

Volin

From Page 1

Linda Schmit, the acting manager of postal operations for the 570 and 572 ZIP Codes, conducted the meeting and first explained why the closures are being considered. She said the USPS expects to lose more than \$8 billion in 2011.

"We're not bringing in enough revenue to cover our expenses," Schmit said. "We can't continue to do that. We receive no tax dol-

lars. By operating solely off our revenue, we're just digging ourselves in a hole and we're in way too far right now."

Electronic transactions have led to a severe decline in mail volume, she explained.

District 18 Rep. Bernie Hunhoff said closing the post offices of small communities like Volin hurts the ability of local businesses to compete in the global marketplace.

"I think everybody here appreciates that the post office has to be run like a business and Congress is making it hard for you," he added. "It seems that the Postal Service should set

some minimum standards that a post office has to meet. At least the community could then be challenged to know we have to do 'x' amount of dollars a year and if they're not doing it, they can understand (a closure). That minimum standard should be known and publicized."

Those at the meeting also expressed concern about the ability of elderly residents to obtain USPS offerings if the local office

was closed and criticized union agreements for contributing to the financial strain faced by the agency. They also expressed the hope that, if the post office is closed, they would be able to pick up mail in Gayville rather than Irene since many residents already go there for school functions.

Schmit encouraged Volin residents to return the surveys available at the post office.

Customers can also circulate petitions and contact their congressional delegation, she stated.

Schmit told residents to expect a report containing surveys, community meeting notes, photos of the post office, financial figures and other information to be available at the post office within 45 days. The report will be used by USPS authorities to make a final decision on whether to keep or close the facility.

Schmit said that decision will likely take about six months and can then be appealed.

After the meeting, residents were defiant despite what they saw as seemingly long odds of keeping the Volin Post Office open.

"We may be a dying town, but we're not dead yet," Sharon Steenhoven said.



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Board Eligible Internal Medicine

Dr. Barnes is a graduate of The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. She completed her Internal Medicine residency training at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland.

Additionally, Dr. Barnes completed internships with the Global AIDS Alliance, the Center for Biosecurity, and the Department of Health and Human Services during her years in medical school.

Please join with us in welcoming Dr. Barnes to the Yankton area. The Clinic is pleased to bring her into our medical community as well as to the many patients she will serve.

Dr. Barnes began seeing patients at the Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. on Sept. 1, 2011. Appointments can be made by calling 605-665-1152.



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