

RE: West Edmeston Post Office
Docket #1387008-13485

A2012-41

To whom it may concern:

RECEIVED

I am writing in response to the final determination letter that was posted in the West Edmeston NY, 13485 Post Office. As the letter states, the Postal Service has found in favor of closing the office in West Edmeston. I am writing this letter as an appeal to the Postal Regulatory Commission to overturn this decision. I have read Title 39, United States Code, Section 404(b), Sections 123.6 and 123.7 in regard to the closing and consolidation of Post Offices. There are two violations of Title 39 that I will outline.

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Section 123.633, Views of Postmasters is the section of Title 39 that allows for the current Postmaster or Officer In Charge to submit written comments and suggestions as part of the official record. Upon review, I cannot find any written comments nor suggestions regarding the closure of West Edmeston's Post Office submitted by the Office In Charge.

Section 123.643, Other Steps, Section B states that no active Postmaster should play any role in the closing or consolidation of a post office. When Postal Operations Manager, Michele Krul came to our office for the Community Meeting on June 8, 2011, she introduced the Postmaster of Fayetteville, Eva Gigon as her note-taker. Eva publicly voiced her opinion about the closing and was very involved with the proceedings.

The Postmaster of the Brookfield NY 13314 Post Office has written a letter that is part of the Official Record. Her name is Barbara McKenas and her letter is item number 22, located on page 159. She wants the West Edmeston Post Office closed and the rural route moved to her office in Brookfield. This of course would result in a pay increase for her. This is an obvious conflict of interest when an active Postmaster wants another office closed for their personal financial gain.

The Official Record also states that there is a population decline in West Edmeston when the opposite is true. We're having a big influx of Amish families. Over the last year there have been ten families that have either built or bought homes in our community. Since the Amish don't have computers they rely more heavily on the local post office to do their business.

It has been reported in the news media that the Postal Services problems are due to the law that the 2006 Congress passed requiring the Postal service to pre-fund the retirement system. The Postmaster General has said that without this pre-funding mandate, the Postal Service would be turning a profit. So it's obvious that closing small town offices like West Edmeston will not solve the financial woes of the Postal Service. In fact, the Postal Service should expand their hours of operation and keep Saturday delivery in order to accommodate the typical working family of today. Families are working longer days, split shifts, and weekly hours that change on a daily basis.

These are some our concerns and issues about the misguided attempt to close the West Edmeston Post Office. I hope that the violations of Title 39 and some old fashioned common sense will be enough to stop this mistake from happening.

Thank you for you attention.

Received

OCT 24 2011

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