

Postal Regulatory Commission
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

SEP 8 2011

Sept. 7 2011
947 Albany (pk)
Old Chatham, NY
12316

RECEIVED

2011 SEP 14 P 3:40

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

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Members:

Please find enclosed a copy of the letter I initially wrote to my Senator and Congressman stating my objections to the closing of the Old Chatham NY Post office.

I don't think this is a wise decision and I'm appealing the judgement.

Absolutely no serious considerations have been addressed regarding the Community at large. First, loss of local community identity, loss of what was meant to be a service for the people, inconvenience to all affected, increased costs to travel to another location and finally loss of employment for at least one person.

What justification is there for consolidating us with annual costs far below East Chatham? Is it because East Chatham Facility cost \$800,000.00 and the rental is \$5000.00 per month. With building values losing ground monthly I would love to know who approved the building of that facility! It'll take more than stamp sales to pay for the cost of this building.

Since closing small post offices only yields 0.4% savings to the operating budget, perhaps other areas should be considered for more significant cost reductions. Wouldn't it be gratifying to the public if the Postal Service started at the District Office and weeded out all unnecessary high paying jobs with their percs instead of impacting the inconsequential little

guys?

When the Postal Service saw the computer trend taking the market innovative ideas should have been coming daily from the Powers that be.

Please reconsider this closer decision and leave the historic service we have in our community.

Loyally,
Gail H. Lundy,
Former Postmaster
Ogd Chatham, NY

Gail H. Lundy

May 6, 2011

***Via Facsimile (202) 228-0282
(212) 688-7444***

***(202) 225-1168
(518) 610-8135***

U. S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
478 Russell
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Chris Gibson
502 Cannon TOB
Washington, D.C 20515

Re: The Threatened Closing of the Old Chatham, N.Y. Post Office

The Honorable Gillibrand and Gibson:

On behalf of your constituents, I write to ask for your **immediate assistance** in stopping the Postal Service plan to close our Old Chatham Post Office (see the attached letter dated April 22, 2011). I worked at this Post Office for 30 years, and I don't want my village to lose its identity which it surely will if this is taken from us.

As you both are aware, Old Chatham is an historic hamlet situated in the North of Columbia County. This Post Office has been located within the hamlet for over 130 years, and at its present location for the past 60 years. I was born and raised here and started working at the Post Office in 1968. In 1975, I became the Postmaster and served in that position until my retirement in 1998.

From my years of experience, I can tell you with certainty that our Post Office is the heart of our community along with our general store and Jackson's. We have a very high degree of walk-ins because of our hamlet location, and a very high ratio of P. O. Box holders to rural delivery recipients.

*The closing of the Old Chatham Office will **not result in any savings** for the Postal Service but will in fact cost our residents dearly both emotionally and financially. The Postal Service cites the key savings as eliminating my former position now that I have retired – I retired 13 years ago!*

When we attended the community meeting on Tuesday May 3rd the Postal Service representative could not provide any cost analyses, and admitted that the addition of rural deliveries, which certainly will result as the alternative venue is 6 miles away, will actually cost the Postal Service more money! But that cost will be even greater for all of Old Chatham's residents. With gas prices approaching \$5.00 a gallon and projected to go higher, burdening your constituents, many of whom are senior citizens, with six miles a day in unnecessary travel on a very difficult road is a significant financial penalty--costing local residents hundreds of dollars a year.

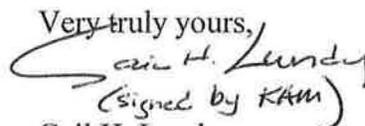
The relocation will result in a loss of revenue and additional expenses for all our local businesses. Also significant is the decline in property values, and a corresponding loss of local tax revenues, when the Postal Service eliminates this zip code and community designation which I guarantee you, based on my years of experience, will in fact occur.

Finally, one can't put a price tag on the cost of losing the heart of our community!

Rural areas such as ours do not deserve to lose this service. Everyday something more is taken from us. Just last year we lost our local fire service and now this threat. It is time we as taxpayers are heard!

The Old Chatham community is in total consensus: 100% of her residents want to SAVE THEIR POST OFFICE.

Please help us achieve our goal and thank you! We will be in touch with your offices next week.

Very truly yours,

(signed by KAM)

Gail H. Lundy
947 Albany Turnpike
Old Chatham, New York 12136
gailhl@peoplepc.com

Former Postmaster, on behalf, and at the request, of the residents of the hamlet of Old Chatham.

cc: All Old Chatham Residents