

RESOLUTION
SEEKING CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE BURKES GARDEN POST OFFICE,
BURKES GARDEN, VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, Burkes Garden, Virginia is the highest Valley in Virginia and is on the National Register as an Rural Historic District, and perhaps Tazewell County’s most well-known place – an agricultural paradise atop a mountain; and

WHEREAS, Burkes Garden, Virginia is a stunning mountain peak into which a bowl of rich farmland was carved and Tazewell County lore has it that God lovingly patted the tops of many of the peaks to make them rounded and not so steep and harsh -- and they sometimes call it, “Gods Thumbprint”; and

WHEREAS, Burkes Garden, Virginia is a small community with approximately 230 people living there 15 miles from the nearest post office and is noted for having the state’s smallest private telephone company and fortunate enough to have its own post office and its own zip code as well as having the oldest church structure in Tazewell County, the Central Lutheran Church with its own cemetery, full of historic stones with German names reflecting the origins of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Burkes Garden Post Office is a contract arrangement so that the only cost of operating the office is a small contract fee the United States Postal Service pays to the contractor and the building is provided free of charge with all costs for utilities, etc. paid by the contractor; and

WHEREAS, the Burkes Garden Post Office is the heart of the community. Visitors from all over the world are attracted to this special charm and stop to get directions, hear about the valley and its history; and it has often been stated that the rounded hillocks within mountain ranges resembles the Highlands of Scotland. There have been articles about Burke’s Garden in newspapers, magazines, such as Southern Living, there are travel websites, bicycling web sites, motor cycle magazines and most articles feature the Burkes

Garden Post Office; An item post marked from the Burkes Garden post office is a prized tourist memento commemorating their visit to the “Garden”; and

WHEREAS, the post master for the Burkes Garden Post Office, Mrs. Colleen Cox recently passed away unexpectedly. She had run the post office for over thirty years and her death has been a tremendous loss to the community; and

WHEREAS, since the death of Mrs. Cox, the post office has been closed and the community has learned that the post office will most likely remain closed and this would be detrimental to the Burkes Garden area and a tremendous loss to the community and would greatly impact the number of annual tourists; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Tazewell County, Virginia do not believe the closure of the Burkes Garden Post Office would save the Postal Service money, not to mention it’s vital importance to the community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors urge the United States Postal Service to re-open the Burkes Garden, Virginia Post Office as soon as possible and to support funding to keep the facility in operation for many, many years to come; and

FINALLY, that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Honorable Rick Boucher, House of Representatives, seeking his assistance to encourage the United States Postal Service to do all things necessary and appropriate to ensure the residents of Burkes Garden continued operation of the Burkes Garden Post Office in a nationally registered Rural Historic District – a viable community noted for its geological history and agricultural paradise.

Adopted this the 7 day of April, 2009

By the Board of Supervisors, Tazewell County, Virginia

David R. Anderson, Chairman _____