

From: Jean Krause <jkrause@virgin.utah.gov>
Date: July 28, 2025 at 10:05:02 AM MDT
To: bethbencutler@gmail.com
Cc: Barbara Bruno <b.bruno@comcast.net>, Pamela Leach
<rulucky2ranch@infowest.com>
Subject: Response to "Going Postal"

Please print in your next newsletter that I understand goes out tomorrow:

Dear Elizabeth,

I read your most recent newsletter and its section entitled "Going Postal" addressing the issue of the Springdale Post Office as well as that of the Virgin Post Office. I want to take this opportunity to present the facts in regards to the closure of the Virgin Post Office.

Your newsletter stated that the Virgin Post Office "became inoperative because the owner chose to close." The fact of the matter is that the Postmistress was forced to submit an involuntary resignation. I want to emphasize the word "involuntary." Our Postmistress was more than willing to continue to run the Virgin Post Office, but she had been running the post office at a personal financial loss for a number of years. In the Fall of 2016, she asked for an increase in the monthly stipend that the USPS paid her to run the post office. The USPS stalled her for 2 more years despite her repeated attempts to get a response to the request for an increased stipend. Finally, after these additional 2 years of running the post office at a loss and making up the difference out of her own pocket, our postmistress gave up and involuntarily resigned in the Fall of 2018.

The USPS did indeed send out for bids for another contractor to run the Virgin Post Office. And indeed all of the bids submitted "were significantly higher than the previous contract" as you said in your letter. However, what was not conveyed to you by the USPS when you spoke with them, is that of course the submitted bids were significantly higher than the previous contract because the USPS had been forcing the Postmistress to run the Virgin Post Office at a loss. The USPS was never going to receive a bid consistent with the previous contract.

By forcing the Postmistress to involuntarily resign and refusing to accept any bids that would allow the post office to be run at anything other than a financial loss, the USPS got to claim that it was not their choice to close the Virgin Post Office but instead were able to place the blame on the shoulders of the blameless Postmistress.

How do I know all this? Because I have seen the letters between our Postmistress and the USPS. Additionally, Virgin Town itself was one of the bidders to take over the contract to run the Post Office and the USPS rejected our bid. I have seen all of that documentation also. It boils down to this: the USPS wanted to close the Virgin Post Office and did it in such a way that they could place blame elsewhere.

This situation has played out all around the country as the USPS has made it a mission to close rural post offices on a national basis and move to regional or hub-type postal

facilities. Legislation has been proposed in the House of Representatives by legislators of other rural districts in other states to try to stop this hemorrhage, but that legislation has not been successful to date. Thus, there was no reason not to suspect that the USPS would move further up Hwy 9 and put Rockville and Springdale in their crosshairs.

Barbara, Pam and I banded together to protect the Springdale and Rockville postal facilities, get a new location for Springdale, and to try to regain Virgin's post office. To do anything else would be a failure of our duties as the mayor of our towns.

Lastly, I notice that you took the statement "there are no plans to close or relocate the facility" which is in the present tense, and then applied it to the past - - an anachronism. And while all this was going on with Virgin's Post Office, Utah's postal district was under the aegis of the regional director out of Denver. So all communication with between the Virgin Postmistress and the USPS was with their Denver facility. All the spokesperson out of Las Vegas can tell you is whatever she sees in her computer. She was not a part of, nor privy to, any activities involving the closure of the Virgin Post Office.

Jean M. Krause
Mayor
Virgin Town
114 S Mill Street | Virgin, UT 84779
435.680.6823 | mayor@virgin.utah.gov