

AGENDA ITEM # 5

February 10, 1998

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Consider approving new County Extension Agent.

Moved: Judge Doerfler

Seconded: Commissioner Hays

Motion: To approve Rita Jo Baxter as the new County Extension Agent.

Vote: Motion carried 5 - 0

< Clerk copy here >

Rita Jo Baxter

**Rt. 1 Box 126
Kerens, Texas 75144
Home (903) 396-2335
Work (903) 654-3075**

Education

**Southeastern State University, Durant, OK
B.S. in Home Economics, May 1971
East Texas State University, Commerce, TX
Master of Science in Home Economics, May 1976**

Work Experience

**County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences Agent: Corsicana, TX
Adjunct professor for Texas A&M University, Texas Agricultural Extension Service**

October 1992 - current. County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Science Program Leader, Trainer Agent and supervisor of Better Living for Texans Program Assistant. Major responsibilities: All adult family & consumer science (home economics) program areas: Nutrition, Diet and Health, Family Resource Management, Parenting, Caregiving, Family Life Education, Clothing and Textiles and Housing.

Serve as advisor to the Navarro County Family, Community & Education Council and FCE Clubs.

Write a weekly news column for the Corsicana Daily Sun & 7 additional newspapers, write and/or collaborate with reporters in preparing feature articles, present educational radio and TV programs on local cable and college TV (NCTV) as requested.

Trained and supervised family & consumer science agent in Assistant Family & Consumer Science position (1993-95).

February 1996 - current. Serve as employer and training supervisor for the Better Living for Texans program assistant. This is a joint effort between Ellis and Navarro County Family & Consumer Science agents - Program Leaders. Facilitate and manage \$50,000 funding for this grant program.

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT:

Serve as advisor to Navarro County's Extension (PAC's) Family & Consumer Science Committee and Extension's Navarro County Committee on Aging to plan, implement and evaluate educational programs, address identified issues and concerns. Train and supervise volunteers for ongoing PAC committees.

***Establish special task forces as needed to address emerging issues/specific health or family issues (i.e.) Diabetes, Arthritis, Alzheimer's, Cancer, Teen Pregnancy and Heart Disease. Provide leadership in collaboration with other agencies and organizations to reach educational goals set by Extension.**

*Established the Navarro Heritage Crafts (not-for-profit) retail store for Navarro County elderly artisans through a collaborative effort involving the Area-Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Merchants Association & MainStreet Project. Secured funding to assist in paying rent & utilities.
 *Collaborated with Friends for Life in establishing a countywide Interagency Council, 1993.

*Formed a "Partners in Parenting Coalition", 1994
 *Formed a "Navarro County Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Coalition", 1995
 As of January 1996, secured \$4,500.00 to purchase 16 "Baby Think It Over Dolls" an educational tool utilized by teachers in a classroom setting.
 *Trained 9 Master Parent Volunteers (Navarro County) to assist with the Teenage Pregnancy Impac
 *Write proposals to support local Family & Consumer Science educational programs: Receive a \$3500.00 grant yearly since 1992.

February 1977 - September 1992. County Extension Agent - Home Economics, Non-program leader position. Major Home Economics responsibilities: Clothing, Housing, Navarro County Committee on Aging, Advisor and assisted with the Family Living Committee until 1988. At this time, home economics task forces were formed to address specific critical issues. Assumed responsibility in developing a Consumer Home Economics Task Force to address clothing & housing concerns.

Developed a viable home economics program in addressing concerns in the areas of housing & clothing. Trained & assisted master clothing & housing volunteers in presenting educational programs in these areas.

*Developed the Committee on Aging into a more well rounded program to address critical issues facing Navarro County elderly and family caregivers.

*Trained minority peer educators to present educational programs to elderly on nutrition/health concerns.

Provided leadership to the Navarro County Family, Community & Education Council by conducting two leader trainings and presenting one educational program to all Family, Community & Education Clubs until our 4-H position was cut in 1983. Then, I was responsible for one leader training and I would present a program to any of the Family, Community & Education Clubs if requested.

In the 4-H program, my major responsibilities included: Clothing, Housing, Child Development, Advisor to the Adult Leaders Association, 4-H Concession Stand (a one-week activity conducted during our Youth Fair), assist with 4-H curriculum enrichment, conducting 4-H leader trainings, maintaining & organizing 4-H clubs & provide leadership to the 4-H & Youth Development Committee when there was a vacancy in the 4-H agent's position.

Assumed responsibility of the 4-H & Youth Development Committee in November 1991. Wrote a grant proposal and received monetary support for specific 4-H curriculum enrichment: It's Up To Me. (\$500.00 from the Navarro County Drug & Alcohol Abuse Committee).

Received a grant of \$548 to purchase CE materials (Plant Pals & It's Up To Me) to place in every 1st grade class in Navarro County. Wrote an additional proposal to the DA's Office for educational resource materials, sharing with the county staff. I received over \$10,000.00 for audio-visual equipment, downing display, sewing machines & serger & curriculum to use as a total staff in addressing our prevention educational 4-H program.

Received a grant of \$500 from the KMart's Good News Committee in 1991 & 1992 to purchase supplies for minority & limited resource youth participating in summer 4-H special programs conducted by agent in their respective neighborhoods: MLK Center, Corsicana; Samaria; & Pelham. 200 youth reached each summer.

FORMER RESPONSIBILITIES:

Home Economics Teacher, Head of Department, Leonard ISD, Leonard, Texas
 July 1971 - July 1977
 Supervised one additional home economics teacher
 Taught Vocational Home Economics classes (9-12 grade)

ACTIVITIES

Navarro County Red Cross Board, 1990 - 1993

Navarro College Adult Literacy Board, 1987 - current

Single Parents at Navarro (SPAN), Navarro College
 Director - 1994 - current
 Advisory Board Member, 1993 - current

American Heart Association Board, 1993 - current
 Education Program Chair, 1994 - current

Navarro County Drug & Alcohol Abuse Committee, 1991 - 1993

Navarro County Youth Exposition, 1977 - current
 Provided the leadership and implemented the following contests: Secure volunteers annually for all areas.
 Chair - Crafts Project Show, 1977-1992
 Chair - Consumer Decision Making Contest, 1993-current

Corsicana-Area Chamber of Commerce
 Board of Directors, 1992 - 1997

Retail Trade Committee, 1990 - 1991
 Assisted in organization of non-profit, retail shop for elderly
 Education Committee, 1992
 Developed & assisted in presenting educational parenting programs for at-risk identified schools, 1992
 Developed & implemented a "Partners in Parenting Coalition" and "Teen Pregnancy Prevention Task Force" in 1994

Interagency Council/NCTCOG

Navarro County Community Council
 Collaborated in the organization of this interagency council, 1993-current

Navarro Heritage Crafts Board
 Director, 1990 - 1994

Navarro College - SPAN (Single Parents at Navarro) Organization
 Chairman, 1994 - current

American Association of Family & Consumer Science
 Certified Family & Consumer Science (Home Economist) - 1990 -

current
 State Extension Chair- 1997-99
 National Association Extension Family & Consumer Science
 Active member, February 1977 - current

Texas Extension Association Family & Consumer Science
 State New Awards Development Chair, 1991-92
 State Public Relations Chair, 1990-91
 Director TEAFCS, District 4, 1990-92
 State Arrangements Committee, 1995
 Welcomes New NEAFCS Members Committee, 1995

National Association Extension 4-H Agents

Texas Association Extension 4-H Agents
 District 8, Treasurer, 1993 - current

District 4-H

Served as committee chairs for the following District contests:
 4-H Fashion Show, District 4, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992
 4-H Roundup, District 4, 1988, 1991
 4-H Leadership Lab, District 4, 1987
 4-H Leaders Extravaganza & Leader Training, Dist. 4, 1990
 4-H Consumer Decision Judging (co-chair), Dist. 8, 1994, 1995
 4-H Consumer Decision Judging, District 8, 1996

HONORS AND AWARDS

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

National Association of Family & Consumer Science Distinguished
 Service Award, 1993
 District Epsilon Sigma Phi Distinguished Service Award, 1991
 State Epsilon Sigma Phi Distinguished Service Award, 1987
 District Epsilon Sigma Phi Meritorious Service Award, 1996
 State Superior Service Award, 1998
 Navarro County 4-H Alumni Award, 1985

Outstanding Young Women in American, 1991

Who's Who of American Women, 1989/90

Outstanding Teacher of the Year, 1975

Corsicana-Area Chamber of Commerce
 Partner in Education, 1993-current

Navarro College

Partner in Change Recipient, 1995

American Heart Association

Partner in Education, 1995

AGENDA ITEM # 6

February 10, 1998

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Consider granting final approval to HEB/620 Subdivision No. 2 (a replat).

County Engineer Joe England informed the court the plat has been approved by the City of Round Rock.

Moved: Commissioner Hays

Seconded: Judge Doerfler

Motion: To grant final approval to Replat of HEB/620 Subdivision No. 2.

Vote: Motion carried 5 - 0