

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 27, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Redmon post office located in Redmon, Illinois. The petition for review was filed by Jim Cooper, Mayor of Redmon, Illinois (Petitioner) and is postmarked September 22, 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 12, 2011.


Shoshana M. Grove
Secretary

Date: September 28, 2011

Attachment

A 2011-92

TO: Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

RECEIVED

2011 SEP 27 P 12: 32

From: Jim Cooper, Mayor
Redmon, Ill. 61949

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Appeal to Close the Post Office at Redmon, Illinois 61949

DOCKET Number 1378995 - 61949

Received

SEP 26 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Office of PAGR

Enclosed are the appeals collected from the residents of Redmon, Illinois 61949 protesting the closure of our Post Office. This closure would be a hardship for many of our 142 townspeople.

The Post Office has served us since 1874 with excellence concerning service, PO Boxes, Postage and Postal Products. It is a valuable part of our community. We are asking that the final determination to close this office (Exhibit 1) be rescinded based on the enclosed appeals (Exhibits 2).

According to Postal Regulations customers cannot be forced to have rural delivery instead of PO Boxes. (Exhibit 3). We are not getting an option. We are being forced into rural delivery and we do not like it. It is our choice to keep our PO Boxes.

We understand the Postal Service is in dire straits and needs to cut back but to totally eliminate our service is too extreme. According to the National Association of Postmasters if all the small rural Post Offices were closed, it would only be a savings of 0.7 of one percent of the Postal Services entire operational budget, but closures will effect thousands of people with the reduction of service. 86% of the American public OPPOSES the closing of Post Offices. (Exhibit 4) . It is the law that the Postal Service

“shall provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to rural areas, communities, and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining.”

Our suggestion is that we have a 4 hour office open for Box Holders and purchasing stamps and mailing parcels. This would cut the PO expenses in half and we would still have our service. We suggest that the regulation regarding No Fee Boxes be removed from the record and that everyone who has a PO Box must pay the proper fees for it. The people in our town would pay the yearly fees if we could just keep our Post Office open..

These actions would cut the Postal Service expenses by 75% and still leave us with some service. Doesn't it make sense to save money and still have some type of service and still generate the revenue at the same time?

The Postal Service is forgetting its main purpose and that is to provide quality, reliable and responsible service to its customers. By forcing us to put up rural boxes and driving 9 miles into town to do our postal business is not providing a service, it causes hardships.

However, if you do decide to uphold the Postal Service's determination to close our office at least put us into suspension according to Postal Regulation Title 39:Postal Service Part 3001 Subpart H 3001.114 (Exhibit 5). To attempt to have us all put up rural boxes and get things properly addressed will take time. This is a community of retirees and farmers, a total of 69 houses, things are harder for us to get done. Forcing us to have this done during the harvesting time and then in winter is unreasonable and would be more costly and more risks of accidents to the older folks attempting to get rural boxes up. At least leave the Post Office open until all that is completed in the spring of 2012. We want everything done right and do not want our mail delayed due to this

proposed and forced change in service

I have done some computer research, spoken with the landlord and reviewed previous lease agreements for the property and found out the following in the realm of the financial situation that the city of Redmon Post Office is in. This analysis shows that the Post Office can stay open for 4 hours per day with minimal cost and the service would remain the same and still generate revenue. Take into consideration of the cost of a service replacement, rural delivery, the 4 hour option would be more suitable. The results are as follows:

Final Determination States (Exhibit 1)

44,279.00 for PM salary and fringe benefits (Exhibit 1?)

13,581.00 for OIC salary and no fringe benefits

30,698.00 SAVINGS for wages per year

6,100.00 building lease which was just signed May, 2011 for 5 years

This must be paid whether building is vacant or occupied

13,581.00 for wages

6,100.00 for yearly lease

19,681.00 cost per year to stay open

- 12,749.00 revenue intake average

6,932.00 cost per year to stay open

-3570.00 per year generated by the removed no fee regulation

3,262.00 cost per year to stay open (Divide this by 12 months and it comes out to)
\$280.17 per month cost to stay open

The average Rural Carrier receives \$19.45 per hour (Plus fringe benefits).(Exhibit 6)

Taking in consideration the time to prepare the mail for delivery, bundling and loading and the driving out to the town making the deliveries and then returning back to the Paris Post Office would take approximately 2 hours. If it were to take only 2 hours each day to complete the preparation, delivery and driving out to the City of Redmon that would total out to be \$234.38 per week for wages plus gas mileage. That amount times 4 weeks equals \$937.92 per month. If it costs \$280.17 per month to simply go to 4 hours per day and close all of our boxes to a total of \$937.92 per month for a rural carrier to complete the job that means the Postal Service is spending \$657.75 extra per month than if we were to make just a few adjustments to the no fee box regulations. We are all willing to pay for our boxes and informed management of that while they were here for the town meeting..

It doesn't make sense to put us to Rural Delivery when we don't want to go to it and it turns out to be more expensive. The current Redmon, Ill. OIC lives next to the Paris Post Office and she could easily pick up the mail from there and bring it to Redmon each day since she would be going there anyway. Also she could return the outgoing mail to the Paris Post Office on her way home in time for mail pick up so there would be no need for a contract truck route to come out here and she drives a truck anyway and this would save gas and mileage expenses of the Mail Contract Star Route.

So taking this all into account we see no need to be forced into a Rural Delivery System here in Redmon and we are protesting the Postal Services Determination to close our Post Office.

Take further into consideration, if the Postal no fee box regulation cannot be changed, paying a rural carrier \$234.38 per week, \$937.92 per month times 12 month would be

\$11,255.04, which is more than it would cost to keep the station open for four hours per day (\$6932.00) by a total of 4,323.04. For consideration also, If the Postal Service claims that it would take only 1 hour per day that would be a total of \$116.70 per week times 52 weeks is \$6068.40. A difference of only 863.60 per year more to keep the Post Office open. That is only \$2.36 per day. It is not reasonable for our Post Office to be closed for the small amount of savings.

One of the Postal Services criteria for making a closure decision is the impact it would have on the community. Looking at the four different letters (Exhibit 7) sent to Postal Customers of four different offices, all under consideration for closure are showing that the Postal Service is not listening to the communities at all. One letter going to Brockton townspeople refer them to get PO Boxes in Redmon, already determined to be closed.

Another one of these letters refers Postal Customers of Metcalf to go to Hume for PO Boxes, Hume is under consideration for closure as well.

Another letter refers the Postal Customers of Hume to go to Newman for PO Boxes.

The letter to the Redmon residents refer them to Brockton for PO Boxes, also another city under consideration for closure. It doesn't appear that any community intake was actually received by the Postal Service, they just decided and that was that. They just can't decide where people can get their PO Boxes.

For all of the above mentioned reasons we are asking the the Redmon Post Office not be closed at this time. We pray that you honor our request.

CC: Tim Johnson, Representative
Dick Durbin, Senator