

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

The U.S. Postal Service has decided to reduce the hours the Enders Post Office will be open beginning Jan. 26, 2013.

The final decision was to reduce the hours from six hours 20 minutes per day to two hours per day. In late January, the post office will open from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday.

There will be no change in Saturday service. That will remain at 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Postal Service posted the decision one week after a public meeting Nov. 27, which about 15 people attended.

A similar meeting was to be held concerning the Champion Post Office Nov. 27. That meeting was postponed due to the alleged assault and attempted robbery of a postal employee the week before.

Due to the incident, the Champion Post Office is now open from 8-11 a.m. Monday through Friday until further notice.

Brian Sperry, regional spokesman for the Postal Service, said Champion residents will be notified by letter as to the new meeting date.

The Postal Service is proposing to shorten the current Champion Post Office hours from eight to four Monday through Friday.

Sperry said the reduced hours are "based on the office workload and the usage by the community."

The Postal Service is cutting hours at small post offices across the country in an effort to curtail massive financial losses. Sperry said the goal is to reduce the annual cost by \$22.5 billion by 2016.

"It's a dire situation," he stated. "If we'd been a private company we would have already filed for bankruptcy."

Besides reducing hours at post offices, Sperry said the Postal Service had considered closing buildings and offering curbside delivery; establishing a village post office in an existing business; or closing the building and providing post office box service at a nearby post office.