease, if those terms were met. I never paid the trash removal and I am not about to start. I will not accept a 5 year renewal with 5 year optional renewals. My terms are simple month to month lease with your agreement that a new post office will be available by the spring of 2006. If you are not going to meet my requirements then I have no other choice then to terminate the lease. I am older and am not interested in any long term lease that cause a problem for my family.

Sincerely,

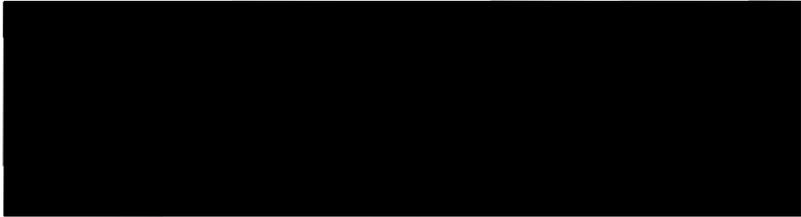
Ida Ankney Tenney

000198

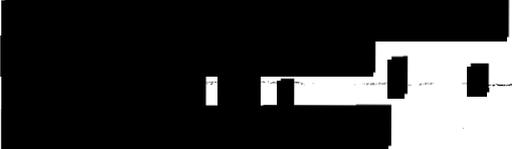
Items for Lease

1. On anniversary date a 5% automatic increase to the rent payment will occur.
2. No restroom facility
3. No parking
4. Total room size 300 square feet.
5. Month to month lease with either party able to terminate lease with a 90 days notice.
6. Payment due the 1st of each month for that month.
7. No repairs or changes to facility unless lessor deem necessary.
8. Heat and light to be paid by lessor.
9. Not responsible for any postal property lost due to fire or theft. located in the facility
10. Monthly rent for the year 2005 will be \$200 per month

000199



January 25, 2005



RE: Rector Post Office Lease
Route 381 South
Rector, PA 15677-9998

Dear Mr. Gregg:

I have reviewed your proposed lease renewal with my attorney. After taking all of the details into consideration, I have decided that it is no longer economically feasible for me to continue to rent the space to the United States Postal Service. I do want to give you time to find a new location. As you know, when the lease extension was executed on a month-to-month basis beginning January 1, 2002, it was with the understanding that the United States Postal Service was looking for a new facility in the Rector area.

This letter is my notice to you of the termination of our month-to-month lease, but I am willing to let you stay until June 1, 2005. If you are able to find a new facility prior to that date, I will agree to an earlier termination.

Please contact my attorney, [redacted] at [redacted] or by telephone at [redacted] if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Ida Ankney Tenney
Ida Ankney Tenney

PC: George V. Welty, Esquire

000200

DISTRICT MANAGER,
CUSTOMER SERVICE AND SALES
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

We, the citizens and customers of the Rector Post Office hereby protest any change in the present status of our post office.

It is our desire to retain our post office at its present status – a United States post office operated by a postmaster and career postal employees.

We have many concerns, among them the sanctity of the mail and the inconvenience your proposal presents to us in delivering and sending the mail, particularly accountable mail. We are especially concerned over what effect your proposed action would have regarding the purchase of postal money orders. We are also well aware of the documented abuses possible through a contract mail station.

The Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 calls for providing a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service to rural areas, communities and small towns where post offices are not financially self-sustaining.

We do not feel your proposals meet these criteria.

Sincerely,
Customers of the Rector Post Office:

000201

PETITION FOR RECTOR POST OFFICE

NAME

Valley School Employees

- 1. Candace [redacted] 5
- 2. Jay Spr [redacted] 05
- 3. Jeremy D [redacted] 8/16/05
- 4. Johnny De [redacted] 8/17/05
- 5. J. Cle [redacted] 8/17/05
- 6. Beth Ann [redacted] 1/17/05
- 7. Johnny K [redacted] 8/17/05
- 8. Randy [redacted] 8-18-05
- 9. Pat King [redacted] 8-18-05
- 10. Dominic [redacted] 8-18-05
- 11. Bin [redacted] 15654 8-19-05
- 12. [redacted]
- 13. Richard [redacted] A-15677 8-21-05
- 14. [redacted] PA 8-21-05
- 15. [redacted] PA 8-21-05
- 16. Cindy [redacted]
- 17. Robin [redacted] Rector Pa. 8/24,
- 18. [redacted] Pa. Fed. [redacted]
- 19. Jane [redacted] 77 8-25-05
- 20. Stephen [redacted] 677 08-27-05
- 21. Marion [redacted] 08-27-05
- 22. Nadene [redacted] 08-27-05
- 23. Cole [redacted] 8-27-05
- 24. [redacted] 8/27/05

PETITION FOR RECTOR POST OFFICE

NAME

25. Elizabeth A. Winters

26. Elizabeth A. Winters

27. George Winters,

28. Sandy Sam

29. Edith A. Bunch

30. Karin Swares

31. Lisa McChesney 14

32. Nancy Cutch

33. Ford T. Cutch

34. Bob Post 16

35. Charlotte Post

36. Barbara L. Bouch Box 4

37. Virginia B. St

38. Harold Steep

39. Jane Stittler

40. Mary R. Weidman

41. Homer M. Sou

42. Mary Anne

43. Colleen Brown

44. E. Jean Be

45. Carol Schaber

46. Don Schaber

47. David Post 179

48. Joanne C. De

6/05

6/05

77

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8/17

8/7

17/05

"

7/03

OR

1,05

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77-8

Paris

527

17/05

8-1

-12-

PETITION FOR RECTOR POST OFFICE

NAME

ADDRESS

DATE

49. Mildred G. Mann

50. Margaret A. ...

51. Len Staffer

52. Bonnie ...

53. ...

54. ...

55. ...

56. ...

57. ...

58. ...

59. ...

60. Keith Daugherty

61. ...

62. Gilbert Wagner

63. Lewis W. ...

64. ...

65. ...

66. Hope Pennington

67. ...

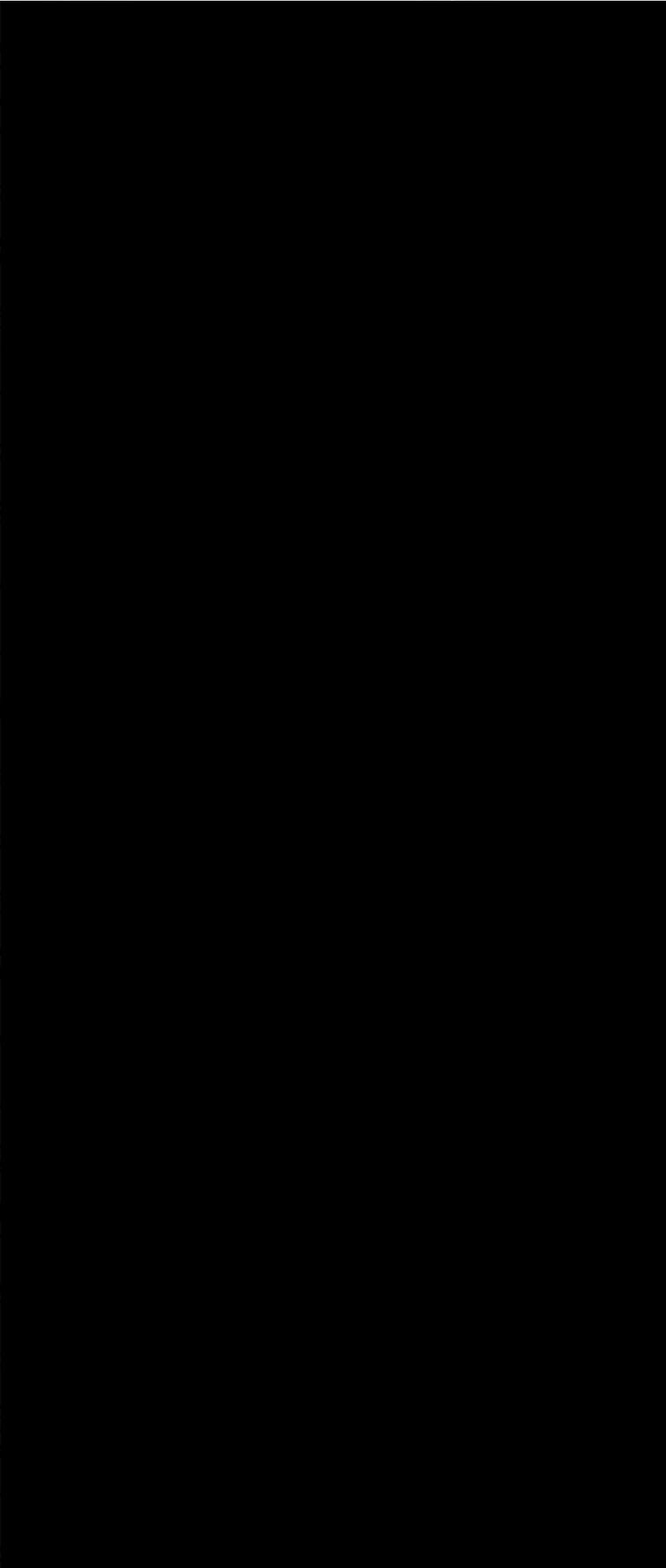
68. ...

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72. ...



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8/18/05
18/05
8/18/05
18/05
8/18/05
5677 8/18/05
Rd Rector PA 5
105
5677
8/19/05
8/19/05
PA 156;
5677
8/19/05

PETITION FOR RECTOR POST OFFICE

NAME

DATE

NAME	DATE
73. Virginia	2005
74. James	19, 2005
75. Edmund	for Pa. Aug 20
76. Mr & Mrs	1/19/05
77. Mr & Mrs	4/15/77
78. George	15677
79. Doris	15677
80. Duane	571
81. Mr & Mrs	LANE RECTOR
82. Dean &	2/15/77 8-20
83. Robert	2005
84. Dale	6/7/78-20-05
85. Tim	7/8/20-05
86. Pat	Rd. 15677
87. John	8/20-05
88. John K	15677 8/20
89. Louisa	17 8-20-05
90. Jean	Mill Rd
91. Jan	9/8/78 8/20/05
92. C. D.	35-3050 8-
93. Diana J	2829 8-20-
94. Robert	724- 238-
95. Ann	2717 8
96. D. J.	Det. 23 237. 258 215

PETITION FOR RECTOR POST OFFICE

NAME	ADDRESS	DATE
97. <i>Conrad Linn</i>	[REDACTED]	5
98. <i>Joe C M</i>	[REDACTED]	5
99. <i>RUSH M</i>	[REDACTED]	
100. <i>Brenda R</i>	[REDACTED]	5
101. <i>Neil J</i>	[REDACTED]	05
102. <i>Bobby Ambrose</i>	[REDACTED]	5
103. <i>Gary Ambrose</i>	[REDACTED]	5
104. <i>John A</i>	[REDACTED]	ector Pa
105. <i>Art A</i>	[REDACTED]	8/05
106. <i>James A</i>	[REDACTED]	18/05
107. <i>Brookly N</i>	[REDACTED]	18/05
108. <i>Lavin M</i>	[REDACTED]	-19-05
109. <i>Anita W</i>	[REDACTED]	-18-05
110. <i>William E</i>	[REDACTED]	8-18-05
111. <i>Ma J</i>	[REDACTED]	18
112. <i>Ted B</i>	[REDACTED]	
113. <i>Kusan G</i>	[REDACTED]	8-18-05
114. <i>Edward J</i>	[REDACTED]	156770P-18-05
115. <i>Margaret</i>	[REDACTED]	15677-8-18-05
116. <i>Marie Stein</i>	[REDACTED]	-05
117. <i>Clara A</i>	[REDACTED]	-19-05
118. <i>W D</i>	[REDACTED]	19-05
119. <i>Carl R</i>	[REDACTED]	
120. <i>Helbert P</i>	[REDACTED]	Pa 8-19-05

PETITION FOR RECTOR POST OFFICE

NAME	ADDRESS	DATE
121. Evelyn	[REDACTED]	005
122. Betty H	[REDACTED]	005
123. Ralph H	[REDACTED]	005
124. Maria Portu	[REDACTED]	005
125. Jatt	[REDACTED]	05
126. J. J. Bro	[REDACTED]	9/05
127. J. B.	[REDACTED]	12/05
128. Paul L B	[REDACTED]	8-19-05
129. J. L. H	[REDACTED]	
130. J. L. H	[REDACTED]	215677 8-1
131. Dora	[REDACTED]	15677 8-1
132. Chas	[REDACTED]	PA, 8-19-0
133. Martha	[REDACTED]	PA, 8-19-05
134. Joseph	[REDACTED]	for, PA 156-
135. Katherine	[REDACTED]	ter Pa. 8/19
136. J. L. H	[REDACTED]	
137. J. L. H	[REDACTED]	
138. J. L. H	[REDACTED]	RECTOR 8/25
139. Joel J. D	[REDACTED]	PA 8/25/05
140. Ella M. C	[REDACTED]	8/25/05
141. H. M. M	[REDACTED]	15677 8/25/05
142. Cheryl M	[REDACTED]	
143.	[REDACTED]	
144.		000207

PETITION FOR RECTOR POST OFFICE

NAME

ADDRESS

DATE

Lida T

Jim T

Amelia

Willie

Turt Ca

Diane Und

Mark Und

Leroy A

James C

Walter

Edan

mm. Inya

Tom Jak

Ruth Jak

Jane C

J.D.

Janice G.

Richard E.

Sharon K.

Joan F.

William

James L.

J. Alber

Barbara D.

Patrick D.

Patricia

8/20/05

8/22/05

8/22/05

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8/22/05

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Rector 8/22

8-23

Pa 1507-

77 8/23/05

7 8/24/05

77 8/24/05

77 8/24/05

-17-

PETITION FOR RECTOR POST OFFICE

NAME

Suann Kelly

Edmond F.S.

Denise

David

Mary Vu

Becky De

Bill De

Sarah

Bob D

Sherry B

Ken B

Rachap

Will L

Justin

John

Mal

David J

Roni L

Joseph

Janice

Elizabeth

MR & MRS

Cliff

Mr & M

Dr. Rebe

8-20-05

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MILL

8-20-
FA 15

8-20-05

2nd 8700

PETITION FOR RECTOR POST OFFICE

NAME

ADDRESS

DATE

David m. KA

8/24/05

Thomas A. I

8-24-05

MANK ST

8-25-05

Jim Red

9/27/05

Mandy Penn

8/27/05



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Wednesday

TRIBUNE-REVIEW

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Post office closing Rector branch

By Mary Pickels
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Wednesday, August 17, 2005

For more than a century, Rector residents have picked up their parcels and letters from a small room in a private home along Route 381 in Ligonier Township.

But starting at the end of the month, more than 100 of them will have to drive five miles farther to get their mail when the U.S. Postal Service moves out of that house near Jacob Miller Road.

"The lease for our postal facility in Rector has been terminated by the landlord," a letter to postal customers states. "Beginning Monday, Aug. 29, we will temporarily move our retail the Laughlintown Post Office. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and your patience during this transitional period."

Messages left for postal service officials seeking further comment on the closing were not Tuesday.

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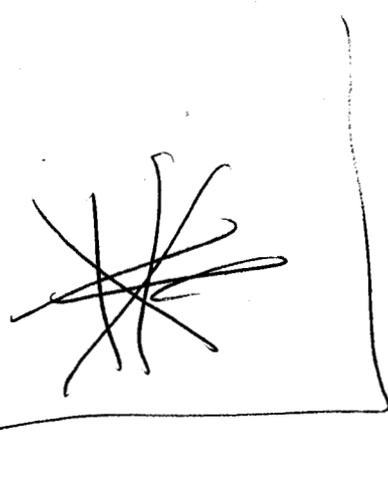
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Yet many residents in the rural village wondering what "temporarily" means

Patrick Flaherty, owner of the nearby Market, is particularly curious.

Flaherty has had open arms for the project he cleared 300 square feet of space for a general store and gas station along Ligonier just off Route 381.

"Since I have the only commercial property in Rector, I thought it made sense," he wrote that he wrote to the postal service in an offer to modify his store to suit or move the post office on adjacent property.

Both lease options would have provided parking and handicapped accessibility -- something the facility has never had. Patrons now park in the yard or along Route 381, which has limited

KUV Radio

space, and must climb a few stairs to the post office's porch.

But Flaherty's offer was initially rejected.



"They said, 'thanks, but no thanks,'" he said.

Then, in May, Flaherty was contacted by postal service officials who had reconsidered, h

"They said they were interested in renting space. We talked about renovations and we ag everything, the rent, the amount of space," he said. "So I ripped out my kitchen and freez all my stock into other areas and had the space all ready."

Then, in June, "I heard that they were given a two-month extension. But I was assured th still coming, and that they'd be in by the end of August," he said.

However, with the closing looming, Flaherty said he still has no idea whether he'll have a tenant or not.

"No one has told me that they're not coming, but it's nearly the end of August, and I still c answer," he said. "I'm not very happy, no. I thought I was due a little more courtesy than t

Residents aren't real happy, either.

"This came out of the blue," said David Kilgore, who lives along Linn Run Road with his w likes the idea of moving the post office into the store.

"It just seems like the logical thing to do," he said. "If not for the parking alone."

The Kilgores said it would also lessen the burden on residents who depend on the neigh

Rector's post office serves about 220 customers -- 105 of whom still come in to pick up th Nancy Kiser, postmaster replacement there.

"Some of them are pretty upset. There are a lot of elderly people, and it will be hard for th admitted, noting many don't like traveling Route 30.

She also noted that a portion of Route 381 that leads to the highway is prone to flooding (rains.

Even the property owner who is evicting the post office agrees that moving it into the stor fitting solution to keep a post office in the village.

But Ida Tenney said she is also in the dark about her former employer's plans.

"It's awful. They won't tell us anything," said Tenney, 80, who worked for the postal servic and served the last seven of those years as postmaster in the house where she still lives.

Her daughter, Eleanor Pennington, took her place as postmaster, but was put on extende week.

"She's very upset," said Tenney, declining to discuss that issue.

Tenney had her attorney notify the postal service in January that it had six months to vac

property.

"She didn't want to tie the property up for 20 years," said her son, Albert Tenney.

The postal service "only paid \$150 a month and she asked for a raise to cover rising elec he added. "They told her they would give her \$50 more a month, but she would have to p garbage collection. Now, all we get is the run-around. It's a shame that a government age that."

Flaherty said he is equally flabbergasted, but said his offer still stands.

The postal service is "welcome next month, or even next year," he said.

Flaherty and the Kilgores said they have contacted several state and federal lawmakers a plight, including U.S. Rep. Tim Murphy, U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum and state Rep. Jess St:

"But so far, we haven't heard back from any of them," Jane Kilgore said, adding that she : husband are joining with friends and neighbors in an attempt to organize and circulate a ; submit to the postal service to keep a facility in Rector.

"I guess we're a sort of a self-appointed, unofficial committee," she said.

Mary Pickels can be reached at [REDACTED]

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000213

Generally Speaking

By Rick Schwab

Rector deserves some answers

MY OLD FRIEND Colleen DiPaul is at it again. She's recently generated a flurry of broadsides at federal government officials in hopes of getting the Rector Post Office reopened — and she's received several responses from the highest rungs of government in Washington!

As readers may recall, the Rector Post Office operations were "temporarily" moved to Laughlintown last summer. Residents of the Rector area now have to drive to Laughlintown to pick up their mail, or some have opted to put up mailboxes and have their mail delivered.

Colleen fired off letters earlier this month to Postmaster General John B. Potter and to George A. Amos of the Postal Rate Commission, along with the other four commissioners appointed by President Bush. She's also written to and received responses from U.S. Senators Rick Santorum and Arlen Specter.

Keith J. Bepler, district manager/lead executive with the USPS in Pittsburgh, responded for the Postmaster General.

"Thank you for your continued interest in this matter," he wrote. "I regret that neither carrier delivery nor Post Office Box delivery from Laughlintown suits your needs during this period of review. Carrier delivery was offered with the intent to provide our Rector customers with the convenience of accessing their mail without traveling to the Laughlintown Post Office. Although Post Office Boxes do have side vents, many of the mail once delivered there are dual style mailboxes available with locks that allow the carrier to deposit the mail, but require a key to open it."

"I understand from your letter that Senator Santorum provided you with information regarding a bill that would allow for the closure of a Post Office which is applicable only when there is a proposal to close a Post Office. We have not filed a proposal to close, and are continuing to study all alternatives for serving our Rector customers. If you have additional concerns, please contact our Consumer Affairs Office at 412-359-7845."

STEVEN W. WILLIAMS, secretary for the Postal Rate Commission, wrote as follows:

"I have inquired on the basis of your article and the United States Postal Service's response to your letter and that nothing has changed to any degree from the information you provided in your letter regarding the Postal Service's mail delivery service in Rector."

"There is no need to communicate or communicate with the office therefore, an appeal of the decision is not required or needed in The Postal Rate Commission's jurisdiction. It is the Commission's duty to ensure the proper procedures are followed in closing a Post Office and there is no available route community in the event that the Postal Service makes a determination to close a Post Office. The following procedures must be followed:

1. The Postal Service, before reaching a Final Determination to close or consolidate an office, must give all parties 60 days notice during which comments may be filed with the Postal Service.

2. If the Postal Service subsequently makes a Final Determination to take the proposed action, a posted notice of such action must be provided, and then all patrons have 30 days to appeal to the Postal Rate Commission.

I am enclosing a copy of the regulations regarding the discontinuance of a Post Office. These regulations outline in more detail the steps the U.S. Postal Service must take to notify residents who procedures it must follow and the appropriate time should an appeal of the closure to the Postal Rate Commission become necessary. Perhaps you could share this information with your neighbors who also signed your petition.

Williams included a 10-page document from the "Electronic Code of Federal Regulations."

000214

JILLEN is concerned that the Rector Post Office issue is in a
eral "Catch 22" situation. The USPS has not officially closed it,
o hearing can be held. The district manager says the USPS is
continuing to study all alternatives, and what is there left to study?
Perhaps they're just waiting for Rector residents to get used to the
new circumstances, stringing them along, before announcing an
official closing. How long can Rector residents be "temporarily"
served by the La Grange Post Office? One year? Two years? A
decade, perhaps?

It's the "30-day" dragged on this long. The Mountain Market
store, another Rector community center was torn to shreds when
the USPS apparently had the option of a deal to move the Post Office
to that location. That would have been ideal as the amount of
the post office and a mobile service combined provide the facilities
upon which our village life depends.

One of my favorite times to do in the summer was to pick up a sub
sandwich and beverage at the country store and drive up to Linn
Run State Park for a picnic. It would have been good to buy stamps
there too.

USA Today carried a story in March on the demise of little post
offices across the country. Some 3/2 have been closed during the
past two years. The article didn't say how many have had their op-
erations temporarily suspended, but it did point out that the loss of a
post office is a blow to community life. The late Mario DiPaolau used
to call the Rector Post Office "our federal building".

Rector residents still see a post office, and some straighten up
no more than a speck in our landscape.

WHILEY CHECKING on the progress of the remaining along
Main Street, a bunch of students had made one with a bunch of
others, and were looking at the branches that
could hold the eyes of passersby walking on the sidewalks.

000215

Partly cloudy then clearing toward evening. Highs in the lower 80s.

84°/63°

Tomorrow
84°/62°

Mostly sunny in the morning. Then becoming partly cloudy in the afternoon and evening.

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Rector post office to close Aug. 29

USPS retail operations in Rector moving to Laughlintown

by Jordan Frei

BY JORDAN FREI
Bulletin Staff Writer

Cradled in between two local points of interest, the village of Rector could be considered small, but distinguished. Situated along Route 381 in Ligonier Township, Rector sits in between Linn Run State Park and the Powdermill Nature Reserve. Kids often pedal their bicycles along the rural roads that stem from the one intersection in town to Patrick Flaherty's Mountain Market, the only retail business in Rector, for candy and soft drinks.

But for many Rector residents, a state of unrest was created when they received a letter from the United States Postal Service, stating that their retail operations in Rector will be temporarily moved to the post office in Laughlintown on Aug. 29.

"We didn't choose to move, we lost our lease," Diane Svoboda, a USPS spokeswoman said. Svoboda confirmed that about 100 of the current post-office box customers will have to pick up their mail in Laughlintown. But she added that the small residence that houses operations in Rector did not act as a distributing center and that "customers who receive mail at home will not notice the difference."

Owner of the small house, located off of Jacob Miller Road, Ida Tenney, explained that she was forced to raise the \$150 per month rent as the mail system became more computerized.

"They kept bringing in more equipment that had to run all night long and I was paying the electric bill," said Tenney, who lives in the same house and was employed by the post office and even served as the post master there.

Tenney said that she wasn't sure when the house was built but that it was always owned by her family. It has housed the post office for more than 100 years.

"They agreed to pay more money but then they said that they wanted me to pay for garbage removal and wanted a five-year contract with an option for another 15 years," she explained. "I'm already 80 years old, I don't want to tie up the building for that long."

The current agreement is a month-to-month lease.

Like most town residents, Flaherty and Tenney thought the most logical decision was that the facility be relocated to a space that he made in his shop.

"It was done. They made an offer and I accepted. I thought they were going to move in by the end of August," Flaherty said.

He explained that the post office sent letters to Rector postal customers, saying that a new site was "under negotiation."

"That makes me seem like I'm asking for more money and I'm not," Flaherty offered and explained that he has since freed up a portion of his building and had an alarm system installed.

Downtown traffic light problem resolved

The traffic light at the intersection of Ligonier and Depot Streets was struck by lightning last Thursday, causing a timing error to occur.

An error in the timing device was found when the lights were changing every 12 to 13 seconds. Traffic was backed up on Ligonier Street all the way to Alexandria Street, according to City of Ligonier Manager Rick Stadler.

Stadler and Public Works Director Joseph Bush were on site inspecting the problem Tuesday afternoon. A traffic systems crew was working at the intersection of Unity Street and Lloyd Avenue near the Le Nature's building and was scheduled to repair the timing device of the Ligonier/Depot light by the end of Tuesday afternoon.

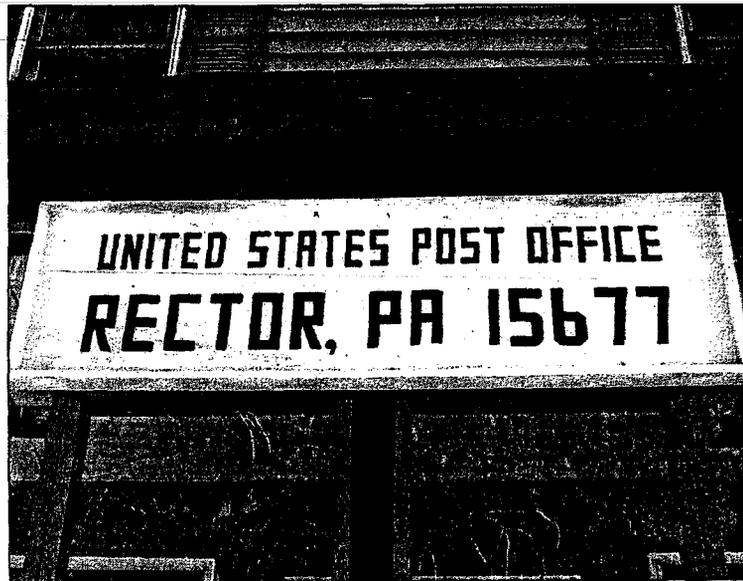
The new facility would include ample parking, be more accessible for people with disabilities. There are officers only parking spaces for customers, and the office steps are on the other side of the building. Svoboda did not comment on how close the USPS is to choosing their new location that Flaherty's store is being considered.

"We're in the process of ing at all the areas, it can't be done from a map anywhere from a map year," Svoboda explained. She said that the USPS follow strict guidelines opening a new location officials must not only take into account convenience into account, but also security as well.

"Since 9/11, the list for opening a new post office became very strict," she said. But Flaherty said it made aware of those guidelines. "If they tell me a guidelines, I'll make them," Flaherty said. "It's a stumbling block, I'll make it."

NEIGHBORHOODS

INSIDE News from Latrobe, Ligonier and surrounding areas • Neighborhood News 6 • Your Neight



PHOTOS: CAROLYN HOLLAND/FOR THE TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Above: This sign identifies the site where the Rector Post Office has existed for more than 106 years. Beginning Monday, postal patrons must go to the Laughlintown Post Office to pick up their mail. Left: Owen Grant, a post office box-holder, picks up mail for him and his wife, Marilyn. "I don't want to go to Laughlintown," he said of the Rector Post Office's temporary relocation. "I want rural delivery like a hundred other people that have boxes here." Nancy Kiser hands the mail to him through the post office's barred window.

Is it the end for post office?

Lease loss
moves mail
from longtime
meeting place

RECTOR

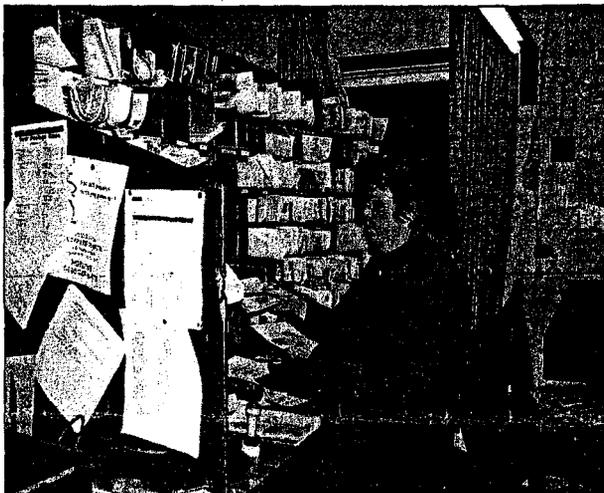
Some fear the postal service won't reopen to save costs.

BY CAROLYN HOLLAND
FOR THE TRIBUNE-REVIEW

The temporary closure of the Rector Post Office marks the end of an era, one that began more than 106 years ago.

Saturday was the final day mail was available in the old post office located in the front room of a private home occupied by Ida Ankney Tenney and her granddaughter, Hope Pennington. Beginning Monday, Rector postal patrons must travel to the Laughlintown Post Office for their mail, a trek many of them call inconvenient.

"It's an old-time post office in



rich (Rolling Rock) country," said Eleanor "Ellie" Pennington, the current postmaster and Tenney's daughter, of the Rector facility.

Box-holder Joanne DeWitt described the post office as a friendly neighborhood gathering spot where patrons learned the latest town news.

"We're quaint," she said.

Local postal patrons hope a new location in Rector is set up

soon.

The transition occurred because Tenney terminated the post office's lease, according to a July 27 letter sent to box-holders by William P. Battles Jr., of the Postal Service.

Although Battles' letter describes the move as temporary, Rector residents worry it may be permanent. They've heard the post office wants to reduce the number of smaller facilities.

Petition circulating

Saturday was the final day Rector's mail was distributed from the front room of the private home owned by Ida Ankney Tenney.

On Monday, Rector Post Office's 105 patrons must travel to the Laughlintown Post Office to pick up their mail, according to a July 27 letter sent to postal patrons and signed by William P. Battles Jr., of the U.S. Postal Service.

For security reasons, all customers will need to show identification for mail to be released. Delivery addresses will remain the same.

This situation is temporary, Battles wrote.

Because another Rector site has not been chosen, postal service was moved to Laughlintown "to provide uninterrupted service to the customer," said Diane Svoboda, a post office media relations spokeswoman.

A standard postal petition to keep the post office open and in the community is being circulated by Albert Penney.

The petition can be signed at the Rector playground from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday.

Residents unable to attend can contact Rector resident Jane B. Kilgore and her husband, Bob, to make arrangements to sign the petition. The Kilgores also are willing to visit homebound residents so they can sign the petition.

Postmaster Eleanor "Ellie" Pennington sorts mail into post office boxes. Some of the boxes came from the Laughlintown Post Office when it was located in the back of Ziders' Store, in Laughlintown.

Diane Svoboda, a post office media relations spokeswoman, said the Pittsburgh District Post Office isn't following that policy.

"Remember, post office service is all about customer service and needs," she said. "If they are closing smaller facilities in other places, it's a last resort."

She said postal officials are reviewing all options to resolve the

SEE RECTOR • 4

000217

-26-

Is it the end for post office? Rector patrons hope not

000218

RECTOR • FROM 1

Rector situation.
 "We're in the very initial stages of our search," she said. "The (Mountain Market) is one of many options we will look at. It could take a year (to settle the issue)."

Past postmasters

Rector's post office history includes five postmasters from the same family.

The first postmaster, Richard Lawry, was Tenney's uncle. He built hickory rockers in part of the house and served as postmaster from its opening in Dec. 21, 1886, until 1901 or 1903.

"I heard he didn't like the job," Pennington said.

Lawry's brother-in-law, Elwood Ankney, served next. His wife, Eleanor, gave birth to 11 children in the house; they raised their eight surviving children there, including Tenney.

Ankney's son, Fred Ankney, was the third postmaster, serving between 1835 and February 1882. Tenney said her brother handed out mail during store hours, until 10 p.m. He never married and died before he retired.

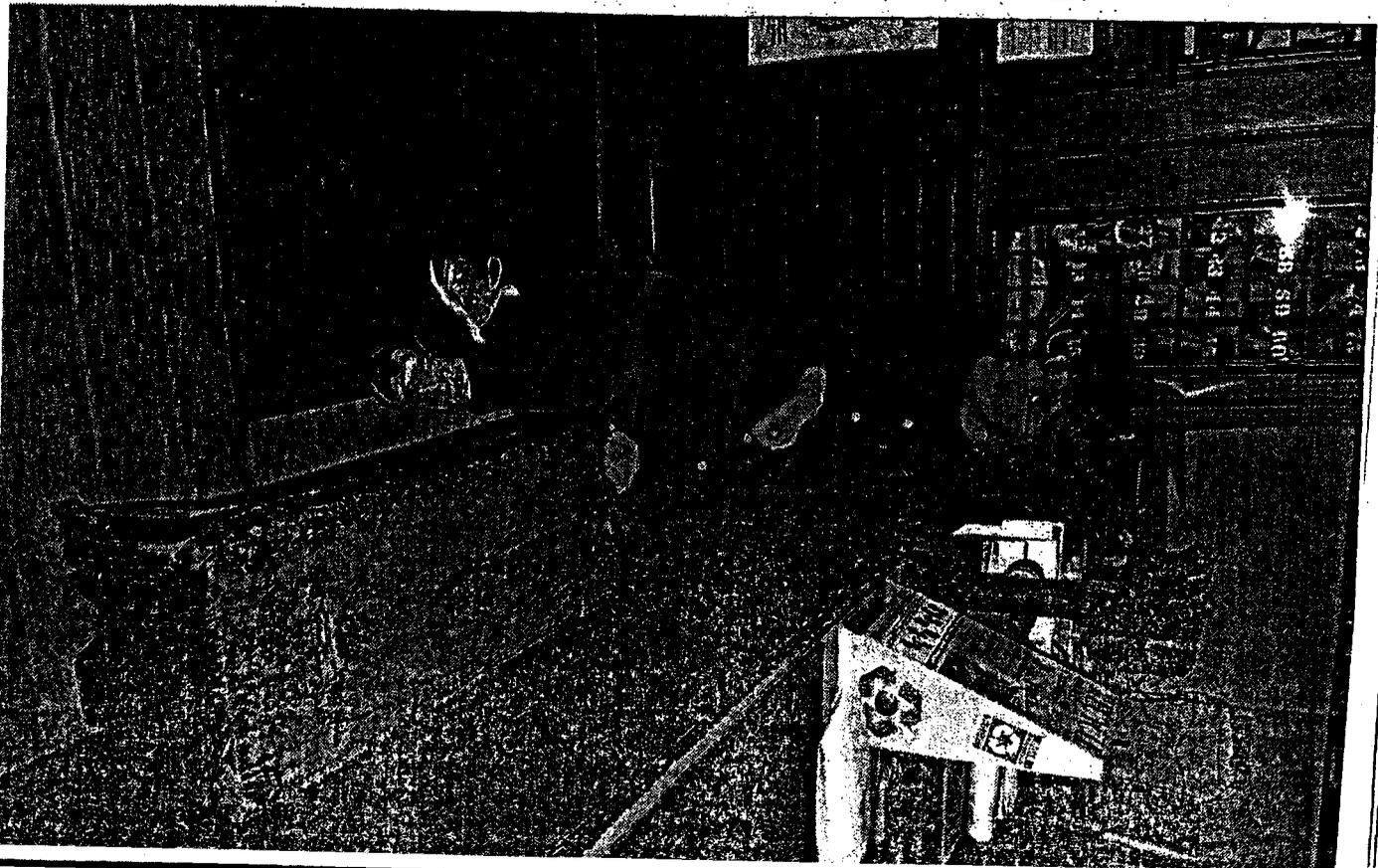
Tenney, the fourth postmaster, served between 1982 and 1990. She recalls residents coming to the post office on horses and in Model-T cars during her childhood, when her parents didn't allow the children to spend time in the post office.

She completed eight grades at the one-room Rector School. "When I was 16, they got me



PHOTOS: CAROLYN HOLLAND/FOR THE TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Above: Nancy Kaiser collects mail from an old mailbox that once was at the Laughlintown Post Office in the back of Ziders' Store in Laughlintown. Right: Postmaster Eleanor "Ellie" Pennington sits on a bench where her grandmother, Ida Ankney Tenney, used to play games.



22

Through the years, people really used the many services of the facility, she said.

"In a post office like this, you had to know how to register, insure and certify mail and make money orders," Tenney said. "You have to know it all here."

In 1982 the post office department started paying the Tenney family \$25 a month rent for the front room. Part of the \$125 rent she currently receives pays for the post office heat and electric bills.

She retired at age 66, partly because of the transition to electronic services.

"I said, 'Hey, I'm not putting up with that,'" she said.

Tenney, 80, lives in the home behind the post office where she was born, grew up, married and raised her family with her late husband, Willis.

The current and fifth postmaster is Pennington, appointed in November 1990.

In the early 1990s, handicapped accessibility regulations came into play, Pennington said. "With the proximity to the road, there was no (way we could comply), so we had to (file) for an exemption," she said. "The post office came to confirm this."

Pennington said she adapted to all the new computers and electronics used by today's postal system.

"They are machines and they can't beat me," she said.

She's raised her three children two-thirds of a mile away from the post office.

When Rector residents became aware there was no lease for the post office, they became very unhappy, Pennington said, "but I need more room."

Origin of house uncertain

Pennington believes the house is 120 to 125 years old. Neither she nor Tenney is certain who originally owned it, but their family owned it when the post office opened.

Jane B. Klifgore, a Rector postal patron, said that before the facility opened, Rector was known as Mechanisburg. Because another post office already had that name, the community was renamed Rec-



"In a post office like this, you had to know how to register, insure and certify mail and make money orders. You have to know it all here."

IDA ANKNEY TENNEY
RETIRED POSTMASTER

tor in honor of a long-established family headed by Lou Rector.

The facility was originally a post office-store combination located in the front room of the house, Pennington said.

"That's why the shelves are still there," she said. "When my grandfather died in 1935, and the way things were going, the store was phased out. I can recall only a bread rack left in the '50s."

The store sold everything from dry goods to clothing to some medicine, said Tenney.

"We didn't go to the doctor unless it was really bad," she said. "There was one medicine for fevers and (saxatyl) cherry gum and laxative chocolate."

Originally the lobby was bigger, Pennington said.

"In the '50s, they put the kitchen and bathroom in (space taken off the post office). The original bathroom was put in when we got indoor plumbing," she said.

The Post Office box (cabinet) is family-owned, said Pennington and Tenney.

"It originally belonged to my great uncle, Israel Ziders," Pennington said. "It was in the back corner of his store."

Ziders, owner of Ziders' Store along Route 30, was postmaster at Laughintown, with the post office located in the back of his store, until 1961.

Later, when Rector's post office needed more boxes, Elmer Critchfield and his son, Ford, built them, Pennington said. That box section is next to the door.

"Customers can't get mail unless I give it to them," Pennington said about the call boxes faced by solid glass.

The outside mailbox also came from Ziders' Store, Pennington

said.

"It hung here on the house until it was vinyl-sided in the 1990s. Then a post was made for it," she said.

A bench, used by residents as they socialized, sits in front of the lobby counter.

"We played a ball game there with a pocket knife," Tenney said. "You can see all the nicks."

The big old oak front door once had a mail slot in it.

"My uncle would put a box on a chair to catch the mail (when the post office was closed)," Pennington said.

The house has a kitchen, a dining room and five bedrooms.

It was a gathering place for four men, including Tenney's father, who played the card game 500 there on Friday evenings.

"I'd fill in if one wouldn't come," Tenney said. "I was between 8 and 11 years old. My mother despised cards and said the devil was in them."

The full basement is laid in stone, Pennington said.

"It's an interlocked stone layout. The floor is sloped so all the water runs into a corner drain and goes right out of the basement. There is a laundry and freezer down there," she explained.

In 1936, a downstairs bedroom was added to accommodate Tenney's ailing grandmother. Pennington recalls sleeping downstairs with her grandmother at night.

"It's used as a living room now," Pennington said.

Changes needed

In 2000, postal officials considered relocating the Rector Post

Office

Rita Glassey, of Ligonier, attended the March 2000 Ligonier Township council meeting at which Grover Binkey, township supervisor, shared a letter from the district manager of the post office. It said the size of the post office was inadequate and that officials were considering relocating it to an existing building or constructing a new building for it with "every effort" made "to maintain the facility within the center of town in Rector."

However, a mandatory freeze on new post office construction halted these efforts, said Svoboda.

Then, on Jan. 26 this year, Tenney sent a letter to postal officials in North Carolina giving them until June 1 to vacate the premises. She made the decision because it was no longer economically feasible to continue the rental, she said.

Svoboda said the Pittsburgh district heard in May that the post office had until the end of the month to be out.

"We asked for more time," she said. "(Tenney) gave us until Aug. 31."

Response to the July 27 letter to postal patrons has been consistent. Residents fear their local facility will be merged with another post office and the Rector Post Office closed.

However, Svoboda said there is a process to closing post offices that includes getting input from community residents and public hearings.

Klifgore said she was upset when she received the letter announcing that the post office might close.

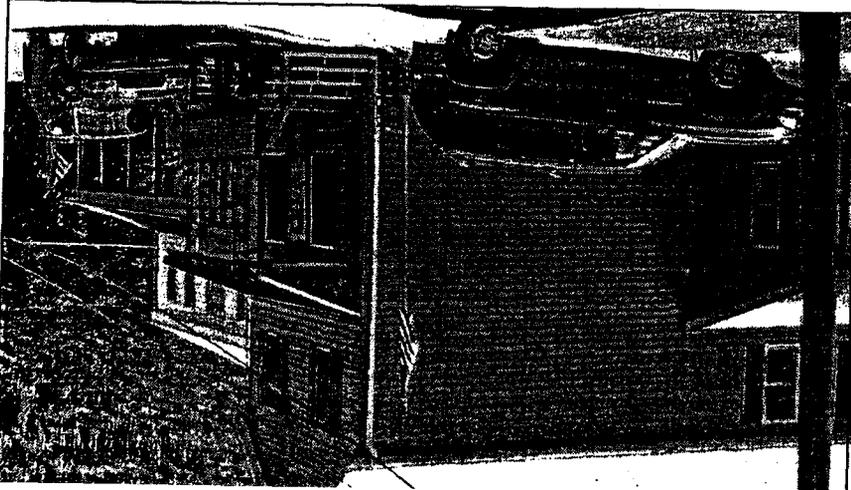
"We're trying to keep it and move it to the Mountain Market," she said.

Bob Withers, of Rector, said residents should encourage the post office to move to the store.

"It's convenient to get milk and bread," he said. "There's an advantage to having things available (in the community)."

Pat Flaherty, owner of Mountain Market in Rector, said he's been working with the postal officials to make arrangements for moving the facility to his store. So far, he's gotten no conclusive word.

Cars park along the edge of the road across from the Rector Post Office. Parking spaces are small, and often cars are partially on the roadway while their owners pick up their mail. Limited parking is why some post office patrons agree that the post office should be relocated, but they want the service to remain in their community.



000219

MANAGER
POST OFFICE OPERATIONS



July 27, 2005

Dear Postal Customer:

As you may be aware, the lease for our Postal facility in Rector Pennsylvania has been terminated by the landlord. In order to provide you with uninterrupted service, beginning August 29, 2005 we will temporarily move our retail operations to the Laughlintown Post Office.

Post Office box holders can pick up their mail from the service window at the Laughlintown Post Office located at 13920 Route 30 beginning August 29. Delivery addresses will remain the same. **For security reasons, all customers will need to show identification for mail to be released.**

The Laughlintown Post Office is located at 13920 Route 30, and is open for retail business during the following hours:

Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Please be assured that we are doing everything possible to provide excellent service to our valued customers of Rector. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your patience during this transitional period.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Lundquist, Postmaster of Laughlintown at (724) 238-4560 or our Consumer Affairs Office at (412) 359-7845.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William P. Battles, Jr.".

William P. Battles, Jr.
A/Manager, Post Office Operations

cc:
Keith Beppler, Pittsburgh District Manager/Lead Executive
Rocco D'Angelo, A/Senior Manager, Post Office Operations

000220

MANAGER
POST OFFICE OPERATIONS



March 16, 2006

Dear Postal Customer:

As you are aware, it was necessary to suspend services at the Rector Post Office when our lease was terminated by the landlord. Rector Post Office Box customers have been receiving service from the Laughlintown Post Office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Rector customers who have taken the time to share their concerns with us regarding mail service and to assure you that each comment has been given, and will continue to receive, our full consideration.

Regrettably, we do not expect that plans for the establishment of a new facility in Rector will be finalized in the near future. We are prepared to offer rural delivery to those customers who qualify and who choose to avail themselves to this service.

Rural delivery is particularly beneficial to those with disabilities, senior citizens, and people who work during Postal business hours because it allows for 24-hour access to the mail and does not require a trip to the Post Office. In addition, the carrier can provide almost all retail services that are provided from your local Post Office.

Electing rural delivery will require that you change your delivery address to your street address by submitting a change of address form and will no longer entitle you to free Post Office Box delivery. You will also be required to erect a mailbox in accordance with the specifications provided on the reverse of this letter, at a location authorized by the postmaster.

We ask you to please take a moment to complete the attached questionnaire and return it in the postage paid envelope provided by March 31, 2006. If you elect to receive rural mail delivery, we will be in contact with you to provide additional information.

In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns, please contact Mary Lundquist, Postmaster, Laughlintown at (724) 238-4560.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Battles".

William Battles
Manager, Post Office Operations

000221

SUSPENDED POST OFFICES
INFORMATION REQUEST

1. Name (including ZIP Code) *Smithboro Post Office 13840*
2. Describe Locality (e.g., Urban/Suburban/Rural): *Barbara M Robinson & George Robinson 181 Dewey Rd Barton, NY 13734*
Rural
4. Date of Suspension: *11/30/2007*
5. Current Status: *closed*
6. Reason for Suspension: *lease expired - lack of joint communication with leasee - no mutual ground was reached for lease renewal.*
 - a. If lease termination, who terminated (Postal Service/Landlord)?
 - b. Reason given for lease termination?
as above # 6
 - c. If Postal Service terminated lease, how much notice was given? *I received notice 11/14/07 - office moved 11/27 + 28/07*
 - d. If reason other than lease termination, provide:
 - Reason given by Postal Service for suspension.
 - Number of days of notice given by Postal Service prior to suspension. *14 days*
7. Current status of Post Office (Reopened/Formally Closed/Still Suspended):
 - a. If Reopened, provide: *Moved into Barton Post Office 13734.*
 - Date of reopening: *(most Smithboro residents receive mail by rural delivery thru the Barton Post Office as I did and still do.)*
 - Location of reopened post office (i.e., same or different location).
 - Nature of reopened facility (e.g., permanent facility (building), trailer, other); new temporary facility (building), trailer, other).
 - Current arrangement with Postal Service (e.g., written lease for term of years; written month-to-month lease; other). *None unknown in regards to lease at Barton.*
 - b. If Closed or Still Suspended, provide:
 - Name, location, and distance to closest operating post office with the same or comparable services (include ZIP Code). *Barton - in Barton - 4 miles - same plus rural delivery*
 - A list of services that are no longer available (or are only available on a restricted basis) to customers of the suspended post office. *None*

c. For Closed Post Offices:

-The date of closure. 11/30/07

-Indicate whether applicable discontinuance procedures were followed. ^{Not} ~~were not~~ and, if not, what procedures were not observed. ^{7/06 of question of renewing lease due to rising cost for} ~~Notified Postal Service~~

d. For Post Offices still in Suspension

-Have formal discontinuance proceedings been instituted? ^{Facility (heat - elect etc) repairs} ~~met with Representative twice, then received~~ meeting letter in mail - Same as

-If so, provide the approximate date that discontinuance procedures were instituted. 11/12/07. ^{all Box holders advised on 11/12/07}

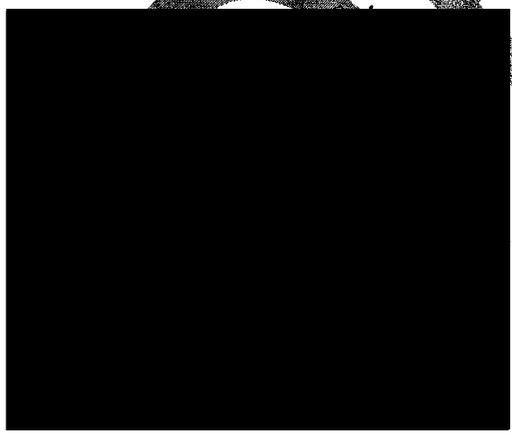
-The current status of discontinuance procedures. ^{Meeting Nichols at Library}

-Indicate which, if any, discontinuance procedures have not been properly observed. ^{was not a 90 day notice} ~~was not~~ ^{handicaps accessible}

8. Descriptions of actions taken by customers to keep Post Office open. ^{None - Known} ~~Blame for~~

9. Other relevant points: ^{forced closure was put on me because of my 7/06 letter, stating a new lease may not be happening without increases in financial amount for use of Building.}

10. Name, address, phone number, and e-mail address of person providing this information

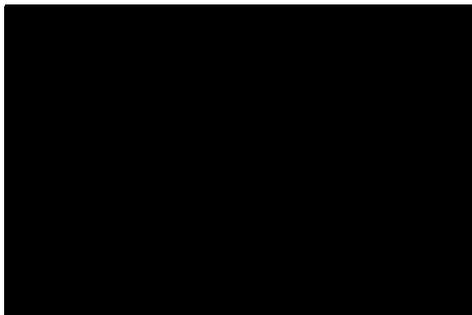


I repeated the request I had made to Rep. about fuel cost escalating in the last 5 years and also rise of other coverage I provided. I told them It was not my responsibility to make sure Smithboro had a Post office it was their responsibility. Sorry I could not take a loss every year for 5 more yrs
B. M. Robinson 1/4/2010.

000223

SPRING RUN
PA 17262

P12010-1



Received

JAN 15 2010

Office of PAGR

January 11, 2010

Annie Kennedy
Consumer Relations Specialist
901 New York Avenue NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Dear Ms. Kennedy,

I am writing you in response to your letter dated December 3, 2009 in which you informed me that the Postal Regulatory Commission has opened a case to investigate emergency suspensions of post offices, including the Spring Run Post Office Docket No. P12010-1. I am a concerned resident of our small rural community who cares about the outcome of our invaluable post office and I would like to thank you for initiating this public inquiry.

Members of our community were informed on May 24, 2007 at a public meeting requested by Post Office Officials that our post office would not be suspended and that plans were to move forward with the new proposed site for a post office. A contract has been signed by the landowner of the proposed post office site, Ray McGee; however, no building has been moved onto this site as promised by Post Office Officials. The current lease holders of the post office site, Dan and Julie Fleagle, have continued to renew the lease for the Spring Run Post Office thus allowing members of the community access to a post office that lies at the physical and economic center of our rural area.

Enclosed you will find a copy of my original letter to Michael Becker, Jr., acting Post Office Operations Manager and also my letter to the Postal Rate Commission. These were mailed in May of 2007 after receiving news of a "temporary suspension" for our Spring Run Post Office. It is my hope that this public inquiry will provide our community with the answers we have been looking for now for almost three years.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter and I welcome any further questions that the Commission may have regarding the Spring Run Post Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin M. Coons".

Robin M. Coons

000224

✓
SPRING RUN
PA 17262



May 10, 2007

Michael L. Becker, Jr.
Post Office Operations Manager (Acting)
1425 Crooked Hill Road
Harrisburg, PA 17107-9992

Dear Michael L. Becker, Jr.,

As a resident of the state of Pennsylvania and as a member of a small rural community, I, Robin M. Coons, am writing you in reference to the "temporary suspension" of service at the Spring Run Post Office. As a concerned resident of the Spring Run community, I would like to take the time to express my thoughts regarding your proposal to consolidate our post office with the Dry Run Post Office and what effects this change would have on our community.

Under provisions of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, the Postal Service is obligated to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service to rural areas, communities and small towns where post offices are not financially self-sustaining. The proposed action for suspension and subsequent consolidation of our post office will not serve the best interests of our postal customers and we strenuously protest the loss of our community identity.

You are obviously unaware of the fact that the location of the Spring Run Post Office lies at the economic center and cross roads (routes 75 and 641) of our rural community. There are numerous businesses located in Spring Run that have chosen their sites in this particular area of the community for obvious reasons: LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION. These include, but are not limited to, a gas station, a restaurant, a bank, a lumber barn, a food market, a clothing store, an attorney's office, a tax office, a sporting goods store, a gift shop, a tree farm, and a trucking company. In addition to these businesses there are also three churches in Spring Run that use the services of the post office. All of the above mentioned businesses are within walking distance of the post office and many postal customers can take care of other business in addition to picking up their mail. This is especially true for the many Amish families that live in our community. For some, it is already a two mile commute on foot or horse and buggy to

000225

come to the Spring Run Post Office. If our post office were to be consolidated with the Dry Run Post Office, this commute would be over four miles one way for many Amish who currently use the Spring Run Post Office. In addition, due to rising fuel costs and environmental concerns, why would postal customers who currently walk for their mail at the post office want to drive several miles to the next town for their mail?

The lease for the Spring Run Post Office expires May 30, 2007. This lease is being terminated not by the Postal Service, but by the lease holder who wishes not to renew the lease contract. Furthermore, an alternate site had already been chosen and approved by the Postal Service months ago when they accepted the bid of Mr. Ray McGee, a local excavating contractor. He is the owner of the land that was chosen for the new site of the Spring Run Post Office. He has dealt with Mr. Michael R. New, Real Estate Specialist Eastern Facilities Service Office, United States, P.O. Box 27498-1103, Greensboro, NC 27498-1103. Mr. New worked with Mr. McGee on the dimensions of the building and parking spaces. Currently Mr. McGee has approximately \$3,500.00 personally invested into preparation of the site. Mr. McGee was in disbelief when he received the notice stating the "temporary suspension" of the post office, because this contradicted his dealings with Mr. New. I do not know all the details of the financial aspects of the postal lease agreement, nor do I understand the political ramifications of the situation; however, finances and politics aside, the proposal to suspend and subsequently consolidate our Spring Run Post Office just isn't practicing common sense.

The Spring Run Post Office encompasses approximately 43% (just over 400 customers) of all postal patrons for Fannett Township. There are four other post offices that comprise the remaining 57% of postal customers in the township. This fact in and of itself should stress the importance and necessity of retaining the existence and location of the Spring Run Post Office in Spring Run where it belongs. Furthermore, there are many more customers that use this post office who do not even live in our community simply because of its convenience and location at the intersection of routes 75 and 641. This post office is indispensable to the many businesses and members of our rural community who support it.

I appreciate your consideration of our position and encourage you to attend our meeting that has been scheduled for our community on Thursday, May 24, 2007 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Upper Path Valley Presbyterian Church, 16950 Main Street, Spring Run. I appreciate your time and look forward to the opportunity to discuss this "tentative change" that you have proposed for our Spring Run Post Office.

Sincerely,



Robin M. Coons

000226

SPRING RUN
PA 17262



May 22, 2007

Postal Rate Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Dear Postal Rate Commission,

As a resident of the state of Pennsylvania and as a member of a small rural community, I Robin M. Coons, am writing you in reference to the "temporary suspension" of service at the Spring Run Post Office, located in Franklin County, Fannett Township. I would like to take the time to express my thoughts regarding this proposal to "temporarily suspend" and subsequently consolidate our post office. I would also like to make you are aware of the detrimental effects this decision would have on our community.

Enclosed you will find a copy of my letter that was sent to Michael L. Becker, Jr., Post Office Operations Manager, dated May 10, 2007.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin M. Coons".

Robin M. Coons

000227

P12010-1

SPRING RUN
PA 17262

Received

JAN 19 2010

Office of PAGR

E-mail message

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Sat, Jan 9, 2010, 10:41am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Your letter concerning transparency/accountability of the USPS

To: Annie Kennedy
Consumer Relations Specialist
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Dear Ms Kenney:

This is in relation to your letter to me dated Dec. 3, 2009 acknowledging our request to you in May of 2007(not 2006 as your letter indicated-draft copy of my May 11, 2007 letter to you is enclosed) regarding the emergency suspension of the Spring Run Post Office.

Some months ago I heard, only one time, on TV news that the USPS officials were moving their homes around the United States to locations of their desire and the USPS was paying the bill for their homes. Some of these homes were more than one million dollars. About the same time local and national newspapers were carrying articles about the USPS need to declare bankruptcy or ask for a government handout.

I have enclosed a sampling of communication generated during our efforts to save our Spring Run Post Office for your reference.

The word service is a part of the name of the United States Postal Service. In my experience with the word service has lost it's meaning for those at the top.

I am distressed at the loss of our system of checks and balances in our government. Perhaps you are an exception.

I am looking for exceptions.

Jim Frank of Congressman Shuster's office had a great deal to do with saving our Spring Run PO in May 2007.

His e-mail is above and address follows. Jim Frank, District Director

[REDACTED]

I have limited access to e-mail, having only Web TV, so appreciate you communication to me via USPS or my phone which is [REDACTED] I will return calls on my answering machine.

You cannot know how heartened I am to know you are looking into this matter.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
[REDACTED]

Dorothy P. Medill

000228

cc: Jim Frank, Congressman Shuster's Office

enclosures: 3 pages with information on both back & front

COPY

Office of Public Affairs
and Government Relations

December 3, 2009

[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Medill:

You wrote the Postal Regulatory Commission (Commission) in May 2006 about your concerns regarding the emergency suspension of the Spring Run post office in Pennsylvania. This is to inform you that the Commission has opened a case to investigate emergency suspensions of post offices, and that comments on your experience would be welcome in this proceeding. In addition, a public representative, who represents the interests of the public before the Commission, has been assigned to this docket and may contact you about this matter.

During recent Commission consideration of a post office closure appeal for Hacker Valley, West Virginia in Docket No. A2009-1, the Commission became aware that 97 post offices have been suspended due to lease expiration during the past 5 years and most of them remain suspended. The Commission believes it is not sufficient to simply suspend operations at a post office without promptly developing a plan to reopen or close the existing office. To better understand the scope of this problem, on November 9, 2009, the Commission initiated a public inquiry, Docket No. PI2010-1, to look into this matter. Interested persons are invited to provide relevant information and share their views. Written comments may be submitted by January 15, 2010.

Interested persons may submit formal statements regarding this matter for inclusion in the public record in that docket by filing online on our website at www.prc.gov. Informal written responses will be placed in our commenter file for review by the Commission. For your information, the record developed in Docket No. PI2010-1 may be viewed on our web site listed towards the bottom of our homepage.

In closing, please be assured the Commission takes very seriously its oversight role to ensure the accountability and transparency of the Postal Service, and we are looking forward to reviewing your comments on this matter. Please let me know if you have any questions and I will be happy to help.

Sincerely,



Annie Kennedy
Consumer Relations Specialist

000229

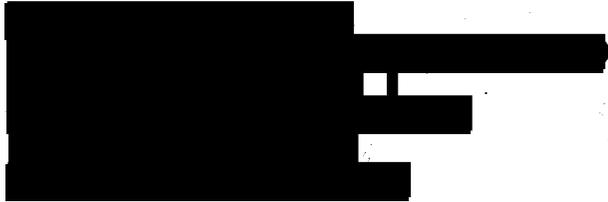
over please

COPY

our please

May 8, 2007

mailed May 8, 07



Becker:

Your idea of the closing of the Spring Run Post Office is not an emergency as you portray it.

We refer to your letter to us dated May 1, 2007 and we quote you from that letter:

" Dear Valued Customer:

As you are aware, service will be temporarily suspended at the Spring Run Post Office on May 30, 2007 due to the termination of our lease." End of quote:

Temporary suspension does not apply to our Spring Run Post Office circumstances.

You knew the lease was expiring and in 2006 you sent United States Post Office personnel here to Spring Run to choose a site for the location of the new Spring Run Post Office. Your United States Post Office Personnel chose Ray McGee to prepare the site and worked together with him to follow your specifications for placement of the Post Office building. We are pleased with the site you chose. We have paper evidence and visual evidence of the work that has gone into the site preparation right here in Spring Run for the new Post Office building.

We appeal to you to resume what you started - Now.

000231

cc: Edward B. Burke



Copies of the packet of information with petition signatures (petition signatures continue, ongoing) sent to the Postal Rate Commission on May 1, 2007 will be sent to you in a separate mailing.

Rev. Thomas M. Burns, Jr.
Dorothy P. Medill
William B. Shuman
Robin M. Coors

Sincerely yours,

John Steyer

Jean M. Brown
Clyde T. Beound
Alan R. Terry
Robert A. Allison
Richard Meloy
Jay B. Batts
Randy M. Bryan
Reuben Buler
Geraldine Skelton
Helene M. Beckhill
Miriam F. Burns

Cheryl Hunsford
Jay & Ann

Alvin M. Meloy
Joyce Trumble
Salina Peachey

George M. Baker
Donald H. Holsinger

5/10/57

Dear Senator, or Post Office Operations Manager

This is in reference to letter of May 1 requesting comment on the "temporary suspension" of our local Spring Run Post Office. I oppose to this for several reasons. I can understand that it would ^{be} cheaper for the postal service to consolidate some small post offices. But I consider Spring Run as a Historical Site for 200 years and I would really feel sorry to see a town with NO POST Office. The first major problem is: Dry Run post office is located at a very dangerous intersection I consider its location a BAD mistake! Why would you ever consider of multiplying the MISTAKE by adding 400 more customers to its location? Another problem there seems to be a lot of traffic on the road these days, and us people with horse + buggy realize it more + more. So why do all these people that benefit from or get mail at Spring Run have to drive all the way to Dry Run?? There's approx 100 plus families of amish people in this peaceful valley called Path Valley. I personally feel the roads will be more hazardous for horse + buggy with so much more traffic. I continue to support the NEED to continue Postal Service at Spring Run. Thank you! Jacob Paschua

This is an Amishman and his wife's response to the letter sent by the Acting Director, Michael L. Becker, Jr., Post Office Operations Manager, to Spring Run Post Office Customers saying that our Spring Run Post Office is CLOSING May 30, 2007 and being moved to Dry Run.

We have a significant number of Amish families in our community. The hardship put upon them is difficult to imagine. They now come to Spring Run to take care of all the things Henry H. Miller enumerates above including picking up their Peeps (baby chicks) at the Spring Run Post Office

Ray McGee, Excavating

11. When I received the letter from Michael L. Becker, Jr., Post Office Operations manager (acting) it was total disbelief with me. It was totally contrary to my dealings with Michael R. New, Real Estate Specialist Eastern Facilities Service Office, United States P.O. Box 27498-1103. Greenboro, NC 27498-1103. He worked with me on the dimensions of the building (modular unit) with one handicap and five regular parking spaces. The letter from Michael L. Becker, Jr., dated April 4, 2007 stating the post office was closing May 30, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. contradicted everything that I had to do with Michael R. New. My wife Sandra and I are the owners of the land that was chosen for the new site of the Spring Run Post Office. I have an excavating business and my bid was accepted to prepare the site for the new building and parking area.

FROM AN AMISH GENTLEMAN - BUSINESSMAN

In Dry Run
No Grocery Store
No Hardware Store
No Bank
No Gas Station
No Lumber Barn
Mrs. Henry H. Miller Jr
for my husband
4-30-07.

copy
over
please

000233

-6-

SAVE OUR SPRING RUN POST OFFICE

"CLOSING THE SPRING RUN POST OFFICE

would, I believe, be a strategic blunder in long term planning. The Market Place and the Traffic Patterns have already identified and decided that Spring Run is the vital economic center and cross roads of our valley.

The Food Market, the Bank, the Gasoline Stations and Lunch Counter, an Attorney's Office, a Tax Service, the Lumber Barn, the Gift Shop and a Sports Business have all come to Spring Run or opened in response to the opportunity here, and for obvious reasons.

For the Postal Department to Misread so badly what is going on in Path Valley would be a major long term planning mistake.

Spring Run is clearly the strategic center and is the natural place for our Post Office."

A Statement by

Rev. Clyde R Brown
Rev. Clyde R Brown, Retired.

Spring Run, Pa. 17262

4/28/07

COPIES FOR:

U.S. Senator, Arlen Specter

U.S. Senator Bob Casey

U.S. Representative, Bill Shuster

PA. Representative, Mark Keller

000234

-7-
COPY - over
please

WILKINSON
NC 28770

1/20/10-1

KENNEDY, ANNIE L

From: RAVNITZKY, MICHAEL J
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2010 11:39 AM
To: PAGR
Subject: FW: Kelsey's bell | Mountain Xpress Opinion | mountainx.com

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Fri 1/15/2010 4:51 AM
To: RAVNITZKY, MICHAEL J
Subject: Kelsey's bell | Mountain Xpress Opinion | mountainx.com

Mr. Ravnitzky;

I hope that I'm not being self-indulgent in sending you the link below. It is to a commentary I wrote that appeared in the Mountain Xpress, an Asheville weekly, several years ago. In our conversation yesterday you mentioned a paper soon to be published that discusses the social value of the post office. This commentary may not be in a format that is suitable for inclusion in our current discussion but it offers a perspective about an essential, but perhaps unquantifiable, value that the post office and postal workers offer to their communities all across this country every day.

Mark Jamison

<http://www.mountainx.com/opinion/2007/1122smallthings.php>

000235

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Kelsey's bell

by Mark Jamison in Vol. 17 / Iss. 13 on 11/22/2006

I want to write about small things. Not that big things don't interest me. I've had big ideas; I've fought in big fights. I've struggled to see the big picture and find the important truths. But even when I'm winning, the effort leaves me feeling empty, feeble and unsatisfied.

Something happened the other day that gave me pause. It was a small thing, and it got me thinking.

Bedell came in the post office to have me write a money order. She teased me some, and I aggravated her the way folks do when they're comfortable with each other. At some point, she asked if I had anything in my truck to pull weeds with. I asked why, and she said the weeds around her husband Clyde's stone had grown up and she wanted to cut them. She couldn't use a weed eater, and her brother Floyd was getting too feeble to get out much.

I said: "Bedell, let me bring my weed eater to work tomorrow, and I'll come after work and get you and we can go up to the cemetery. I'll fix it up however you like. Would that be all right?" She just smiled, and I thought I saw a little tear.

Later that day, Caleb and Tyler brought the mail, as they do every day. Caleb, all of 4, has red hair and a rubber face that shows the pride of a job well done as he hauls in the mail tub that's bigger than he is. Tyler -- all grown up at 6 and getting ready for "big" school this year -- brings in the letters that need stamps and hands me the money, all serious.

They announce themselves loudly, proclaiming, "Mark, Mark, Mail, Mail!" And I violate some big security directive and let them in the back room so they can do their jobs and then run to where I keep the suckers. Caleb likes "boo" (blue) but I've run out, so he's agreed to expand his horizons and try purple. Along with the mail, they bring their joy and exuberance, plus news of their day.

The night before, I'd done a big thing: standing in front of 100 people waiting for a state board of inquiry to determine whether a quarry would go in their community. I felt exhausted by the effort and frustrated about having to fight a big fight just so a community could continue as a small thing.

Bedell and Caleb and Tyler brought me back. I thought of my wife, Deb, who carries the mail out of Sylva. She works hard and tries to do the job right, but her efforts are often frustrated by managers with big ideas who have all the right answers at their fingertips.

Deb doesn't think that way; she thinks about getting the right mail in the box, the right package to the door. And in the course of doing that, she does a small thing that just comes naturally to her: She adopts people who cross her path.

First she's friends with Weaver, the kindhearted old fellow who lives in a house without electricity. She brings him soup because she loves to cook, and he trades stuff from his garden because life works best as an even swap, and we all have something to give.

Next there's Mr. and Mrs. S. She's blind and he's 90, so once a week for several months Deb's brought them a home-cooked meal, because that's something everybody ought to have once in a while.

And now she gets invited to all the parties at Jackson Village, swapping books with one person and taking another out to breakfast on her day off. All these exchanges get woven into Deb's day -- effortless evidence of essential humanity working at its smallest level.

The folks at my post office also benefit from Deb's cooking frenzies. Now there's a list, and every week or so I bring a box of food to work for Bedell and Floyd, George, Tommy E., April, Sam and Joe and whoever else looks hungry or needs some cheer. Some get food because I love to hear their stories. Tom E. flew in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He built an airplane and a helicopter in his garage, but his best stories may be the ones about hard times in New Jersey growing up.

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-3-

All these folks get something, and I get more back. I'm still warm from the hugs and smiles I got on Ms. Robinson's birthday. Who would have thought that \$5 worth of Wal-Mart flowers and an off-key version of "Happy Birthday" could make two people feel so good?

These small things are the small truths we build our lives around. So after a day that starts with me feeling frustrated because big things often leave so many folks behind, I focus on one last small thing: Kelsey's bell, a fancy brass-and-walnut thing with a loud, clear tone that summons me for service. Some folks are afraid to ring it; others make no bones about the fact that they need attention.

Kelsey's family used to get their mail at my post office. Day by day, I watched her grow from a pretty little toddler to a young lady. She would come in full of sunshine and promise, full of the wonders of discovery a new day could bring. How could I not be her friend?

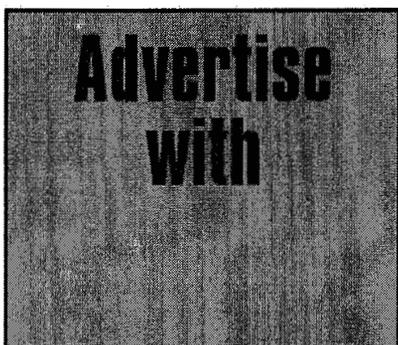
When Kelsey's family moved away, she made her mother take her to the store so she could buy me a present; she made me unwrap it in front of her. The bell, she said, was also a reminder: Every time it rang I should think of her, and there would never be another angry person at my counter.

Vaclav Havel, the Czech playwright and politician, said, "Keep the company of those who seek the truth, and run away from those who have found it."

So today I will write about small things, and I will ring a bell that tells a small but important truth.

[Mark Jamison lives on 67 acres in Jackson County's Speedwell Community with his wife, Deb, and their five dogs. When not tending the land, he tends the mail and the people of Webster, N.C., as postmaster.]

{articleextra}



Comments

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000237

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000238

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ZIONSVILLE
PA 18092

14 January 2010



Richard Oliver
c/o Postal Regulatory Commission

We are the X-Landlords of the Zionsville, Pa. 18092 Postal Facility, which was a rural village Post Office with three rural delivery routes. The Post Office was officially closed on the 31 of January 2009.

The reason for closing was that the Postal Service refused to discuss a lease with us. We had gone some 17 years, on a month to month rental agreement that was put in place on the 1st of March 1990, without any rent increases even though we repeatedly tried to contact the Postal Service. These attempts started in 1999, when I lost a day's work, by enrolling in the Columbia Facilities Service Office's, Lessors' Conference that was held at the Sheraton Inn Harrisburg, 800 East Park Drive, Harrisburg, Pa. 17111, in an attempt to open a dialog with the Post Office authorities with the goal of getting a formal and fair lease in place. Even though we gave the Post Office 18 months to find another location, they didn't notify the patrons until two weeks before closing and that notification stated that the reason for the *emergency* closing (remember the above mentioned 18 months) was that the landlord would not renew the lease??? Now, that really excited the patrons and made us the bad guys and actually resulted in one person suggesting I would be better off dead, and a number of others passionately expressing their feelings while using a great variety of profanity. At the above mentioned conference, I personally met with a Heidi M. (Fedder) Smith, a Real Estate Specialist who was one of the Conference's facilitators, who assured me that she would "visit in a few weeks". Well, you guessed it, no response from her even though I made repeated attempts to contact her. The office person who did answer the phone on one occasion did state that "I was on her schedule". Then I tried to contact her partner in crime, a Mr. John Quinn, also from the Facilities Service Office in Columbia, Md., with the same no response results. My dad had the first of his strokes in 2001, so the lease business went onto the back burner, until his passing in 2005 when I resumed my quest for a lease with no luck.

000239

-1-

The Post Master was an in your face type of fellow who thought our wanting a raise in the rent monies was a big joke and took great pleasure in letting me know his feelings while treating our building with absolutely no respect. Remember, we had no rent increase for 17 years and those years included 9/11, the anthrax scare, both of which contributed to substantial increases in our insurance expenses. Over the never changing month to month rental agreement period we also saw increases in our commercial tax rate, heating, sewage, and maintenance costs, all of which we were responsible for.

We were actually running in the red with our actual expenses for the last few years. Do you think this is or was fair? Would you have been happy being treated like I was? Remember, the Post Office was in the same building that we live in.

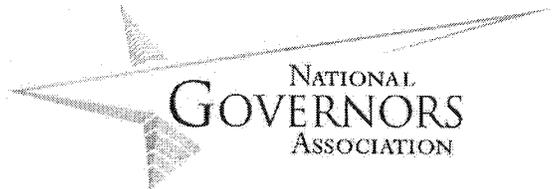
The Post Office has been combined with the Hereford Post Office which is some 5 miles away. The Old Zionsville Post Office is the closest Post Office to the closed Zionsville location being 1 mile away.

As an aside: we did not receive "a copy of the Commission's order instituting this proceeding" as mentioned in your cover letter. Thank You for your courtesies and considerations in this matter.

Regards, Tom and Carol Kidd

000249

P12010-1



James H. Douglas
Governor of Vermont
Chair

Joe Manchin III
Governor of West Virginia
Vice Chair

Raymond C. Scheppach
Executive Director

January 11, 2009

Ruth Goldway
Chairman, Postal Regulatory Commission
Public Affairs and Government Relations Office
901 New York Avenue NW #200
Washington, DC 20268

Dear Chairman Goldway:

The National Governors Association (NGA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on proposals to address the financial challenges facing the United States Postal Service (USPS).

The nation's governors understand the critical economic role local post offices play in communities across the nation and how post offices often are the economic and social anchor of local communities. As a result, governors are concerned about the impact on communities from post office closings and relocations, particularly in small towns and rural communities. The USPS should carefully evaluate public input before any final decisions regarding post office closures and relocations are reached. An appeals process should also be in place for community members to address any decision by the USPS that will directly impact their community. Governors urge the USPS to work in partnership with state and local governments and communities across the country to resolve challenges related to post office closures and consolidations.

The policy position of the nation's governors speaks only to post office closings and relocations. Governors do not have a policy position on the role of mail, generally, or the impact of reduced mail service.

The nation's governors thank you for the opportunity to comment and look forward to further conversations on this issue.

Sincerely,

Raymond C. Scheppach

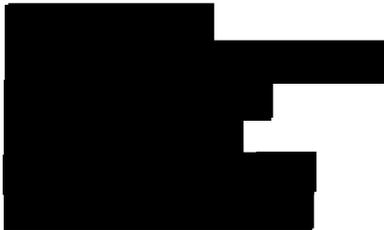


000241



AUSPL

January 12, 2010



Dear Ms. Killete:

I would like to ask for your help. I recently wrote to Postmaster General Potter and to the Address Information System Office at USPS headquarters. To date, I've received no replies to my correspondence.

As president of the Association of United States Postal Lessors (AUSPL), I represent more than 3,300 postal lessors nationwide. Our most recent estimate is that our members (many of whom own multiple postal buildings) provide approximately 30 percent of leased space to house postal operations nationwide.

I am enclosing copies of the letters for your convenience. Clearly, we understand how busy the PMG is, but we would appreciate a response as quickly as possible. After all, we wrote the letters in November and it is now mid January. If you have any questions, please call my assistant Barbara Barrett at [REDACTED]

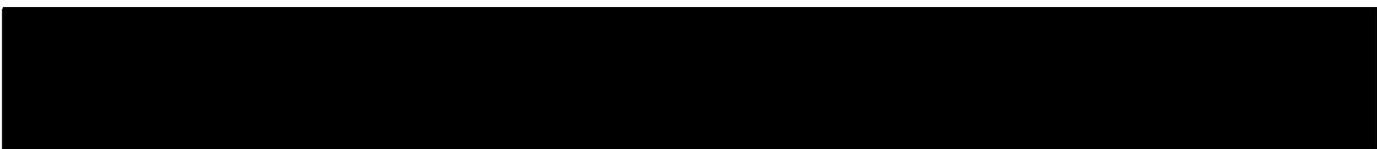
Your prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Poelstra
President
Enclosures

cc: Richard A. Oliver
Public Representative
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

000242





AUSPL

November 23, 2009

The Honorable John E. Potter
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Mr. Postmaster General:

As president of the Association of United States Postal Lessors (AUSPL), I represent more than 3,300 postal lessors nationwide. Our most recent estimate is that our members (many of whom own multiple postal buildings) provide approximately 30 percent of leased space to house various postal operations countrywide.

Since 1981, AUSPL has worked closely with the Postal Service, providing safe, clean, well-maintained facilities at a fair price for employees and customers. While we understand the need for trimming costs, we are concerned about the growing discord between lessors and postal management, along with its effect on postal customers.

Our concerns include:

1. USPS headquarters has authorized a 10 percent cut in the amount of money allotted for leases. In some instances, USPS is asking lessors to pay commissions for the entire term of the lease to private realtors who represent the Postal Service during lease negotiations. (Please see attached reprint from our recent 2009 newsletter).

Our members, many of whom are elderly, are afraid the Postal Service will close their facility under "emergency conditions" when the existing lease expires if they don't meet USPS's unreasonable demands. Closing a facility under these conditions is 1) unfair to the lessor, 2) a severe financial loss to the lessor, and 3) deprives customers of their post office. Additionally, we believe such actions may violate federal law as post offices cannot be closed just because they are not profitable.

Simply put, postal negotiators should act in good faith and consider all factors particular to each situation. We believe it is unreasonable to expect lessors to 1) accept less than comparable costs in the area, 2) pay real estate commissions up front for the term of the lease to the party negotiating for the Postal Service. Further, USPS should not emergency suspend service because of building inadequacies without giving the lessor reasonable time to take corrective action nor should it leave post offices in a temporarily suspended

000243

Association of United States Postal Lessors

status without initiating and completing the permanent closing/consolidation procedures required by federal law.

2. In recent years, the Western Facility Services Office and certain District Managers have employed "inventive" actions when closing small post offices under emergency conditions, particularly in Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, the Dakotas and Ohio. In fact, when a postmaster vacancy occurs in a facility that is open less than eight hours daily in the Hawkeye District in Iowa, they have a policy of not seeking a replacement outside the postal family. Clearly, it is unreasonable to expect any postal employee to bid on a position that pays less money than he or she presently earns. In reality, this is merely closing a small post office just to save money. Additionally, there have been instances of the Postal Service not seeking alternate quarters when necessary to house a small post office prior to emergency suspending service to the community.

The Postal Service initiated a moratorium on post office closings in the late 1990s, which lasted until early 2001 as result of a GAO investigation. In our opinion, the moratorium was due to the improper handling of the temporary emergency suspension process, including the failure to implement the permanent closing/consolidation procedures required by federal law. Under the Freedom of Information Act, we ask you to provide the names of the post office facilities that were closed since 2004 in the Hawkeye District because there was "no suitable person to operate the facility".

We respectfully request a response by December 14, 2009, to all the concerns outlined in this letter, including what corrective action will be taken.

Sincerely,



Gary L. Poelstra
President
Enclosure

CC: Richard A. Oliver
Public Representative
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

000244

-3-

USPS Hires Large Real Estate Firms to Negotiate Lease Renewals, Expects Lessors to Pay Commission

Imagine the surprise when a lessor answers the phone or reads an E-mail to find a representative of such commercial real estate big-wigs as Grubb & Ellis or Coldwell Banker negotiating his or her lease renewal, along with a hefty three to five percent commission fee thrown into the mix!

"That's what lessors are telling us and we've experienced ourselves with our own buildings," says AUSPL President Gary Poelstra. Even USPS real estate specialists are surprised! Attrition and a hiring freeze add up to less people available to handle lease negotiations. Thus, USPS is hiring firms such as Grubb & Ellis and Coldwell Banker to do the job and pass the fees onto lessors!

"Normally, we get dozens of calls daily asking for comparables and advice when it's time to renew a postal lease. The many 'mom and pop' owners are no match for the sophisticated real estate pros on the other end of the line," says Gary.

"Recently, I began a conversation with a Grubb & Ellis agent by asking if he understood that if the Postal Service has hired him, the Postal Service needs to pay the commission because he is negotiating on its behalf, not mine. In response, he simply ignored me and continued talking about the lease. I won't pay the commission for someone who is negotiating against me."

In most areas of the country, a typical real estate transaction for a vacant building will result in the

listing broker receiving (at the most) a two percent commission and the procuring broker being paid four percent. In the case of postal buildings, the tenant is in place, so the commission should be two percent – negotiation only, payable by the hiring entity. "The (Grubb & Ellis) commission is for the total amount of money collected over the term of the lease – paid up front and in cash," says Gary. "We have to figure out a way to make back the money we are going to lose." It will be difficult to raise the rent enough to offset the commission fee because the Postal Service is

unwilling to pay more rent at this time.

It's a fact that many lessors find comfort in calling Gary Poelstra for advice when it's renewal time, and they should continue to follow his advice: 1) read the new lease, 2) call AUSPL for comparables, 3) find out if the lease has a termination clause, and 4) talk to Gary directly by calling 800-572-9483.

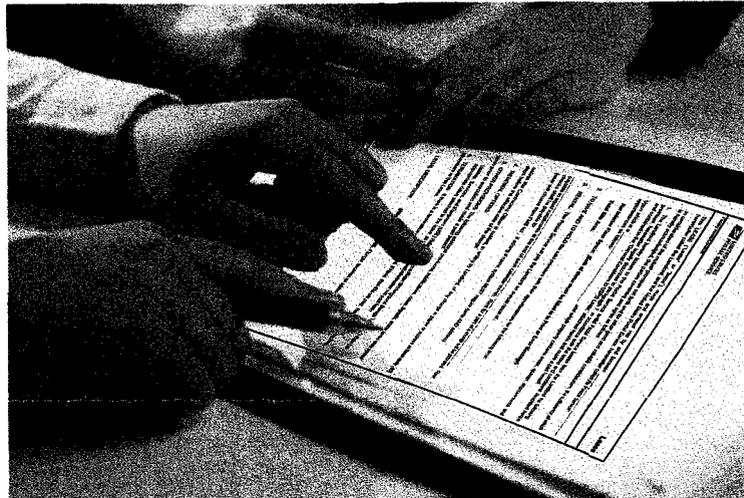
On another note, some lessors have been

surprised to find their post office on the official "hit list" of postal units being considered for closure or consolidation, sometimes while the ink is still drying on their newly negotiated renewal! To date, "only" postal stations and branches are being reviewed; the list does not appear to be completely accurate. "Some offices may be included, but not listed. Do not assume anything," says Gary.

An updated list of stations and branches under review for consolidation and/or closure is available at www.auspl.com.

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AUSPL

November 2, 2009

Manager
Address Information Systems
US Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Sir or Madam:

My name is Gary Poelstra, President of the United States Association of Postal Lessors, and it is critical that I have an updated list of the restructured postal areas and districts. I have a listing of the revised Field Service Offices, but I do not have a list of the district managers under each area. I am requesting a list of each postal area and each postal district included in each area.

I need the name, mailing address, telephone number, fax number, and email address of each area manager and the same information for each district manager in each area. I also need to know the three digit ZIP Codes that are administered by each district.

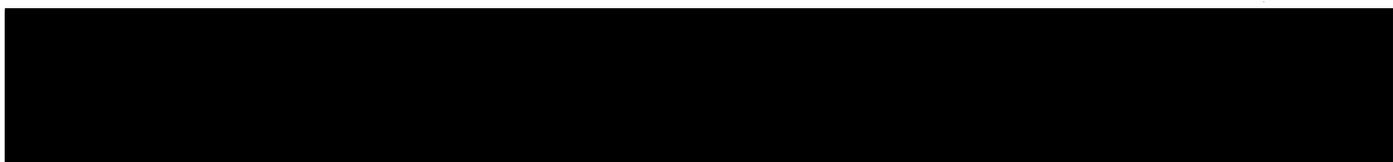
Please contact Barbara Barrett, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] if you have any questions. This information is important to our organization and your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Poelstra
President

000246

5-



Rumford
ME 04276

ENTERED FEB 18 2010

KENNEDY, ANNIE L

From: KENNEDY, ANNIE L on behalf of PRC-PAGR
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 3:11 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Postal Regulatory Commission - Complaint

Dear Mr. Cottrill,

Thank you for writing the Postal Regulatory Commission regarding post office closings. It may be helpful for you to know that the Commission does not determine whether post offices remain open or are closed, that authority rests with the Postal Service

During recent Commission consideration of a post office closure appeal for Hacker Valley, West Virginia in Docket No. A2009-1, the Commission became aware that 97 post offices have been suspended due to lease expiration during the past 5 years and most of them remain suspended. The Commission believes it is not sufficient to simply suspend operations at a post office without promptly developing a plan to reopen or close the existing office. To better understand the scope of this problem, on November 9, 2009, the Commission initiated a public inquiry, Docket No. PI2010-1, to look into this matter. Interested persons are invited to provide relevant information and share their views. Comments for the record may be submitted by February 16, 2010.

Interested persons may submit formal statements regarding this matter for inclusion in the public record in that docket by filing online on our website at www.prc.gov. Informal written responses will be placed in our commenter file for review by the Commission. For your information, the record developed in Docket No. PI2010-1 may be viewed on our web site listed towards the bottom of our homepage.

In regard to your comments about changes in delivery service days, we anticipate that this issue may be pending before the Commission in early 2010, and will keep your comments on file for this matter. In the future, should a formal docket be established for this matter, interested persons would be welcome to submit comments for the official record by submitting comments through our electronic Filing Online system on our website at www.prc.gov.

In closing, please be assured the Commission takes very seriously its oversight role to ensure the accountability and transparency of the Postal Service, and we are looking forward to reviewing your comments on this matter. Please let me know if you have any questions and I will be happy to help.

Sincerely,

Annie Kennedy
Consumer Relations Specialist
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave NW Ste 200
Washington DC 20268-0001
202-789-6875
Fax 202-789-6891

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 11:06 AM
To: PRC-PAGR
Subject: Postal Regulatory Commission - Complaint

000247

Why would you shut post offices down in W.VA (Hacker Valley--Ms Retha Casto) yet here in Maine we have them on every street corner. Ie: Rumford, Me--Mexico Me--Peru, Me--Dixfield, Me--Hanover, Me all have postoffices and are within a stone throw of each other. Why are post offices still open on Saturday's when your business is down so much?

Sender Name: James Cottrill

Sender Email [REDACTED]

Daytime phone:

Sender Address [REDACTED]

000248

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