

Postal Regulatory Commission BEFORE THE
Office of the Chief Administrator NATIONAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

RECEIVED

2011 OCT 26 P 4: 21

In the Matter of:

North Canton, CT 06059
Post Office State ZIP Code

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Docket No: A-2011-85

Ray & Dru McNeil, Petitioner(s)
live in North Canton, mailing - Canton, 06019

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the North Canton, CT post office. The Final Determination was posted August 27, 2011 (date)

2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5), the Petitioner(s) request the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in the making of the determination.

3. Petitioners: Please set out below the reasons why you believe the Postal Service's Final Determination should be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further consideration. (See pages of the Instructions for an outline of the kinds of reasons the law requires us to consider.) Please be as specific as possible. Please continue on additional paper if you need more space and attach the additional page(s) to this form.

Reasons attached.

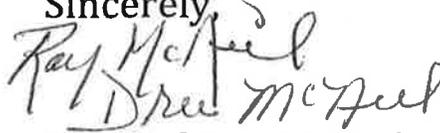
1. Our North Canton Post Office is approximately 1 1/2 miles from our home. For other residents in the area, which includes the far outreaches of Barkhamsted and Granby, it is even a longer distance. The next nearest post office is a 7 mile round trip. The two larger post offices in town are a 16 mile round trip. With the price of gas and road conditions during the winter, this is not a viable alternative to the residents in the furthest reaches of our rural end of town.
2. Several elderly citizens live close to the post office, but do not drive. They are able to access the services of this post office by walking to it. This helps them retain their independence by not having to depend on someone to drive them to another post office.
3. With the reorganization, bulk mailings and non-prepaid packages will need to be brought to the Winsted Post Office. This is a 30 mile round trip from North Canton and obviously an inconvenience for the residents as well as The North Canton Community United Methodist Church who use the North Canton Post Office for regular and bulk mailing of their monthly newsletter, special envelopes and other sundry mailings for a well informed congregation.
4. Two other post offices in town, the Canton Post Office and the Collinsville Post Office, are only 1 1/2 miles apart from each other. Why can't they consolidate these and send one of the "sitting postmasters" to be the postmaster in North Canton, the furthest post office in this rural area?

We have also included previous correspondence to Congressman Murphy and to the United States Post Office regarding the closing our North Canton Post Office.

It appears to us that instead of the postal service trying to find ways to accommodate the citizens, it is taking the opposite approach of discouraging the use of the United States mail service across our nation. Is this a really wise business decision?

Thank you for taking all these points and the ones included on the attached correspondence into consideration for keeping our North Canton Post Office open.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Ray and Dru McNeil in cursive script.

Ray and Dru McNeil

100 Case Street

Canton (North Canton), Ct 06019

May 9, 2011

Congressman Chris Murphy
114 West Main St.
Suite 206
New Britain, CT 06051

Dear Congressman Murphy,

After attending a North Canton community meeting regarding a study the U.S. Postal Service held on April 26th, 2011, we are sending this letter in regards to the possible, hopefully not, closing of our post office in North Canton.

- 1.) Our post office is approximately 1 1/2 miles round trip from our home. The next nearest post office is a 7 mile round trip and the larger post office is a 16 mile round trip. Since many of us do not head in the direction of those post offices and with the price of gas, this does not appear to be a good alternative. As you can see, the North Canton post office is the furthest post office out in this rural end of town.
- 2.) There are many elderly citizens that live close enough to our post office, but do not drive. They do walk to the office for postal transactions, which is very convenient for them.
- 3.) A survey was sent to customers for their input. What most of us discovered is the U. S. Postal Service only sent the survey to customers that have P.O. boxes at the post office, not all the citizens who live in this area. How could they ascertain our usage when we were not included in the mailing? All of us used to have 06059 zip code until the postal service changed it to 06019 for direct mailing to your home. Only those with P.O. boxes could retain 06059, but all of us whether we use 06019 or 06059 use the North Canton post office for other postal services.
- 4.) Besides the residences, one of the largest users of the North Canton Post Office is the North Canton Community United Methodist Church. They mail their monthly newsletter, envelope mailings and other sundry mailing, which are needed to insure a well-informed congregation. The church is located only 1/2 a mile from the North Canton post office.
- 5.) Our post office was established in 1826. By closing our post office, this most northern section of our community would lose its identity after 185 years.
- 6.) After numerous years of having a sitting postmaster at the North Canton office, approximately a year ago the U.S. Postal Service filled the position with a great person, Kathy Condron. She does a fabulous job and offers the community friendly and professional service. What many residents did not realize is the U.S.

Postal Service did not replace the position with what they term a "sitting postmaster". A post office with a "sitting postmaster" cannot be closed over one that does not have a "sitting postmaster". Even though they say this is only a study for closure, we feel the postal service planned this move so we have no way to negotiate the closings of other area post offices that have a "sitting postmaster". If our post office were to close, the North Canton residents would have to travel the furthest to do any postal transactions. Other residents in town served by branch offices, are located closer to the main Canton post office.

- 7.) We were also informed at the meeting on April 26th that when a post office is closed, the workers there are reassigned to other post offices. Therefore, salary savings are not part of the equation when closing post offices, only rent, utilities and maintenance. The owner of the building where the North Canton post office is located, stated at the meeting that he has not been approached to negotiate a lower rent.
- 8.) The U.S. Postal Service has said that overall the postal system is losing money and doesn't receive support from the government, but has to pay taxes, which is leading to this gap of income to keep offices open. In actuality, the post office is making a profit. (Bristol Press, April 9, 2011-Delivering for America). Congress requires the Postal Service to put \$5.5 billion of its earnings each year into a "pre-fund" for future pre health insurance, which is many years down the road. This began in 2007 and the postal service has tucked away \$20.8 billion dollars since 2007. No other business or government agency has such a requirement. This funding comes from the operating budget instead being able to internally transfer from other surplus funds. If the operating budget could be left in tact, it would have earned a profit of \$837 million since 2007. Is there a way Congress could look into this to make adjustments, so the vital branch post offices can remain open to provide services for its residents who live close by?

Instead of investigating ways to close the post office, efforts should be forthcoming in how to keep the North Canton Post Office open and maintain the services to our residents.

Thank you for all your help and support in this matter. It would be greatly appreciated by all of us in the North Canton area.

Sincerely,

Ray and Dru McNeil
100 Case Street
Canton (North Canton), Ct 06019
860-693-2557

July 25, 2011
Joseph Mazzola
141 Weston St.
Hartford, Ct. 06101-9631

Dear Mr. Mazzola,

After attending the meeting for the proposal to close the North Canton Post Office in North Canton, Ct., we sent the attached letter to our Congressman, Rep. Chris Murphy.

His office was kind enough to speak with us to let us know they would be looking into the issue and forwarding our letter to you.

In June, a letter was posted in the Post Office in regard to the minutes of the meeting and a sheet for comments. We assume you received a copy of our letter to Congressman Murphy, but we decided to send our own copy along to you just to be on the "safe" side. We feel the letter is in place of the comment sheet.

We have also added a few more points that have come to our attention since sending the letter in May.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We hope that all these points are taken into serious consideration and our post office will remain open.

Sincerely,

Ray and Dru McNeil
100 Case Street
Canton, Ct 06019 (North Canton)

Docket # 1434413 - 06059

Additional points to original letter.

- Postal Service Stops Paying Into Health Service (Hartford Courant June 23, 2011). Since the Postal Service stated they would save \$800 million this fiscal year, a miniscule amount of that savings could be applied to keeping our North Canton Post Office open to the convenience of hundreds of residences in our area.
- There is only a 1% saving in closing post offices, but a huge convenience to those who use the North Canton post office!

July 25, 2011
Barbara Mastronianni
141 Weston St.
Hartford, Ct. 06101-9631

Dear Ms Matronianni,

After attending the meeting for the proposal to close the North Canton Post Office in North Canton, Ct., we sent the attached letter to our Congressman, Rep. Chris Murphy.

His office was kind enough to speak with us to let us know they would be looking into the issue and forwarding our letter to you.

In June, a letter was posted in the Post Office in regard to the minutes of the meeting and a sheet for comments. We assume you received a copy of our letter to Congressman Murphy, but we decided to send our own copy along to you just to be on the "safe" side. We feel the letter is in place of the comment sheet.

We have also added a few more points that have come to our attention since sending the letter in May.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We hope that all these points are taken into serious consideration and our post office will remain open.

Sincerely,

Ray and Dru McNeil
100 Case Street
Canton, Ct 06019 (North Canton)

Docket # 1434113-06059

Additional points to original letter.

- Postal Service Stops Paying Into Health Service (Hartford Courant June 23, 2011). Since the Postal Service stated they would save \$800 million this fiscal year, a miniscule amount of that savings could be applied to keeping our North Canton Post Office open to the convenience of hundreds of residences in our area.
- There is only a 1% saving in closing post offices, but a huge convenience to those who use the North Canton post office!

September 8, 2011

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave. NW
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20268

Dear Sir,

We are writing to you to appeal the decision to close the North Canton Post Office in North Canton, Connecticut.

We are quite disappointed with this decision since the residents in this area (which includes sections of Granby and Barkhamsted) are the furthest distance by many miles from the main post office.

At the meeting in May, it was stated that the other post offices in town had outstanding postmasters and so they could not be closed. This is a real puzzle! Why cannot a standing postmaster from either of the other three post offices be moved up to North Canton, especially since the Canton Post Office and Collinsville Post office are very close to each other? This would be a plus for that person since they would not lose their position and be a HUGE convenience for the residences of North Canton and surrounding communities that border our area.

The Hartford Courant (September 1, 2010) stated the comments sent to the review committee indicated that the main reason was people didn't want to lose the identity of this part of Canton. That is not the main reason. Distance of driving and the inability of those who cannot drive, but can walk to the post office are the reason for this appeal.

Attached are the letters previously sent to Congressman Murphy, Mr. Mazzola and Ms Matronianni. We are hopeful that you will seriously take these comments into consideration and keep our post office open. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ray and Dru McNeil
100 Case Street (North Canton)
Canton, Ct 06019
860-693-2557

Additional points to original letter.

- **Postal Service Stops Paying Into Health Service (Hartford Courant June 23, 2011).** Since the Postal Service stated they would save \$800 million this fiscal year, a miniscule amount of that savings could be applied to keeping our North Canton Post Office open to the convenience of hundreds of residences in our area.
- **There is only a 1% saving in closing post offices, but a huge convenience to those who use the North Canton post office!**