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Before The
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-001

2011 AUG 16 P 12: 12

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of:

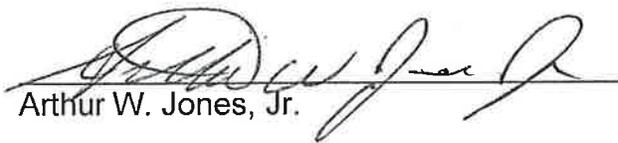
Gwynedd Post Office (Branch)
Gwynedd, PA 19436
Christina Surowiec, Petitioner

Docket Number A2011-15

My name is Arthur W. Jones Jr. I am a United States Postal Service employee and the current President of Eastern Montgomery County PA Area Local 2233 (EMCAL) of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU). The Gwynedd Post Office is under the management of the Philadelphia Metropolitan Performance Cluster and falls within the jurisdiction of EMCAL which represents postal employees in the Clerk, Maintenance and Motor Vehicle crafts under the APWU.

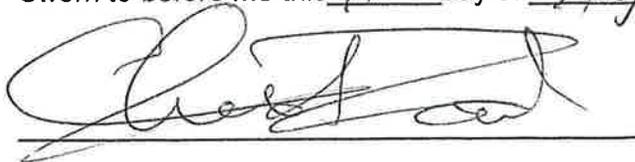
This is my sworn statement and account of the facts as I know them related to the initiating of the Gwynedd Post Office closing and whether public input was considered. This statement is based on what I have been directly involved in by way of direct phone conversation or email communication I have received or sent on this issue.

This statement and documentation of facts consists of 5 pages.


Arthur W. Jones, Jr.

NOTARY

Sworn to before me this 11th day of August, 2011.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
NOTARIAL SEAL
CHRISTOPHER BIRCH, Notary Public
Exeter Twp., Berks County
My Commission Expires January 9, 2015

FACTS AND DOCUMENTATION

On Tuesday February 15, 2011 at 1:22 PM I received a phone call from Mike Kulikowski, Acting Manager Labor Relations, Philadelphia Metropolitan Performance Cluster. He stated he called to inform me the Gwynedd Post Office is under consideration for closure and to let me know about a study that would be conducted to determine the feasibility of closing the Gwynedd Post Office 19436.

During our brief conversation on this topic he stated the call was not my official notification and that all box holders, Congress and I would be getting a letter in two days informing us all of the study. He did make it a point to say, more than once, that no decision had been made and the Postal Service was only doing a study and that he, as well as Lisa Jordan, Manager of Human Resources for the Philadelphia Metropolitan Performance Cluster, would be available to answer any questions.

February 16, 2011 I received an email from Tom Koncir EMCAL Maintenance Craft Director and Executive Board member stating he had been approached by local management as they were seeking the union's permission to contract out the move from Gwynedd to Springhouse.

Captioned Email below on Page 5:

"AJ,

This morning I was asked by management if I would agree to subcontract out the move of Gwynedd Post Office (19436) to Springhouse Post Office (19477). I told him NO this is our work he said it had to be done by the 26th there was not time, I told him Maintenance employees in the Area Maintenance Shop have signed up to work the holiday (weekend) and this was our work. In the past we have done this work. He said THEY WANT TO SEND IT OUT.

Please advise, Tom MCD".

On Thursday February 17, at 7:30 am I sent an email to Mike Kulikowski which included the email from Tom Koncir inquiring why the local union was approached seeking permission to contract out the moving of Gwynedd to Springhouse when he indicated it was just a study on February 15, 2011 and no decision had been made. I never received a response to this email correspondence from Mike Kulikowski Acting Manager of Labor Relations or any other management representative from the Philadelphia Metropolitan Performance Cluster.

Captioned Email Below on Page 4:

Mike,

On Tuesday February 15, 2011 at 1:22 PM you called the union to let me know about a study that would be conducted to determine the feasibility of closing the Gwynedd Post Office 19436. During our brief conversation on this topic you stated the call was not my

official notification and that all box holders, Congress and I would be getting a letter in two days informing us all of the study. Specifically, you stated that no decision had been made and the Postal Service was only doing a study and you and Lisa Jordan would be available to answer any questions.

If we are only in the study stage and no decision has been made then why was the Union approached by local management on the morning of February 16, 2011 seeking and agreement to contract out the move?

Please see the email below I received from our Maintenance Craft Director on this.

Has a decision been made or not. If it has as it appears what efforts did the Postal Service make to allow the public to have input and what consideration has been given to that input.

Thanks

AJ Jones

President Local 2233, APWU

On February 22, 2011 the union received a letter dated February 18, 2011 from Joseph Sheehan Manager, Operations Programs Support, Philadelphia Metropolitan Performance Cluster stating,

"I am providing this letter in order to keep the union informed of possible changes relative to postal facilities under the APWU Local 2233 jurisdiction, which are being considered for closure and/or consolidation".

"The Gwynedd Branch is in the direct path of a road construction project on Route 202 that will result in the further restriction of customer traffic permanently. The closure to the entrance of the Gwynedd Branch is projected on 6/01/2011. A final decision has not been made concerning the consolidation of this station"

On March 2, 2011 the Postal Service put out a notice announcing a meeting had been scheduled for March 3, 2011 at the Lower Gwynedd Township building to give an opportunity for community input. The community came out in force leaving standing room only. I attended the meeting and participated in the discussion placing emphasis on concerns raised by the community.

Mike Roberts was the spokesperson for the Postal Service and responded to most inquiries from the community stating that all of their concerns would be given consideration prior to a decision being made; while his associate Donna Salino appeared to be taking copious notes of each inquiry.

On April 5, 2011 the union received a letter dated April 4, 2011 from James J. Gallagher District Manager, Philadelphia Metropolitan Performance Cluster stating,

"This is to inform you of the U.S. Postal Service's decision to close the Gwynedd Branch, located at 1200 Meetinghouse Road.

We advised you on February 18, 2011 of our intent to conduct a feasibility study and the final decision has been made. The office will officially close on May, 27, 2011.

The record of events listed in this sworn statement coupled with the time line matching those events demonstrates at least a suspicion that the postal service acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner never intending on considering community input. This conflicts with the Postal Service's statement in their April 4, 2011 letter and obligation to give careful consideration to community input, of which there was plenty, prior to a decision being made.

It is my honest belief that the U.S. Postal Service had made their decision long before the public hearing on March 3, 2011 when they snookered the community into coming to a public meeting to voice their concerns about the possible closing of their beloved Post Office.

Original Email Transmissions,

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

From: A.J. Jones
To: Mike Kulikowski
Cc: Lisa Jordon
Cc: Mike Gallagher
Cc: Charlie Kukulski
Subject: FW: Gwynedd move to Springhouse
Sent: Feb 17, 2011 7:13 AM

Mike

On Tuesday February 15, 2011 at 1:22 PM you called the union to let me know about a study that would be conducted to determine the feasibility of closing the Gwynedd Post Office 19436. During our brief conversation on this topic you stated the call was not my official notification and that all box holders, Congress and I would be getting a letter in two days informing us all of the study. Specifically, you stated that no decision had been made and the Postal Service was only doing a study and you and Lisa Jordan would be available to answer any questions.

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Has a decision been made or not. If it has as it appears what efforts did the Postal Service make to allow the public to have input and what consideration has been given to that input.

Thanks

AJ Jones

President Local 2233

APWU

From: Tom Koncir [mailto:emcaltom@verizon.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2011 9:25 PM
To: emcalaj@verizon.net
Subject: Gwynedd move to Springhouse

AJ,

This morning I was asked by management if I would agree to subcontract out the move of Gwynedd Post Office (19436) to Springhouse Post Office (19477).

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Please advise,

Tom Koncir MCD

Sent from my BlackBerry® smartphone with Nextel Direct Connect