

Post Office hours may be cut at Brady, Farnam

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Thursday, 17 May 2012 14:44 -

Most Farnam residents are aware they might lose their Post Office as the U.S. Postal Service studies budget-tightening measures.

An informational meeting last fall, about proposals and the process, drew many townspeople to the Farnam Senior Center.

Other post offices, in small towns and villages like Brady, were not on the proposed chopping block.

As a result, a new proposal, where retail window hours would be reduced to match customer use, has caught residents off guard.

Still, U.S. Postal Service officials say customers would retain access to lobbies and P.O. boxes as well as their ZIP code and community identity.

Within the area and county, the hours of the following post offices would be cut under the proposal.

Farnam—from 8 to 4 hours

Brady—from 8 to 4 hours

Eustis—from 8 to 6 hours

Overton—from 8 to 6 hours

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The postal service announced the plan last week. Officials hope for significant cost savings from the reduction in hours in small post offices throughout the country.

The new strategy would be implemented over a two-year, multi-phased approach, with completion expected in September of 2014.

After that, postal officials said they estimate saving a half billion dollars annually.

The plan will be reviewed by the Postal Regulatory Commission, followed by community meetings. Communities will be notified by mail of the date, time and location of the meetings.

Officials said the alternative complements existing options that include:

providing mail delivery services to residents and businesses in the affected community by either rural carrier or highway contract route;

contracting with a local business to create a village post office;

offering service from a nearby post office.

A voluntary early retirement incentive for the more than 21,000 U.S. executive postmasters was also announced.