

Date of Posting: 08/02/2013



Date of Removal: 10/03/2013



PROPOSAL TO CLOSE
THE SUSPENDED YANTIC, CT POST OFFICE
AND EXTEND
SERVICE BY CITY DELIVERY

I. RESPONSIVENESS TO COMMUNITY POSTAL NEEDS

The Yantic Post Office provided retail service from 7:30am to 1:00pm - 2:00pm to 5:00pm Monday through Friday and 7:30am to 12:00pm on Saturday.

The revenue trend for the office during the last several years is as follows:

FY 08 \$ 482,359
FY 09 \$ 459,566
FY 10 \$ 359,086
FY 11 \$ 299,312
FY 12 \$ 113,002.

On or about October 04, 2012, questionnaires were distributed to customers of the Yantic Post Office. Questionnaires were also available over the counter for retail customers at the Norwich Post Office.

On November 14, 2012, representatives from the Postal Service were available at Yantic Fire Station, 151 Yantic Road, Yantic CT from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM to answer questions and provide information to customers.

Some advantages of the proposal are:

1. The rural and contract carriers may provide retail services, alleviating the need to go to the post office. Stamps by Mail order forms are provided for customer convenience.
2. Customers opting for carrier service will have 24-hour access to their mail.
3. Savings for the Postal Service contribute in the long run to stable postage rates and savings for customers.
4. Customers opting for carrier service will not have to pay post office box fees.
5. Saves time and energy for customers who drive to the post office to pick up mail.

Some disadvantages of the proposal are:

1. The loss of a retail outlet and a postmaster position in the community. Retail services may be provided by the rural or contract delivery carrier.
2. Meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier at the box to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions.
3. A change in the mailing address. The community name will continue to be used in the new address. A carrier route address will be assigned.

II. EFFECT ON COMMUNITY

Yantic is an unincorporated community located in New London County. The community is administered politically by Norwich. Police protection is provided by the Norwich. Fire protection is provided by the Norwich. The community is comprised of small businesses, older residential homes, a condo complex, and an abandoned mill and those who commute to work at nearby communities and may work in local businesses.

Businesses and organizations include: none. Residents may travel to nearby communities for other supplies and services.

Nonpostal services provided at the Yantic Post Office will be available at the Norwich Post Office. Government forms normally provided by the Post Office will also be available at the Norwich Post Office or by contacting your local government agency.

The Yantic Post Office is not listed as a historic landmark. The community name will be maintained for customer addressing, and the Zip Code is not expected to change.

Based on information the Postal Service obtained, it was determined that there has been minimal growth in the area in recent years, city delivery is expected to be able to handle any future growth in the community.

III. EFFECT ON EMPLOYEES

There is currently a Postmaster assigned to this unit. The Postmaster may be moved to another facility if possible. If this office has an OIC and they are a craft employee, they will be returned to their office or the PMR acting as an OIC may be reassigned to a nearby office.

IV. ECONOMIC SAVINGS

The Postal Service estimates a ten year savings of \$ 757,855, assuming filling vacant management and craft positions at the median salary range with a breakdown as follows:

Building Maintenance	\$ 0
Utilities	\$ 19,731
Transportation	\$ 17,611
EAS Craft & Labor	\$ 860,346
Contracts	\$ 29,997
Rent	\$ 38,706
Relocation One-Time Cost	\$ -2,414
Total Ten Year Savings	\$ 757,855

V. OTHER FACTORS

The Postal Service has taken into account all factors while conducting the study of the Yantic Post Office. The Postal Service has identified six other independent post offices, in addition to the services, which were provided by the Yantic Post Office. In addition, there are eight alternate access options allowing purchases of stamps for members of the community to include CVS, Wal-Mart, Walgreens, and several other retail stores within a five-mile radius of the Yantic Post Office. Local businesses in the Yantic community were solicited for potential interest in becoming a Village Post Office (VPO). Connecticut Valley District VPO Coordinator received two inquiries from local businesses in becoming a VPO. The VPO Coordinator followed up with phone calls to the inquiries that resulted in one active inquiry which additional information was sent out to the customer. The original community meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, 2012 was cancelled due to the Super Storm, which impaired the Connecticut coastline for several days and rescheduled for November 14, 2012 at 6:00pm same location as originally schedule. During the community meeting, Manager Post Office Operations notified those in attendance customers who were never afforded street delivery would now be extended to them, via Rural Gang Box or Centralized Box Unit at specified locations determined by the Post Office. In addition, a letter was sent out to all of the Yantic Post Office Box customers notifying them of the options presented at the community meeting. They would also be required to complete PS Form 4027 and PS Form 3575. The Yantic Community was previously notified of the implementation date for the extended delivery to begin January 1, 2013. Other options presented during to the community meeting would be to extend the retail hours at the Bozrah post office from 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday with an hour lunch from 12:00pm to 1:00pm with Saturday hours remaining unchanged 8:30am to 12:00pm. The Bozrah Post Office hours have been changed to 7:30am to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday remaining open with coverage during the postmaster's lunch, in order to accommodate the Yantic customers. Yantic Post Office Box customers who choose to keep their post office box will maintain their community identity and will obtain access to their assigned post office box through the lobby. Once street delivery has been afforded to the Yantic customers, those customers who chose to keep their E-Box will be required to pay the prevailing post office box fee at the Bozrah Post Office beginning February 1, 2013, if applicable all other post office box customers will pay fees upon renewal. The cost of relocation is an estimated amount, which could be subject to change depending on the final determination of this process.

VI. SUMMARY

The Postal Service is proposing to close the Yantic, CT Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by city delivery under the administrative responsibility of the Norwich Post Office, located two miles away.

Operations were suspended on February 06, 2012, due to Services were emergency suspended after postal officials noted deficiencies in safety and security. USPS Safety Specialist conducted a field visit noting deficiencies. There were numerous unsafe and potentially unsafe conditions present in this facility. •Housekeeping deficiencies contribute significantly to unsafe conditions. •Potential exposure to building materials containing untreated asbestos, lead paint, exposed wiring, hazardous electrical components, and fire hazards each present risk of injury to employees and public. •Emergency egress is constricted at lobby exit. The facility is on a month to month agreement. The landlord is deceased and the building at this time is tied up in litigation in probate court. There were no suitable alternate quarters available.

The Postmaster assigned to this unit may be moved to another facility if possible. The mail volume has declined. Effective and regular service will continue to be provided by city delivery.

The Yantic Post Office provided delivery and retail service to 223 PO Box or general delivery customers and no delivery route customers.

There will no longer be a retail outlet in the community. However, delivery and retail services may be available from a rural or contract delivery carrier, which could alleviate the need to travel to a Post Office for service. A disadvantage to some may be in meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions with rural or contract delivery carrier.

The Postal Service will save an estimated \$ 757,855 over the next ten years.

VII. NOTICES

- A. Support Materials. Copies of all materials upon which this proposal is based are available for public inspection at the Norwich Post Office during normal office hours.
- B. This is a proposal. It is not a final determination to close this post office. If a final determination is made to close this post office, after public comments on this proposal are received and taken into account, a notice of that final determination will be posted in this office.

The final determination will contain instructions on how affected customers may appeal that decision to the Postal Regulatory Commission. Any such appeal must be received by the commission within 30 days of the posting of the final determination.



08/02/2013

KENNETH POWCHAK
Manager, Post Office Operations

Date