

Docket No. A2011-80

## Postal Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

### NOTICE OF FILING UNDER 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)

TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

Please take notice that on September 21, 2011, the Commission received two petitions for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Tariffville post office located in Tariffville, Connecticut. The first petition for review was filed by Mary A. Glassman on behalf of the Town of Simsbury. The second petition for review was filed by Theresa Salb. They are both postmarked September 9, 2011.

This notice is advisory only and is being furnished so that the Postal Service may begin assembling the administrative record in advance of any formal appeal proceedings held upon the alleged (closing/consolidation) for transmittal pursuant to 39 CFR § 3001.113(a) (requiring the filing of the record within 15 days of the filing with the Commission of a petition for review). The Postal Service's administrative record is due no later than October 6, 2011.



Shoshana M. Grove  
Secretary

Date: September 22, 2011

Attachment



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

P.O. BOX 495

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Received

Mary A. Glassman - First Selectman 2011 SEP 20 P 3:16

SEP 19 2011

Office of PAGR

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
Via Facsimile Transmission 1-202-789-6891

September 9, 2011

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New Park Ave NW  
Suite 200  
Washington DC 20268-0001

Dear Commission:

I am writing on behalf of the Town of Simsbury to object to the closing of the Tariffville Post Office decision made by the United States Postal Service Headquarters.

As a preliminary matter, the people of Simsbury are disappointed with the process that the Post Office followed in making the decision as well as informing the Town about the closure.

Last February, postal officials took advantage of a winter incident to close the Tariffville Post Office even though it was determined that the building had no structural damage. We believe that this discontinuation of service was the beginning of an unfair process.

As has been stated by residents, local public officials as well as state and federal elected officials, the closure of the Tariffville Post Office is detrimental to the village community that relies heavily on this post office branch and does provide any feasible alternatives.

We believe the closure should be reversed for the following reasons:

- Tariffville Post Office serves many elderly and disabled individuals who find it difficult to travel the additional miles to the Simsbury Post Office
- Tariffville Post Office is the only postal service available to residents during winter and flooding incidents when access across the Farmington River to get to the Simsbury Post Office is often not possible for days at a time
- Simsbury Post Office is already overburdened and does not provide adequate parking and staff to service additional customers
- Tariffville Post Office provides an economic development function to the nearby schools, churches and businesses

Telephone (860) 658-3230  
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*Mglassman@simsbury-ct.gov*  
*www.simsbury-ct.gov*

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*  
*8:30 - 7:00 Monday*  
*8:30 - 4:30 Tuesday through Friday*

Postal Regulatory Commission  
September 9, 2011  
Page 2

- Tariffville Post Office officials were provided other, cost effective alternatives that would have enabled the post office to function more efficiently and to produce a profit enabling the branch to remain open.

Given the amount of time, effort and alternatives provided to Postal officials, the closure of the Tariffville Post Office is extremely disappointing and short sighted.

It is also disconcerting that the decision to close the Tariffville Post Office was also made without any notification to residents, town or state and federal officials despite the numerous letters and correspondence sent on this matter to Post Office officials since February. The method of communication of simply posting the decision which then starts the 30 day appeal period running is clearly unfair.

The Town of Simsbury asks that you reverse the decision to close the Tariffville Post Office. We believe that the alternative locations provided to Postal officials as well as the special needs of village residents and lack of other adequate options support this decision.

Sincerely,



Mary A. Glassman

Cc: Board of Selectmen  
State Rep. Linda Schofield  
State Sen. Kevin Witkos  
U.S. Congressman Chris Murphy  
U.S. Sen. Joseph Lieberman  
U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal

A2011-80

Tariffville Post Office  
06081

Main St  
Tariffville Ct 06081

Appeal Notice

REC 9-6-11

Please read this little Letter  
I hope it doesn't fall through the cracks.

2011 SEP 20 P 3:18  
POSTAL REGULATORY  
OFFICE I

- Help us to get our Village Post Office Back
- P.O Bldg is a historical site
- Said it was unsafe but tenured in bldg moved in after 2 days
- Local business counts the Tariffville Post Office  
also elementary school, two day Churches, Senior & disabled persons

• While we appreciate the difficult financial straits of the P.O. claim  
"Please do not balance your budget on the backs of  
our Great Citizens of Tariffville & surrounding Town."

• Post office bid our little <sup>village</sup> wrong.

Theresa Sells a senior

P.O. # 53

Tariffville, Ct 06081

Postal Regulatory Commission  
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

SEP 13 2011

I think this says a lot

News.com

THE  
SIMSBURY NEWS

## 1e Editor

gathering place for locals to meet and share information.

Local businesses count on the Tariffville Post Office to drive their commercial enterprises. Also, the elementary school and two large churches use this post office for direct mail and major bulk mailings.

While we certainly appreciate the difficult financial straits the post office claims, please do not balance your budget on the backs of our good citizens. The Town of Simsbury, facing economic challenges as well, has kept its financial house in order, putting forward a budget with a de minimis 0.21 increase for the fiscal year. We have found creative ways to save while still providing all services. We have not closed any public buildings. We believe that the U.S. Post Office can do the same.

Closing the Tariffville branch would put heavier weight on the Simsbury Post Office — increased traffic, parking problems, longer lines and reduction of quality service. For Tariffville residents, traveling to Simsbury is a hardship, particularly for seniors and the disabled, especially during the winter and periods of flooding. In addition, gas prices are rising, making it economically

burdensome and environmentally unsound.

The Town of Simsbury has presented viable alternatives for relocation, within Tariffville, that are readily available with substantially cheaper rent than the Tariffville Post Office was paying at 39 Main St.

The USPS closed the Tariffville Post Office without prior study, and in violation of Section 123.7 of the USPS Postal Operation Manual on Emergency Suspension of Services. In addition, they have not undertaken the study required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Town officials remain committed to the campaign initiated to maintain a post office in Tariffville and stand by its citizens in this fight. Please hear my plea and those of countless others to make the right decision. We continue to remain available to assist you in doing so.

Please keep us apprised of developments since the April 5th hearing and what the next steps will be.

Thank you for your consideration.

## Tariffville Post Office

An open letter to Kimberly Peters, Conn. district manager, U.S. Post Office.

Thank you for hosting a public hearing on the status of the Tariffville Post Office on April 5th. We appreciate your colleagues taking the time to make a presentation, listen to the concerns of the residents and answer questions.

As you know full well by now, this community is fiercely united in its desire to maintain a post office in the village. The standing-room only crowd offered compelling testimony as to why closing this branch would be devastating to Tariffville. I would like to reinforce the following significant points made that evening and hope that they resonate with you:

The Tariffville Post Office is a community treasure, an historical site, an economic anchor, and a major

## Over 100 residents implore officials to re-open post office

By Sloan Brewster  
Staff Writer

Approximately 150 people crowded into a meeting room at Trinity Episcopal Church in Tariffville to make their case for getting a post office back in the village.

"Fight injustice," said one man as he filed into the church.

First Selectman Mary Glassman spoke briefly before departing for the Simsbury budget hearing.

"We're here to tell you tonight that closing the Tariffville Post Office would have devastating effects on the businesses and people of Simsbury," she said. "We need to keep the Tariffville Post Office open!" Folks cheered and applauded.

In February, the historic Main Street building where the post office was located was evacuated by the landlord due to structural issues. While the building itself was later re-opened and other tenants returned, the post office has remained closed and local services were moved to the Simsbury branch.

People in attendance at the April 5 public hearing, which was hosted by the Postal Service, expected answers to questions about the closure of the post office, but as they were leaving, many grumbled that most of those questions remained unanswered.

**People in attendance at the April 5 public hearing, which was hosted by the Postal Service, expected answers to questions about the closure of the post office, but as they were leaving, many grumbled that most of those questions remained unanswered. ... "I think from this meeting we all realize that the postal officials did not come prepared," someone from the audience said toward the end of the meeting.**

During discussions in the meeting, people voiced those concerns aloud.

"I think from this meeting we all realize that the postal officials did not come prepared," someone from the audience said toward the end of the meeting.

"You should be ashamed at how unprepared you are," someone else said.

Among questions not answered was why the post office was not re-opened when the rest of the building was.

What people did learn was that the Tariffville branch was not slated for closure before the building was evacuated. They did not get an answer to why that changed simply because of temporary structural issues. Some in the audience suggested that the Postal Service merely took advantage of the situation.

Maureen Marion, manager of public affairs and communications for the Northeast

area said no decisions had been made on permanently closing the local branch and that the idea was merely under study by the Postal Service.

Before opening the hearing to the public, Marion gave a presentation in which she discussed financial troubles the Postal Service is suffering.

In 2010, the Postal Service lost \$8.5 billion and in 2011 the service anticipates a \$7 billion loss, she said.

Continued on page 22

## Residents make pleas to have Tariffville Post Office re-opened

Continued from page 17

"For many reasons, the volume of mail has declined 2.7 percent since 2007," Marion said.

She said the Postal Service was looking into ways to save some money. In two years, revenue at the Tariffville branch went down by 19 percent or \$30,000, she said.

Some speakers discussed the personal hardship of losing the local branch and being forced to do their postal business in Simsbury. They commented on poor parking and the additional gas costs. One person said he had calculated, that based on current gas prices, it costs an extra \$8 per week to go to the Simsbury office.

"I haven't picked my mail up in

two weeks. I don't go to Simsbury," one woman said. "People who work in Hartford, they don't go to Simsbury."

She also described being treated like an outsider at post offices in other towns. "A couple of years ago I stopped in Southwick (Mass.) to get some packing supplies and they were out. She said, 'I stock them for my regular customers,' and I thought to myself, I'm a regular customer, but I don't think I am," she said. "I'm Mary Ann's customer."

Mary Ann Chiapponi was the postmaster at the Tariffville Post Office and is now working in Simsbury and other offices as needed.

Ellen Corvo of Trinity Episcopal Church said the church relies on the post office for bulk mailings and sometimes

sends as many as 600 or 700 a month.

"The bottom line is you have 700 households here and I'm not the only church represented here," Corvo said.

Others spoke to the overall industry. "I think you've missed the entire point of what the Tariffville Post Office was," said Jay Sottolano. "The Tariffville Post Office was the model of what the Postal Service should become."

Sottolano spoke of upgrades the postal service has implemented and "modernization techniques" such as building larger more regionalized stores, and suggested these changes could be the reason the Postal Service is in financial straits. In Tariffville, he said, there was a single solitary worker who not only completed her tasks effi-

ciently, but did so with a personality that endeared her to the entire community. Large-scale operations have no way of competing with that, he insisted, and was given a round of cheers and applause.

The Postal Service made no promises on whether or not it would return to Tariffville, though Marion said it was looking at two buildings that have been suggested for alternative locations. Residents, for their part, did make a promise. They said they would keep up the fight to get their post office back. Postal Worker's Union President Robert Johnson gave some ideas on how they should pursue their case. "Go home, write your comments," he said. "The decision is going to be made when they get written commentary."

He also said he would look into having the Main Street location re-opened while the study is ongoing.

"Tomorrow I'm going to make calls," he said. "Why aren't we back in there? If the building is habitable, why aren't we in there?"

Continued on page 21