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Appeal on behalf of Ida Post Office in Ida, Arkansas 72546

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
Docket Number 1367813-72546

COMMITTEE TO SAVE IDA POST OFFICE

P.O. BOX 16
IDA, ARKANSAS 72546
August 8, 2011

Postal Regulatory Commission
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

AUG 16 2011

A2011-48

This should be considered a formal appeal and petition for review of the US Postal Service's decision to close Ida Post Office in Ida, Arkansas.

The Committee to Save Ida Post Office contends that the postal service did not follow proper procedure in its decision to close our service. Our contention is based on two major points.

1. Our understanding is that it is in violation of Title 39, United States Code S404 to base a closing on financial considerations. Based on this law, the post office does not have to be self-sustaining. Even if it were legal to close, we have not seen convincing evidence of how much would be saved if it were closed. Unclear or inaccurate financial figures is one of the aspects of our second point.
2. The Proposal to Close Study Report posted on March 17, 2011 and the Final Determination Report posted on August 4, 2011 contained numerous statements that were either inaccurate or incomplete and we, therefore, believe that the postal service did not give due diligence to the study. This would seem to be a serious procedural flaw. We returned a copy of the Proposal to Close Study with hand notations of those errors to the representatives of postal service, but found no changes in the Final Determination Study. Listed below are very brief statements of examples of those errors that make this a procedurally bad study.
 - a. The stated distance to the post office to be used is 6 miles. The distance is actually 9.4 miles.
 - b. We know that there were more than four negative responses to the initial questionnaires regarding closing if based on nothing other than our committee members' responses.
 - c. The proposal contradicted itself by stating that Ida had no delivery customers and then stating that "Questionnaires were distributed to delivery customers."
 - d. The proposal also stated that Ida had no businesses (and in yet another contradiction stated that community people "work in local businesses"), but a proper study would have found close to two dozens of businesses.
 - e. The committee found the financial figures given by the postal service to be questionable. Credit for post office boxes, rural route boxes, and revenue should total 143.1 units which is well within the 126-335 range for an EAS11 level eight hour day post office. Hence the statement, "The post office earns 1.4 hours per day." seems to be another error. The report also misstated the lease cost of the post office property.

Proper procedure would seem to require an accurate and thorough study of the situation. We contend that it wasn't done.

The Committee to Save Ida Post Office
Earlene Cannon, Chair

