

Upson County Board of Election & Registration
106 East Lee Street, Suite 130
Thomaston, GA 30286
September 15, 2020

Call to Order: Chairman, Robert Haney called the meeting to order. Board members, Janice Bennett, Jessica Jones, and Mary Hefton were present along with Election Supervisor, Pam Releford. Jack Grubb was absent. This meeting was live-streamed through the Upson County's YouTube channel.

Invocation: Chairman, Robert Haney gave the invocation.

Secretary's Report: Motion by Janice Bennett, Second by Jessica Jones to approve the minutes from the August 25th Board Meeting. Minutes were approved

Public Comments: none

Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

New Business: Discussion of mailing of absentee ballots; Election Supervisor, Pam Releford informed the Board that the State would be mailing out Absentee Ballots for the county for free until the 15th of August, then it would be \$1.40/ballot, in which the County had opted in to have the State mail them on behalf of the County. The County will mail out Absentee Ballots the last 2 weeks of Advanced Voting.

The Dropbox for Absentee Ballots opened up for drop-offs on August 15th. People can either drop off their ballot at the Dropbox outside the City side of the Government Complex or inside the Drake Building right outside the door of the Election Office. The Election Office has already received between 904-950 request for an Absentee Ballot, 130 from online (in which they verify the signature from ID signature.)

There was discussion from Election Supervisor, Pam Releford and Chairman, Robert Haney about the Early Opening of Ballots guidelines, which will be the same as last election, and that we don't want to miss the deadline to have the Superior Court order to open them.

If people are requesting an Absentee Ballot, it is their responsibility to fill out and return their ballot. They need to have it returned, whether through the mail or in one of the Dropbox locations by 7:00PM Election Day (November 3rd). If they wish to cancel their Absentee Ballot and vote in person, it is urged to take care of that prior to going to vote in person because it is a 5-10 minute process to cancel and relinquish the rights to vote on the Absentee Ballot.

On the Absentee Ballots, there are new instructions to better guide the voters: Do Not Write on the Ballot, Do Not cut the Ballot, use a specific color ink pen, no felt tip pens, and if a voter has messed up on the Ballot and is requesting a new one, they must write SPOILED on the outside of the envelope they mail back in order for the office to know that Ballot is not to be counted.

Chairman, Robert Haney discussed the November Election Calendar:

- September 15th-notify Beacon for L&A testing
- September 23rd- L&A testing for Advanced Voting
- October 1st-Training for Advanced Voting Poll Workers
- October 9th- Setup Advanced Voting precinct at Civic Center and notify Beacon for L&A testing for Election Day
- October 12th-Advanced Voting starts (8:30-5:00) at Civic Center
- October 13th-Training for Election Day Poll Workers
- October 15th- L&A appears in Beacon
- October 20th- L&A Begins for Election Day at 9:00AM until completion
- October 24th-Advanced Voting Saturday (9:00-4:00)
- October 26th-Begin opening and batching Absentee Ballots
- October 28th-Begin initial counting of Absentee Ballots
- October 30th-Advanced Voting ends at 5:00PM
- November 2nd-Prepare Precincts for Election Day
- November 3rd- Election Day
- November 4th-Tear down of Precincts
- November 9th-Complete count of all Absentee Ballots
- November 12th-Certify Election 10:00AM (subject to change)
- November 13th-Produce backup files and complete all paperwork

The Sheriff's Department has confirmed that there will be a Deputy for all days of Advanced Voting.

Election Supervisor, Pam Releford notified the Board that there is an Open Records request for the November 2018 Election.

Board Members Comments: Chairman, Robert Haney stated how grateful he was for Pam and the Election staff; Janice Bennett stated that she was so glad the information for the election, including the ballot, was put in the paper; Election Supervisor, Pam Releford informed the Board that Mary Lizzie Baptist Church would be having a voter drive, September 19th-22nd, September 28th and 29th, and October 3rd & 4th. All days will be from 10:00AM-1:00PM

Next Board Meeting: October 20th at 10:00am

Adjourn: Motion by Jessica Jones, Second by Janice Bennett to adjourn the meeting.