

OCT 26 2011

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BEFORE THE  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

2011 OCT 26 P 4:19

In the Matter of:

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WEST STOCKHOLM, NEW YORK 13694  
Post Office State ZIP Code

Docket No: A2011-91

DARRELL W. TRACY, Petitioner(s)

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the WEST STOCKHOLM post office. The Final Determination was posted Aug 24<sup>th</sup> - Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

\_\_\_\_\_

Please read my attached participant statement,

I have typed it in order to make it more legible for you.

Thank you.





DARRELL W. TRACY  
P.O. BOX 17  
WEST STOCKHOLM NY 13696  
DOCKET # A2011-91  
PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW, SUITE 200  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20268

13 OCTOBER 2011

Below are our reasons why the final determination to close the West Stockholm, New York Post Office should be reversed:

We cite title 39, United States code 404, specific powers.

Section 2A: The effect of such closing on the community served by such office.

Section 2B: The effect of closing on employees of the Postal Service at this office.

Section 2C: Whether such closing is consistent with the policy of the government, as stated in Section 101(b) of this title, that the Postal Service shall provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to small towns.

We previously submitted our petition from box holders and surrounding rural customers, with nearly four hundred names, that use the facilities, to the district manager.

I have included letters from Congressman Bill Owens, the landlords of the West Stockholm P.O., and community member James Bullard showing their support for keeping our Post Office open.

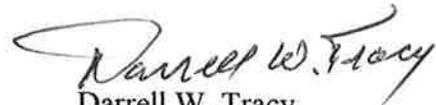
In addition, it has come to our attention that not all monies collected by the USPS go to them. We understand some monies are turned over to the federal government for reasons not understood by us.

In conclusion, we are a very small rural community with many elderly and retired members. The Post Office is a central institution for us. The alternative presented by your representative will result in hardships for all of us. The roads in our community have no shoulders for an automotive rural carrier to pull over safely, and in winter the sides of the road are almost always inaccessible with snow banks after the plow goes through. The nearest post office is five miles away and many residents do not go into Potsdam every day. Our Post Office is convenient, close by, and residents will not

Docket # A2011-91

have to pay for additional gasoline to drive to Potsdam to get mail from a box there. The post office in Potsdam does not have adequate parking nearby if we are forced to drive into Potsdam. Most of our community are people of modest means and the proposed changes will cause economic hardship for many.

Respectfully,

  
Darrell W. Tracy

WILLIAM L. OWENS  
23RD DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
CONSERVATION, ENERGY,  
AND FORESTRY

LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES  
READINESS

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

PLEASE RESPOND TO  
WASHINGTON OFFICE:

431 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4611

DISTRICT OFFICE:

120 WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 200  
WATERTOWN, NY 13601  
(315) 782-3150

14 DURKEE STREET, SUITE 320  
PLATTSBURGH, NY 12901  
(518) 563-1406

131 MAIN STREET, SUITE 106  
ONEIDA, NY 13421  
(315) 367-0041

September 19, 2011

Chairwoman Ruth Goldway  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268

Dear Chairwoman Goldway,

I am writing to you to offer my strong support for the appeal filed by Mr. Darrell W. Tracy on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee to Save the West Stockholm Post Office regarding the Postal Service's Final Determination to close the West Stockholm, NY Post Office. As the federal representative of West Stockholm, part of a large, rural congressional district, I believe the closure of this facility would be a "pound foolish" approach.

The Postal Service estimates that closing all 3,650 Post Offices currently slated for potential closure would only reduce their total operating expenses by 0.3 percent for that year; the West Stockholm Post Office's closure represents 0.02 percent of those savings. These minimal savings will do little to alleviate the Postal Service's financial difficulties while causing harm to the community.

Small, rural communities like West Stockholm rely on their postal facilities as a place to meet and gather, as an anchor for many downtown areas, and as a driver for job creation and economic development. Postal operations also play an outsized role in ensuring that elderly and disabled Americans in rural areas are getting the services they need to function in many underserved areas.

That is why I strongly support the appeal filed by Mr. Darrell W. Tracy, which I have attached, who has a unique perspective on the value of the service the West Stockholm community currently receives and is dependent upon. I urge you to take into full and sincere consideration her comments raised in the appeal before any decisions are made.

Sincerely,  
  
Bill Owens  
Member of Congress

Cc: Mr. Darrell W. Tracy for the Ad Hoc Committee to Save the West Stockholm Post Office

Date: 4/21/11  
To: The Organization to Save the West Stockholm Post Office  
From: Lisa and Darren Tracy  
Box 3230  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
Subject: West Stockholm Post Office, West Stockholm, NY 13696

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To Whom It May Concern,

We understand that there is discussion regarding closing the West Stockholm Post Office. We are the Landlords of the West Stockholm Post Office.

Because we think it is important to the community, and to us, to keep the West Stock Post Office open, we propose to the United States Postal Service that we will reduce the rent to help make it feasible for the United States Postal Service to keep the West Stockholm Post Office open.

We propose to reduce the rent by 10% and freeze the rent at that rate for 5 years.

We thought it would be useful to provide this information to you, so you may use it as part of your argument to keep the West Stockholm Post Office open.

Sincerely,

Lisa and Darren Tracy

Copy: USPS

JAMES F BULLARD

PO BOX 5, WEST STOCKHOLM, NY 13696

June 8, 2011

RE: West Stockholm Post Office Closing

Nadine Trembley  
30 Karner Rd  
Albany, NY 12208-9992

Ms. Trembley:

I confess that this feels like a futile effort. The meeting that was held in the Fire Hall and the total lack of response to the registered letter we sent requesting financial data and other information makes it pretty evident that the closure was/is a done deal and the USPS is only going through the motions required to make it appear that it has taken the sentiments of the community into account. None the less I feel I must make the best case I can for keeping our post office open.

I will not trouble you with the arguments brought up in the above mentioned meeting, the impact on the community, etc. Since the process has moved on to the next stage in the closure process those were clearly irrelevant to the USPS.

I do understand that the USPS is in deficit and that it needs to take steps to balance its budget however I believe that closing small post offices such as ours will not only not resolve the problem but over the long term will exacerbate it by driving even more business to commercial carriers.

In the case of our small post office I have calculated that even if it cost the average for small post offices to operate, and even if the USPS saved every last cent of its cost the USPS would save only 0.00000795% (7.65 millionths of one percent) of their overall budget. Of course they would not save 100% of the cost. Assuming that (as we were told in the meeting) the clerks who staff our PO would not be laid off, and the added mileage and hours required to do rural delivery to the 110 box holders, you could probably move that decimal point one more place to the left making the savings 0.765 millionths of one percent.

I do understand that ours is only one of 2000 which the USPS is considering closing but I believe that is a mistake both philosophically and from a business perspective. On the philosophical side it represents an abandonment of the Postal Service's commitment to serve small communities and rural areas. On the business side it is forfeiting one of the USPS's main competitive advantages, a "face" in these communities and trust me, a rural carrier is not a replacement for that presence. The rural carrier will never be seen by most of the customers. I lived on a rural route for nine years and never once saw the carrier. He or she put the mail in the box while we busy working and we took it out at the end of the day.

Small communities with Post Offices are probably your most loyal customers because of the "USPS face" that the PO represents. In our small village there are several individuals who frequently send or receive parcels (including myself). The nearest FedEx is in Syracuse over 100 miles away, too far for me to use them to send packages and the packages I get from them are frequently via the post office. If I use my rural delivery address FedEx will simply bring the package to the house and USPS will lose their portion of that business. If the post office closes and we have to go to Potsdam to mail parcels I expect that a significant portion of the local parcel business will go to UPS who has a store in a plaza in Potsdam that is much more convenient in terms of parking than the downtown post office which has extremely limited parking on a 4 lane thoroughfare. By closing the PO you are "giving away the store".

I wish I could offer a solution to your budget problem but I can't, however I am pretty certain that abandoning the customers most in need of your services is not it.

Sincerely,

 member of the Comm.  
James Bullard