



## DCTA board gains another member

By Bj Lewis/ Staff Writer

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Denton County commissioners used a board appointment Tuesday as a chance to examine the process of appointing members to the numerous committees in Denton County.

Commissioners signed off on a new appointment to the Denton County Transportation Authority board and discussed ways to make sure all Commissioners Court members have input on board appointments.

The court approved Don Hartman to replace Larry L'Heureux on the DCTA board of trustees.

Hartman, an information technology sales representative, will represent the unincorporated area of the county on the board.

He declined to comment and referred comment to Dee Leggett, DCTA's vice president of communications and planning.

"That position has been vacant for a while, so we're excited to have it filled," Leggett said of Hartman. "He represents a growing area of the county, and we think he will be a valued addition to our board of directors."

Commissioners also took the opportunity to discuss the appointment process.

County Judge Mary Horn placed Hartman's appointment on the commissioners' agenda. She and Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell met with him before Tuesday's vote.

The board's approval was unanimous.

Commissioner Hugh Coleman said he wished all the commissioners had a chance to interview candidates and even recommend their own nominees before the vote.

He said the court needs to be notified when appointments are available so each commissioner can seek constituents who are best for the position and their merits can be debated in court.

Horn said there are some committees that require appointments from some or all court members. She understands Coleman's position, she said, and also sought to clear up the requirements of the positions on the various committees such as the DCTA, North Texas Tollway Authority and the North Texas Groundwater Commission.

"We'd just like a chart of all the committees and what the law says about appointments, what the requirements are so everyone has a clear understanding, even though it only comes up every few years,"

<sup>r</sup> Horn said. "It gets confusing trying to remember all those and the guidelines for each one. We always want to  
<sup>h</sup> go back to the law and make sure we're compliant."

Horn said it would be a good thing not only to have all the committees listed but also to get the information in the hands of court members.

In light of the discussion, Coleman said he hopes the appointment process will change in the future.

"And I think our discussion was positive," he said.

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