Postal Regulatory Commission
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SEP 28 2011

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POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

Re: Appeal of Lakeville, CT - Docket #1369705-06039, posted August 27, 2011.

Pursuant to Section VII, B, of the above referenced docket number, Etienne Delessert (PO Box 1689, Lakeville) and Rita Marshall (5 Lakeview Ave., Lakeville); both persons served by the Lakeville, CT Post Office, hereby appeal the Final Determination to Consolidate the Lakeville, CT Post Office and Continue to Provide a Classified Branch.

The report indicates that the Lakeville Post Office will be a classified branch, providing delivery and retail services and consolidated with Salisbury Post Office, which will remain the administrative office.

The report recites various statistics of the Lakeville Post Office. It indicates that the postmaster retired in January 2010 (there are other post offices with postmaster positions vacant for longer than the Lakeville post office). The report concludes that there will be a $55,816 annual savings, presumably the salary of the temporary Lakeville postmaster. (This person, however, has been assigned to the Winsted post office, therefore the cost is shifted, not eliminated.)

There was a public hearing, as required, on April 21, 201. 73 people attended, 308 people signed a petition, several businesses and large customers submitted letters. At this hearing, members of the public, including the appellants, asked questions that were not answered by the Post Office representatives running the meeting, including questions about the number of PO boxes, routes and revenue of other post offices in the area.

There was no opportunity for the public to review and compare information about the performance and other criteria of all area post offices as none was provided. Post Office representatives stated that the revenue from Lakeville was less than the revenue from Salisbury. They also stated that the Lakeville revenue was $330,000.00 but would not specify whether this was gross or net. Representatives would not provide revenue numbers for Salisbury, or other post offices, despite several attempts at the public hearing and in writing to both the US Postal Service and Congressman Murphy's office.

It is not clear what criteria were used to make this determination and the statements made within this determination are inconsistent with known facts. For example, both Lakeville and Salisbury rank 16, Salisbury has one delivery route and 500 PO boxes, Lakeville has 900 PO boxes (700 rented) and two delivery routes.

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Of particular concern is that the repercussion of this reclassification is unknown and was not explained. At the public hearing, attendees asked, for example, whether a public hearing was required to close a classified branch. No answer was provided. Questions regarding the potential consequences of this reclassification were not answered. The Lakeville community was lulled into believing that they had succeeded at saving their post office from closing. This may be the case for the near future. Appellants are concerned that the reclassification of the Lakeville post office will facilitate closing the branch in the future.

Many community members are questioning whether the new designation as a classified branch will, eventually, lead to the closing of the branch without any public input.

In light of the absence of information for the public to review and contest, the appellants request an opportunity to receive and review pertinent information, both financial and other, regarding this decision and the implications of this declassification in order to fully inform the public of the consequences.

Sincerely,

Charlene LaVoie
Community Lawyer/Counsel for Appellants

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