

BOWC holds public hearing on 2016 proposed water budget

The Board of Water Commissioners held a public hearing on a proposed budget that includes an increase in the water service base fee for 2016. No other water rate changes were proposed at the September 8 public hearing.

After the public hearing with the Board of Water Commissioners, the Board voted to recommend the entire budget including the base fee increase to the city council. The council will then review and vote on the proposed budget in their meetings this fall and winter.

The water service base fee is based upon the size of the water meter in the property. Most residents have a water meter three-fourths of an inch or less in size. The base fee for this meter size will increase from \$4 per month to \$5 per month under the proposed budget.

The change will increase the annual water service base fee from \$48 a year to \$60 for a typical customer, or an increase of \$12 per year.

This will bring the typical water bill to \$321.76 for 2016, up from \$309.76 in 2015, if passed by the city council.

This increase of 3.87 percent will allow continued funding for operational and maintenance costs, capital improvements, and debt service.



Mara Humphrey and Russ Stark, commissioners with the Board of Water Commissioners and Matt Anfang, president, listen to staff reports during a board meeting held at SPRWS' McCarrons Center on Sept. 8.

Best drinking water in Minn.



Steve Schneider, left, shows off the trophy for the winner of the Great Minnesota Tap Water Taste Test at Minnesota State Fair on Tuesday, Sept. 1. Stew Thornley, right, from the Minnesota Department of Health acted as emcee of the competition.

Saint Paul came out on top of 15 other communities in a tournament-style competition to reveal who has the best tap water in Minnesota. The Great Minnesota Tap Water Taste Test was held at the Minnesota State Fair grounds on Sept. 1.

The final round was a match up between Saint Paul and Minneapolis, both surface water plants.

SPRWS had to win four taste tests in a row to finish in first place in the single elimination contest.

Other communities from across the state competed in the taste test including Thief River Falls, Duluth, Fairmount, Le Sueur, and Hastings.

The annual taste test is held in the Eco Experience building in the State Fair grounds.

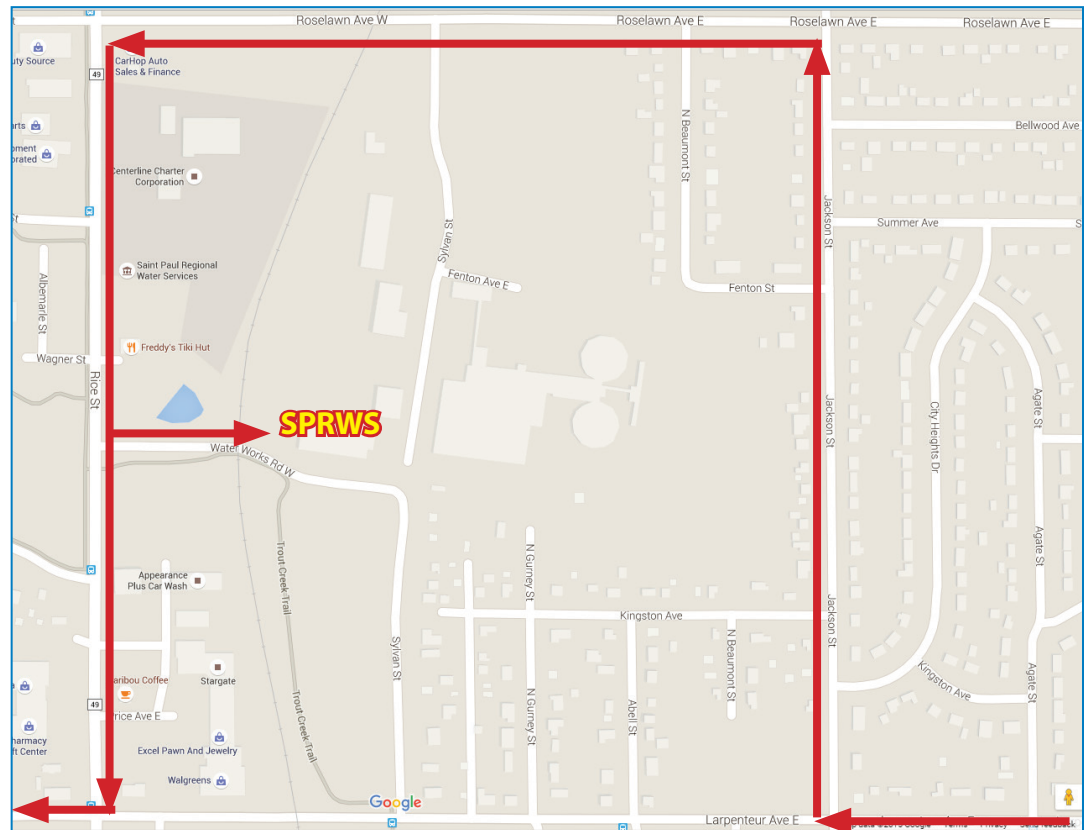
The win allows SPRWS to move on to the finals in the Best in Glass competition with other water utilities across the state at the Minnesota Section of the American Water Works Association conference held Sept. 16 - 18 in Duluth.

Larpenteur to close westbound starting Monday, Sept. 21

Due to work that SPRWS will be performing at the intersection of Larpenteur and Sylvan roads, Larpenteur westbound will be closed for 7-10 days beginning on Sept. 21. Eastbound Larpenteur will be open, but down to one lane.

The detour to get to WaterWorks road from the east will take you west on Larpenteur until the detour onto Jackson Street north, to Roselawn Ave. west, to Rice Street south, to Water Works Road to SPRWS.

The road signs started going up on Sept. 14 announcing the road closure.



Follow the detour from Larpenteur to Jackson Street north, to Roselawn west to Rice Street south to Water Works Road to get to the utility bypassing Sylvan Street next week.

Justine Roe graduates from Emerging Leaders Academy

Justine Roe, water quality specialist, graduated from the Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA) on Tuesday, Sept. 15.

The ELA is a nine-month program with monthly sessions that are focused on providing employees an opportunity to explore leadership, grow, and network within the city.

This program challenged participants to build upon their strengths and to develop

knowledge and skills to improve efficiency and quality of services provided by the city of Saint Paul.

The program focused on such topics as leadership development, project management, innovation, leading equity and diversity initiatives, and effectively leveraging technology.

Congratulations to Justine Roe on her graduation!



Justine Roe

Steve Krieglmeier retires from SPRWS after 27 years of service

Steve Krieglmeier, water utility worker II, retired from the water utility on August 14 after 27 years with the utility.

He joined the water utility in 1988 as a water laborer. He worked in that capacity for two years before becoming a ditch digger in 1990. That job changed titles to become a water system worker I in 1992.

In 1993, he became a water system worker II.

In 2003, he took a voluntary reduction to water utility worker II, the position from which he retires.

Congratulations to Steve Krieglmeier on his retirement!



Steve Krieglmeier