When you've got 150 kids...

Littman wins county road post in field of 19

Others may have been surprised at Lawrence Littman's election to the Oakland County Road Commission.

"I contacted each county commissioner. I sent each a resume. I followed up with a call and asked if they had any questions," said Littman, 44, who runs a one-tma darprocessing executive recruitment firm in Troy.

"The commissioners didn't want necessarily to make a political decision. I think I have a reputation for working with a lot of different kinding with a lot of the reputation for working with a lot of different kinding with a lot of different kinding with a lot of the reputation for working fairly," the Republican activities said.

THE BOARD'S appointment came suddenly last week, more than a month after John Gnau quit the Road Commission after pleading gulty in a federal conspiracy case that had nothing to do with the country of the support of

that had nothing to do with the county.

The board's general government
committee collected 19 applications,
including three from defeated commissioners. Among political watchers, the top candidate seemed to be
general government Chalrman John
Olsen, R-Huntington Woods.
Olsen's panel never acted on the
applications — In fact, Olsen canelled two meetings.
Instead, when Republican commissioners held the reorganization
caucus last Tuesday, they made their
rhoice.
After one ballot, Olsen, Littman
and Farmington Illilis Councilman

After one ballot, Olsen, Littman and Farmington Hills Councilman Don Wolf emerged as the caucus finalists.

Littman said he won on the second

ballot.

THURSDAY MORNING his name went to the full Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

Minority Democrats offered the Minority Democrats offered the name of the Course Chairman Democratic Caucus Chairman Learry Pernick of Southfield argued that the three-member Road Commission would be in a better political position to ask funds from a Democratic Congress and the 45 percent of Oakland voters who are Democratic I at least one county road commissioner were a Democratic I at least one county road commissioner were a Democratic Late and Democrat.

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'The commissioners didn't want necessarily to make a political decision. I think I have a reputation for working with a lot of different kinds of people, and working fairly . . . People don't mind paying taxes if they're getting something in return.'

- Lawrence Littman new road commissioner

Littman won on a 19-7 party line vote. The Road Commission will remain 3-8 Republican.

He will fill out the last three weeks of Gnas's term and seek a full six-year term when the county board corganizes in January. At Inta time, he will probably be elected by an 18-yote, since that will be the composition of the new board.

The pay is \$7,500 a year and use of a car.

LITTMAN EARNED a bachelor's

LITTMAN EARNED a backelor's degree in metallurgical engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in Grand Carnegie Mellon University in the Carnegie Mellon University in Carnegie Mellon Carnegie in industrial administration at Purtue University. He has held management and/or data processing jobs with IBM, Touche Ross, and the Free Press before starting his own company, Littman Associates, 7½ years ago. "I was 18th Congressional District chairman 1977-81 and treasurer for two years before that," he said Part of that experience Involved running candidates against ther-Congressman James J. Blanchard, now the governor.

governor.

Littman also was a 1980 GOP National Convention delegate.

LITTMAN GOT a taste of Oak-land's monumental county road problems in five years on the Troy City Planning Commission. Troy has been one of the hotheds of office and high technology growth that has

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caused traffic congestion on two-lane roads.

Leaders such as John Grubba, managing director of the Road Commission, are saying new money is needed — perhaps from multiple sources — to make the \$500 million in road improvements local officials say are needed in the next decade.

Littman says it will involve lining up support from many sources — other county road commissions and state legislators — before going to the voters for more tax money.

His philosophy is that "people dont mind paying taxes if they're getting something in return."

getting something in return."

IN A RELATED action, the Republican causes decided to organize a new transportation committee, picking up some of the functions now scattered between the general government and the planning and building committees.

Commissioner John McDonald, Refarmington, will chair it. McDonald and chaired the personnel committee for 10 years.

The transportation committee will oversee matters of roads, public transportation and the alriport.

Commissioner Anne Hobart, Retarteford, who proposed the new panel, said, "In order to give these critical transportation issues the attention they deserve, they must be separated from the other major concerns of the planning and building committee."

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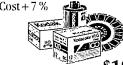
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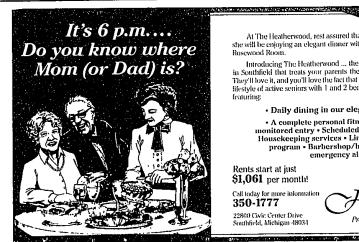
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