12/31/11

A2012-105

RECEIVED

2012 JAN -6 P 3:48

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

re: Hope Minnesota Post Office

I believe that closing the Hope Post Office would be a terrible injustice to the residents of Hope. I also believe that there have been misstatement of facts in the facts presented by Mr. Stevens and by the proposal to close the office.

I question the cost saving. It is my understanding that our post office is not an EAS-55 and that our present postmaster does not receive any benefits. I think that the Post Office should provide correct figures before they use them as a basis for closing. Also, I question the $7823 cost for the carrier. It would be nice to know where these figures came from.

I also question whether the rural carrier can service the Hope Area along with the route he has now. I think that the service has to deteriorate. Also you say that he can service any future growth. I do not believe that is possible.

Hope has not had much growth in the past years because the County put a moratorium on building because of our inadequate sewer system. We have recently installed a state of the art system at a cost of over $900,000. Our system is currently running at less than 50% capacity. In addition we have the capability of adding another system which would double our capacity. In addition, we have a brand new road and have replaced all of our existing sidewalks. We also have received fiber optic cable throughout the whole Town.

I know of 30 acres of land that will

be put up for sale and will probably be sold to a developer.

I also feel that the rural carrier can not provide many of the services that we receive now, such as large package shipments. If we have to use the main post office almost all of the patrons will choose to go to Owatonna. Ellendale is just not convenient to go to. Most people in Hope probably have not been to Ellendale in the last year and especially during post office hours. If we have to go to Owatonna it takes 17 minutes to get to the Post office, at least 15 minutes waiting in line & then another 17 minutes returning. which barring any unforseen circumstances take the best part of 1 hour. If one of our three businesses which mail perishable items has to send an employee that will be a minumum cost to them of $15.00 salary plus 22 miles travel @ the government rate of 50½ cents per mile would equal 11.00 for a total cost of $26.00

One thing that always amazes me is that, if rural service is so good, why would the surrounding area bring their mail requirements to the Hope Post Office? Would it not be better served using the carrier?

Also since most of the patrons would choose to go to either the Owatonna Post Office or another area in Owatonna that sells stamps. It appears that Owatonna will get most of the revenue and Ellendale will get all of the expense. Won't that be a detriment to the Ellendale Post Office?

In regards to the public meeting, It appeared to me that the participants of the Post office were poorly prepared, that the decision to close the post office had already been made. that they were using their power to push their agenda without any regards for our opinion. I was disappointed that the Ellendale Post Master

was not in attendance and that the rural carrier was also not there. Lastly I was very disappointed in the attitude of Mr. Stevens. By his body language and especially several comments he made, I had the impression that this was not a business decision but rather a personal vendetta against our present postmaster.

Thank you for your consideration to keep the Hope Post Office open

Dale E Welke
Box 23
Hope, MN 56046