

Date of Posting: 10/31/2011

Date of Removal: 01/01/2012

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE  
THE HAWTHORNE, WI POST OFFICE  
AND EXTEND  
SERVICE BY RURAL ROUTE SERVICE

DOCKET NUMBER 1366525 - 54842

## I. RESPONSIVENESS TO COMMUNITY POSTAL NEEDS

The Postal Service is proposing to close the Hawthorne, WI Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by rural route service under the administrative responsibility of the Solon Springs Post Office, located 12.0 miles away.

The office is being studied for possible closing or consolidation due to the following reasons; Due to declining office workload, which may indicate that maintaining this facility is not warranted.

The Hawthorne Post Office provides retail service from 800 to 1200 - 1300 to 1700 Monday through Friday and 900 to 1100 on Saturday. Over the past several years there has been a decline in the amount of walk in revenue generated. The revenue trend is as follows: FY 07 \$ 28,638, FY 08 \$ 31,335, FY 09 \$ 27,748 and FY 10 \$ 23,965.

On November 02, 2011, representatives from the Postal Service will be available at Hawthorne Town Hall, 7227 Town Hall Road from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm to answer questions and provide information to customers.

On or about October 24, 2011, questionnaires were distributed to customers of the Hawthorne Post Office. Questionnaires were also available over the counter for retail customers at the Hawthorne Post Office.

If this proposal is implemented, delivery and retail services will be provided by the Solon Springs Post Office, an EAS-15 level office. Window service hours at the Solon Springs Post Office are from 830 to 1100 - 1230 to 1600, Monday through Friday, and 930 to 1030 on Saturday.

Retail service is also available at the Lake Nebagamon Post Office an EAS-15 level office, located nine miles away. Window service hours at Lake Nebagamon Post Office are from 900 to 1230 - 1330 to 1600, Monday through Friday and 830 to 1000 on Saturday. There are post office boxes available for rent.

### 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. CBUs can offer the security of individually locked mail compartments. Parcel lockers provide convenient parcel delivery for customers.
5. Customers opting for carrier service will not have to pay post office box fees.
6. 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. However in order to ensure regular and effective service, the zip code will change to 54873.

## II. EFFECT ON COMMUNITY

Hawthorne is an unincorporated community located in Douglas County. The community is administered politically by Hawthorne Town Chairman . Police protection is provided by the Hawthorne Constable- Douglas County Sheriff. Fire protection is provided by the Hawthorne Fire Department. The community is comprised of retirees, commuters and those who commute to work at nearby communities and may work in local businesses.

Businesses and organizations include: Road House Mobil Gas Station, Road House Bar, Road House Supper Club, Covered Wagon Restaurant, World Wide Machining & Welding, Sunset Express Trucking, R & B's Kennels, Lake Superior Pizza, Wisconsin Department of Justice, Amacher Drywall, Northern Residence, Douglas County Highway Department. , Hawthorne Lions Club . Residents may travel to nearby communities for other supplies and services.

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

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

Based on the information obtained in the course of this discontinuance study, the Postal Service concludes this proposal will not adversely affect the community and every effort will be made to maintain the identity.

## III. EFFECT ON EMPLOYEES

There is currently a Postmaster assigned to this unit. The Postmaster may be moved to another facility if possible. Finally there are 1 PMR(s) assigned to this unit. The PMR(s) may be separated from the Postal Service.

#### IV. ECONOMIC SAVINGS

The Postal Service estimates a ten year savings of \$ 383,666 with a breakdown as follows:

Building Maintenance	\$ 0
Utilities	\$ 20,587
Transportation	\$ -84,497
EAS Craft & Labor	\$ 548,052
Contracts	\$ 3,548
Rent	\$ 0
Relocation One-Time Cost	\$ 0
Total Ten Year Savings	\$ 383,666

#### V. OTHER FACTORS

The Postal Service has identified no other factors for consideration.

#### VI. SUMMARY

The Postal Service is proposing to close the Hawthorne, WI Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by rural route service under the administrative responsibility of the Solon Springs Post Office, located 12.0 miles away.

The Postmaster assigned to this unit may be moved to another facility if possible. The 1 PMR(s) assigned to this unit may be separated from the Postal Service. The mail volume has declined. Effective and regular service will continue to be provided by rural route service.

The Hawthorne Post Office provided delivery and retail service to 115 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. The Postal Service will save an estimated \$ 383,666 over the next ten years. 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.

#### VII. NOTICES

- A. Support Materials. Copies of all materials upon which this proposal is based are available for public inspection at the Hawthorne Post Office, Lake Nebagamon Post Office and Solon Springs 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.



10/31/2011

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MARK THIMM  
Manager, Post Office Operations

Date