

A 2012-13

Received

October 1, 2011

OCT 18 2011

RECEIVED

Office of PAGR

2011 OCT 25 A 6: 04

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

901 NEW YORK AVENUE NW SUITE 200

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

The Postal Service has posted a notice to close our local post office, New Hampton, Missouri 64471.

I formally object and appeal this decision be reversed.

The Postal Service has responded to several concerns of New Hampton postal patrons with vague and repetitive answers. One of the main reasons our Post Office has been targeted is because we do not have a Postmaster, therefore they only have to dismiss the OIC, a non-career employee. Our Postmaster was called into immediate military duty, and then after serving our country for several years, retired. He was not replaced with another Postmaster. The Postal Service states since the Postmaster position is vacant, no Postal Service employee will be adversely affected. Then it also goes on to remark that closing the office would save \$44,279.00 in postmaster salary and benefits. But we do not HAVE a Postmaster. Our OIC receives zero benefits, nor this kind of salary. So they are obviously using these figures as if we had a postmaster, of which we obviously do not. So one hand, they say how easy it is to close because we don't have a postmaster, and then they use dollar amounts for a position that isn't applicable. It can't be both ways, obviously.

It is also stated in the notice to close that there are two other post offices within a 7 mile radius. This is simply not true. The closest post office located to us is a town located over 7 miles away with a population less than half of our size and is only open a couple of hours a day. It is also received a notice of closure. But yet that is the very location we are directed to open a new post office box when ours closes! The right hand doesn't know what the left is doing.

The affect of not having our own Post Office would be psychologically and financially damaging to a very rural community with a large amount of elderly and poor. The idea of simply paying bills online, or traveling to other towns to mail and weigh packages is not an option for many. This will be a huge loss, and one that is unfairly targeting areas like ours.

As a business owner, we are already adversely affected by the loss of a rural carrier route, which no longer originates from our New Hampton Post Office. It was taken away several months ago, in an effort to provide yet another convenient reason to close down this post office. Instead of the rural carrier bringing the mail in and sorting it here in our post office, he is now sorting it in a different town. This makes our mail late by over two hours, which delays my work immensely. Closing the post office would just acerbate this problem.

For these reasons, and many others, we implore you to review our situation and keep our post office open. We would be happy to explore any situation possible to keep it.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Serena Naylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Serena Naylor

New Hampton Hardware & Propane

P.O. Box 287

New Hampton, Missouri 64471

660-439-3245