

## Mai Vang

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**From:** John Purdy <jpmn0101@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 7, 2025 8:05 PM  
**To:** Richard Rowland  
**Cc:** Racquel Vaske; Mai Vang  
**Subject:** Re: SPRWS - Right of Way Recovery Fee and Common Cent Questions  
**Attachments:** Gmail - Correspondence with Russ Stark.pdf; Gmail - Re\_ Xcel Energy Rate Book MPUC No. 2, Section 5, 12th Revised Sheet No. 52.pdf

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Richard Rowland-Assistant GM SPRWS  
1900 Rice Street  
St. Paul, MN 55113

Good Morning Rich,

Thank you for answering some, but not all, of my questions on advice from your SPRWS attorney. Hopefully you related to your attorney that my first request for the R-O-W Recovery Fee authority goes back to January 17, 2023 when I first requested it from Patrick Shea.

A lot of my time is consumed with the analysis of utility rates. It is my part time, unpaid retirement job. Mr. Stark will confirm this as you might see by the attached correspondence. Likewise with Xcel, when a question arises as to rate authority, I write a request to their rates department and always receive a timely response, as indicated by the 2nd attachment below.

As was explained to SPRWS management at the City Council public hearing on Wednesday, I am unable to prepare for the hearing scheduled for November 18, 2025 without an adequate response. The requested information is needed in order to understand and enforce my rights and It is unclear to me whether my information requests are being addressed.

I am hereby voluntarily withdrawing my objection/appeal with the City/SPRWS without prejudice.

Accordingly, I will be making a formal data practices request as was done in my analysis of the gas and electric franchise fee exemption cancellation that Russ handled. Please confirm back to me that you have received this communication and withdrawal and please also notify the Legislative Hearing Officer.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Purdy  
10 W Delos St

On Fri, Nov 7, 2025 at 7:29 AM Richard Rowland <[richard.rowland@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:richard.rowland@ci.stpaul.mn.us)> wrote:  
Good Morning John,

Please see responses to your questions you have posed to SPRWS staff regarding the Right of Way Recovery Fee in addition to expenses SPRWS incurs related to PW projects where SPRWS coordinates utility improvements.

### **Common Cent & Construction Expenses Questions:**

Q.1 (There is currently a carryover project from the [2024 St. Paul Street Reconstruction Plan](#), adopted 12-6-2023, now underway on Grand Ave between Fairview and Snelling. City Public Works Engineering has estimated [\\$700,000 of financing](#) to be paid by SPRWS.)

A.1. Response: The \$700k is an estimate of the water related costs that PW incurs through administering the construction contract for the project and which SPRWS reimburses them after the project is complete.

Q.2 Are these "Common Cent" 2026 Water Budget expenses the actual costs of piping materials and their installation that are incurred by SPRWS crews and your engineering and procurement departments during the time that PW is engaged in the overall reconstruction of the street?

A.2 Response: Yes, the budgeted amounts for "Common Cent Street Projects" reflect the total anticipated costs associated with water main replacement in coordination with Public Works. These expenses include the costs of materials, labor, and equipment used by SPRWS or PW's contractor for the construction and replacement of water mains, services, and related infrastructure. They also cover associated costs for design, engineering, inspection, and contract administration tied to the water portion of the project. In some cases, the budget may also include costs for surface restoration, such as curbs, sidewalks, or pavement, and for minor sewer repairs that, while not in Public Works' scope, are necessary due to impacts from our construction activities. Additionally, SPRWS contributes its share toward general project costs such as traffic control, erosion control, mobilization, and other related items.

Q.3. Are these expenses of a nature that pays or reimburses Public Works for PW engineering, PW pavement removals, PW excavations and PW pavement replacements that PW performs prior to SPRWS crews performing their piping infrastructure replacement?

A.3. Response: The expenses represent SPRWS's share of total project costs resulting from water infrastructure work, as outlined above.

Q.4. Do "Common Cent" Street Projects always require water main replacement and if so, are years 2026 and 2027 exceptions, not budgeted for "Common Cent" Water Main expenditure because there are no water mains, or none that are aged, under the rights of way planned for reconstruction projects in

these years, namely; Earl St - Maryland to Minnehaha; Pelham - Franklin to Miss. R. Blvd; Arlington - Jackson to Payne; Earl - Minnehaha to Burns.

A.4. Response: In the case of the 2026 and 2027 projects you referenced, we do plan to replace or rehabilitate water mains on Earl and Pelham. However, when this budget was assembled, we determined that the costs associated with those replacements could be covered within our annual "External Projects" budget, rather than requiring a separate allocation under "Common Cent" line items. Starting in 2028, based on the projected scale and number of reconstruction projects, we anticipate the need for additional dedicated funds specifically for "Common Cent" projects above and beyond the capacity of our standard external project funding.

**Right of Way Recovery Fee:**

John, because an appeal was filed and this matter is now scheduled for a hearing before the City's Administrative Hearing Officer I have been advised by SPRWS' attorney that all informal communication should cease until the hearing is resolved. I will be present at the hearing and I look forward to addressing your appeal.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Rich



**Richard Rowland**  
*Assistant General Manager*

1900 Rice Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55113  
Ph: 651-266-1659

[richard.rowland@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:richard.rowland@ci.stpaul.mn.us)