



# HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

## TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 17, 2023 AT 06:30 PM

### Cover Sheet

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**ITEM TITLE:** Discuss the Financial Stability of the Eatonville Post Office CPU

(Councilwoman Randolph)

**TOWN COUNCIL ACTION:**

<b>PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, AND PRESENTATIONS</b>		<b>Department:</b> LEGISLATIVE
<b>INTRODUCTIONS</b>		<b>Exhibits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Letter dated, November 5, 2008 - USPS</li><li>• Review Contract #475630-96-B-2537 of 12/17/2008</li><li>• Town of Eatonville, Page 6 of 10 of Budget 2023-2024</li><li>• Daily Financial Reports - USPS Samuel Santiago, Supervisor Customer Service 09/22/2023</li></ul>
<b>CONSENT AGENDA</b>		
<b>COUNCIL DISCUSSION</b>	YES	
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>		

**REQUEST:** For the Town Council to discuss the Contract Postal Unit of the Town of Eatonville to determine if operating the Contract Postal Unit is financially sustainable and warranted after years of deficit over runs.

**SUMMARY:** The Historic Town of Eatonville Town Council entered into a contract with the United States Postal Service to operate a Contract Unit Post Office after the contract was terminated in the early 1990's by the Vereen Family which was located at their commercial building on Wymore Road. The Contract unit since then has been operating under the Town of Eatonville government since that time to the present, now, at its current location on East Kennedy Blvd. The purpose of the contract postal unit is to serve the community by providing affordable, reliable, and safe mail services. A review of the Contract Postal Unit, a letter dated November 5, 2008 stated that a reduction rate was necessary due to repeated unscheduled closings of the office. However, last contract on file is dated 12/17/2008 which is approximately 15 years ago. Since that time, the Town of Eatonville has been receiving the same amount of \$17,400 annually with no increase effective December 1, 2008. During the 2023-2024 budget review held in August and September revealed that the Contract Postal Unit which is #550 on page 6 of 10 on the 2023-2024 budget sheet reveals that the Town of Eatonville has been operating a deficit over the last few years or more. It was voted by majority 3 - 2 that this will be addressed for determination. This Contract Postal Unit should be run like a business but not at the cost of the Town of Eatonville. The USPS is an establishment of the Executive branch of the Government of the United States and is subject to be

managed and operated by the United States Postal Service rules and regulations. It is the right of the Town of Eatonville to continue to operate a Contract Postal Unit but not as a deficit does not justify using contract employees or career staff, operational costs, and fringe benefits on the Town's budget and submission when the revenue is not sufficient to support operational expenditures. However, as it is known that the Town of Eatonville has not shown financial benefits nor profits in any way. Monies collected go to the Maitland Post Service as accountable income.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**(Option #1)** That the Town Council to request Town officials to meet with Postal Officials to discuss, evaluate operations, and cost in the best interest of the Town of Eatonville in an efficient manner to determine better or other service needs without the financial burden to the Town of Eatonville to be phase out prior to the end of the fiscal year.

**(Option #2)** The Contract Post Office building to remain forever as "The Catherine Alexander Building" with proper signage to be used for other purposes such as a gift shop, tourist stop designation, historic artifacts or other use of the Town or leased out to businesses therefore, Town of Eatonville as the Lessor (Owner).

**FISCAL & EFFICIENCY DATA:** N/A