

RECEIVED
123 Forest Circle
Evansdale, Iowa 50707-1013
October 1, 2011

2011 OCT 11 P 1:10

Postal Regulatory Committee
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

Postal Regulatory Commission
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

OCT 07 2011

Dear Sir:

I just learned of the deadline for the submission of this appeal: October 2nd – and saw nothing in the guidelines that indicated that you needed to *receive* this by that date. Only that submission must be made by then.

Therefore, in good faith, I am mailing this to you 30 hours prior to the deadline. On October 1, 2011, via First Class Mail with a Delivery Confirmation.

And thanks to the very kind assistance of Shoshana Grove, who returned my phone call to provide me with your FAX number – (202) 789-6891 – I am *also* FAXing this correspondence to her attention, and to the further attention of Miss Annie Kennedy. That FAX also is being transmitted to you this afternoon.

I hope that – along with the many other appeals you are receiving from residents of Evansdale, Iowa, the points I'm making in the attached appeal document will help you to make the fair, sensible, and equitable decision to reverse the closure of the Evansdale, Iowa post office – and thereby avert the imposition of the closest equivalent any American city of several thousand people could experience to Third-World Status, upon it. In America, communication and commerce are paramount, and no city in this nation should ever be subjected by its own government – at any level, much less the federal one -- to being unnecessarily and unconscionable hamstrung in that manner.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Craig Chilton

Attachment: Letter of Appeal to Not Close the Evansdale, Iowa Post Office.

123 Forest Circle
Evansdale, Iowa 50707-1013
October 1, 2011

Postal Regulatory Committee
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

Dear Sir:

There are many excellent reasons for cancelling and reversing the process of implementing the imminent closure of the Post Office in Evansdale, Iowa 50707, and I respectfully ask that you do precisely that.

It is likely that other valid and cogent reasons besides the ones I'm listing below exist for rescinding the planned and impending closure of the Evansdale Post Office on October 21, 2011, but all of the following need to be seriously and strongly considered:

- Evansdale is not a small or rural town. And in making this point I do not downplay the value to such towns of their local post offices. This point is made to stress the magnitude of impact that the closure would have upon a very substantial population, suddenly and irrevocably. Evansdale is a city of more than 5,000 who depend upon all of the window services that a staffed post office affords to them.
- This service is vitally-important to businesses in many ways. E.g., parcel-shipping, and specialized mailing services that either necessitate or are greatly facilitated by the presence of a window clerk. One example of this is the need to present all mail pieces that weigh more than 13 ounces in that manner, when stamped, rather than metered. (In my own case, as a book publisher, I mail books out to people regularly that weigh a pound or more. I should not have to have the need imposed upon me to go to the extra and unnecessary expense of obtaining a postage meter to accomplish that.) Another example is the sending of Certified and Registered Mail. The latter cannot be mailed without the personal services of a postal clerk, and when doing the former, there is no way to be assured that Certified Mail and mail having Delivery Confirmations will be scanned *into* the system properly, on the mailing end. If and when that is not properly done, there is no recourse if the piece isn't delivered to the recipient. The system simply will report that the item does not *exist* in the system, and that there is no record of it.

- In a city of 5,000+, there are literally hundreds of elderly people, and many of them are on foot. In Evansdale, many such folks live close to the post office, and depend upon being able to access its services. There is no way that many of those folks could travel the 3-1/2-mile distance to the post office in downtown Waterloo, or the 4-mile distance to Raymond, Iowa, in the opposite direction. Local city bus service that once linked Evansdale to Waterloo no longer exists. That route was cancelled. For anyone who is on foot, this would mean walking a minimum distance of nearly a mile from the closest populated part of Evansdale to the nearest city bus stop. From that point, it would take 45 minutes of bus-riding to reach the Waterloo Post Office, which is next door to the downtown city bus depot. After that, it just gets worse. After visiting the post office, the person's bus back would have departed. And they depart hourly. So then, there would be *that* long wait, followed by the long hike back to Evansdale from the closest bus stop – where the bus originally had been caught. Figure a total of a *minimum* of 2-1/2 hours for a person to go to the Post Office in that manner... including the long hikes, which would be impossible for most elderly people.
- Upwards of 150 people currently rent P.O. Boxes in the Evansdale Post Office, and many of those folks have rented their boxes over a period of many years, and even decades. As a business owner, I've rented three of those boxes since 1990, and have served tens of thousands of customers over those decades. There is no way in the world that I could notify all of those people of an address change, even if I could afford to. And many of my customers give me return business by mail – sometimes with years intervening between contacts. Unless there could be some way for those same P.O. Boxes *and* the current ZIP Code for Evansdale – 50707 – to be retained and serviced elsewhere in the community, those addresses will simply be LOST forevermore as soon as the forwarding orders for them expire. NO customer mail sent to them would ever again be able to reach me or my business, and countless orders would be irrevocably lost. The same fate awaits all the other renters of P.O. Boxes in the Evansdale Post Office, to varying extents, case-by-case. In a nation that should be very concerned for the well-being of small businesses, this hardship would be antithetical to such goals.
- Consider now the serious economic impact and inconvenience that the loss of the Evansdale Post Office would have upon the majority of its 5,000+ residents who *do* own motor vehicles, and *can* drive to the Waterloo Post Office from Evansdale. And in so doing, let's examine that using the 3-1/2-mile distance from the Evansdale Post Office to the Waterloo Post Office. Which is half of the *additional* travel that people

would have to incur. With the intervening traffic lights, traffic conditions, and speed limits, that is about a 20-minute *round* trip. Longer, in poor winter driving conditions.

Upon reaching the Waterloo Post Office, there's the matter of parking. The lot there often either is full, or close to it. It could become necessary sometimes to park a block or two away from the post office, adding even more time and inconvenience to the chore.

Once inside of the post office, there almost always is a line to wait in, no matter how many of the windows are being attended. And frequently, one or more of the windows is/are unmanned, no matter how long the customer line is. One can count on a wait in line there of – typically – between five and fifteen minutes, and often even longer. Especially during the holidays.

If a person is lucky, he may accomplish the entire mission in the course of spending an extra half hour of time out of his day – *every* time he makes the trip. And for many people – especially business people – that would be daily, Monday through Friday. Amounting to at least 2-1/2 hours wasted in such cases, per week, for every such person. Out of a typical week of 40 business hours. That would amount to a total of 6.25% of business time for each such person that otherwise could be used productively that would be totally – und unnecessarily! – wasted. In *this* economy, which already has more than enough problems and hardships to deal with.

Finally, not even considering the additional wear-and-tear on vehicles with each mile they are driven, consider the fact that local, stop-and-go driving, such as this round trip would entail, yields a driver fuel economy of about 15 miles per gallon, if he's lucky. At \$3.50 per gallon for gas, that makes *each* 7-mile round trip a financial hardship of \$1.63. If the person has to make five such trips a week, that is \$8.17/week down the drain for each such person doing that. Which would amount to \$424.84 per year. For EACH such person. (Again... in *this* economy!)

- Ironically, a five-year lease was signed for the Evansdale Post Office at the beginning of this year – 2011 – just a little more than three months prior to the announcement that the Evansdale Post Office could be closed. Breaking that lease would be certain to cause more expense to the Postal Service. Money wasted.
- The Evansdale Post Office normally is staffed by just one clerk. If the post office is closed, he will still have his job, and simply continue working for the USPS in Waterloo, instead. So the post office will be saving absolutely *no* money in terms of salary or benefits that it is paying out, by closing the Evansdale Post Office. The clerk will be paid exactly as he has been all along, and simply be working in a different location.
- As most customers who frequent the Evansdale Post Office can tell you, the times when there are not customers at the counter being served there

are rare, and there often are three or four people standing in line. This post office does a substantial and profitable amount of business for the USPS, when everything I've pointed out about it, above, is considered. In fact, there are times when it is sufficiently busy that a second clerk is called in to man a second window/work-station there, providing excellent service to the community during the busy mailing seasons.

Any reasons that could be put forth favoring the closing-down of the Evansdale Post Office would be minimal at best, if not completely specious, in light of all of the above-listed points.

Now I have just one last – and very significant! – point to make:

- Evansdale residents are just now coming to the full realization that this impending closure of our Post Office is *not* a result of actions being taken at the federal level as a cost-cutting measure. But *instead* was a “locally-initiated” action on the part of the Waterloo Post Office. And documentation of this has been found and reviewed by our Mayor, Chad Deutsch, and by many other people who've found this on the Internet. And that stunning aspect adds a *vast* insult to this impending injury and devastating blow to our community.
- Ironically, too, the post office in Raymond, Iowa, about 4 miles east of Evansdale, which is a community of only a few hundred people, appears to be under *no* threat of closure. And I've heard that the reason for this may be the fact that the Raymond Post Office has a Postmaster, while the Evansdale Post Office has a clerk instead. If this is the case, it is one more example of the way that the system called “RHIP” – Rank Has Its Privileges – can truly be unconscionable and totally devoid of merit.

It is apparent that there really could be only one possible “winner” in this entire debacle: the Postmaster in Waterloo, Iowa, who would then reap the additional Postal Service business of most of Evansdale.

Tragically, for our middle-American city of Evansdale, there would be more than 5,000 losers.

I ask you to please kindly find it in your hearts to *rescind* the closure of the Evansdale Post Office, and spare our city from the closest equivalent of “Third-World” status that could be relegated upon us by a service that is so valuable to our nation.

Sincerely,



Craig Chilton