

# Kuhn 'willing' to take road post

If they want to "let George do it," George Kuhn is willing. The Oakland County drain commissioner has thrown his hat into the ring for appointment to the three-member Oakland County Road Commission.

And he presented a new twist in his application to the County Board of Commissioners — "a closer working relationship between the road commission and the drain commissioner's office."

"THE ROAD Commission is responsible for road drainage problems," Kuhn said, "which are often related to drainage from adjacent

properties and county drains which intersect with the county road system."

"Accordingly, I would like to propose that the board of commissioners consider the appointment of the county drain commissioner as a member of the County Board of Road Commissioners."

An elected countywide official, Kuhn is in his fourth four-year term as drain chief.

The 27-member County Board of Commissioners makes the appointments of three persons to the semi-autonomous road commission. If appointed, Kuhn said he would serve on the road commission with-

out pay (\$7,500 a year) and without a road commission car since he already has a full-time salary and a county car.

Kuhn, of West Bloomfield, said he would work to see that road commission funds are handled by the county treasurer instead of separately.

KUHN SEES such an appointment as tying together at least two of the county's three public works agencies.

The agencies are: 1) the drain commissioner, who sets up rural drainage districts and some urban sewerage districts; 2) the road commission, which functions mostly with a cut of the state gasoline and weight

taxes; and 3) the public works department, which reports to the elected executive.

In Wayne, a home-rule county, voters in 1984 abolished the road commission and in 1986 the drain commissioner, placing all three public works functions under the executive.

Oakland has no home-rule charter and cannot unify those departments without changes in state law — changes the Legislature has been unwilling to adopt.

Oakland officials are at an impasse over what to do with the public works department. Kuhn would like to consolidate it under himself.

County Executive Daniel T. Murphy would like to consolidate Kuhn's function under the executive.

ALTOGETHER, 14 people now have applied for the road commission vacancy, created when John Gnau Jr. of Bloomfield Township was convicted of unrelated federal influence-peddling charges and resigned.

All applications have been referred to the board's general government committee due to meet Dec. 1.

Chairman of that panel is John E. Olsen, R-Huntington Woods, who was defeated for re-election Nov. 4 and is himself a candidate for the road commission post.



George Kuhn  
"adjacent" problems

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