

April 7, 2006

To: John M. Lamerato, Acting City Manager

From: Brian P. Murphy, Assistant City Manager/Services  
Timothy Richnak, Public Works Director

Subject: Agenda Item - Water Main Tapping Crew and Continuing Education

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) promotes professionalism through educational opportunities and competition. Each spring the AWWA Michigan Chapter program includes training sessions, continuing education units, and a water main tapping contest.

It is with great pride that we report the City of Troy tapping team won this year's competition. The competition entails tapping into a live pressurized water main. They use the same equipment and procedure to provide a new water service for residential and commercial water customers in the City of Troy.

A standard ductile iron water main is placed on a stand and pressurized with water. The team must take a tapping machine, drill, tap, and insert a valve into the water main. Simultaneously, a copper pipe is prepared and run from the valve in the water main to a curb stop, which is the valve in front of your house that can be shut off in case of an emergency. From the curb stop another piece of copper is prepared and run to a faucet. When all the connections are made, the water is turned on and checked for leaks.

The team of Mark Pniewski, Jake Diepholz, Mike Schlegelmann and Coach Steve Bauman accomplished this feat in an unbelievable time of 1 minute and 18 seconds. They will now attend the national conference and tapping competition in San Antonio, Texas. The Michigan AWWA chapter pays 100% of the cost. They receive full benefit of attending the concurrent educational sessions over three days of training. There are well over 200 educational opportunities to follow many different tracks from management to reuse of limited resources. One such track that is going to affect the City of Troy is the hot topic of residuals in our water distribution system.

Prepared by: Timothy Richnak Public Works Director

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