

Upson County Board of Election & Registration
106 East Lee Street, Suite 130
Thomaston, GA 30286
October 20, 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 Upson County's YouTube channel.

Invocation: Mary Hefton gave the invocation.

Secretary's Report: Motion by Jessica Jones, Second by Janice Benett to approve the minutes from the September 15th Board Meeting. Minutes were approved

Public Comments: none

Old Business: Started L&A Testing today for Election Day; no other old business to discuss

New Business: Election Supervisor, Pam Releford gave a rundown of the Early Voting and Absentee Ballots as to date: 1,890 ballots have been returned to the office, 3,345 people have voted in person, for a total of 5,235. There have been 315 ballots that were canceled for people to vote in person. There are still 1,169 ballots outstanding. There have been numerous calls to the office from people checking on the status of their ballots.

Gary Larson put in a written request for the Board to discuss and make a decision on whether or not there would be a requirement for the wearing of masks by all paid workers and volunteers helping with the election this year. There was a discussion. A motion by Jessica Jones was made to require masks for all those on the Review Panel, opening ballots or any process on Election Day. Janice Bennet seconded it. Mary Hefton voted against. Motioned was passed to require masks.

Board Members Comments: Jessica Jones thanked all those working the polls and in the Elections office. Janice Bennett said she was praying for Election Supervisor, Pam Releford, and the Election Office; she also stated that she enjoyed both of the Election Training Sessions; Chairman, Robert Haney, thanked Election Supervisor, Pam Releford, and the staff, stating that he understands that it has been hectic and stressful this election; he also stated that the Early Voting started out in the same room it has always been in at the Civic Center, with 6 machines. After the first 2 days, over 900 people had voted, so they decided to speak with Mindy at the

Civic Center to see if it would be possible to move into the Gym. It was agreed upon that the Gym could be used, so the machines, along with 6 more machines, were moved into the Gym for the remainder of Early Voting. For future elections, there may be another set-up discussed for more room and machines. Election Supervisor, Pam Releford, stated that the process should not be about how fast, but how accurate everything it is, and when coming to vote people should just be patient to make sure that everything is done correctly.

Next Board Meeting: After the Election in November to certify the results (date will vary).

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