

4/22/2026



Dear Capitol Investment Committee,

The City of North St. Paul is writing to **request a reallocation of the funds** originally awarded for the proposed Multicultural Community Center project.

Following extensive research, facility analysis and a feasibility study examining the current North St. Paul Community Center building and the proposed improvements, it has become clear that moving forward with the project is not in the City's best interest. While we are incredibly grateful for the \$4.5 million grant secured for this effort, the full scope of the project would be an additional \$3.3 million above the grant amount. This would impose a significant financial burden on the City and in turn, pose a long-term economical strain on our residents.

The studies determined that the City lacks the financial capacity to operate the proposed facility. In addition, despite considerable outreach, we have not been able to identify an external partner willing or able to manage and operate the center on the City's behalf. The current Community Center building already places a strain on City resources, and the projected costs to renovate or remodel the facility are far beyond what the City can responsibly support.

Due to us not being able to proceed with the original project as proposed, we respectfully **request that these funds be reallocated to construct a new municipal water tower** for the North St. Paul community. This is a critical infrastructure project that would improve water pressure and increase the storage capacity of our drinking water system, directly benefiting all residents and supporting the long-term reliability of our water supply.

The estimated cost of constructing a new water tower is between \$5 and \$6 million to replace a 300,000 gallon water tower with a 750,000 gallon tower. While the need for this project has been identified for some time, **the City currently lacks the resources necessary to complete it without bonding**. Reallocating the previously awarded funds to this project would represent a responsible and impactful use of the investment, addressing essential infrastructure needs and providing lasting benefits to the entire community.

The City of North Saint Paul has performed an Engineering / Water Storage Site Study and are shovel ready. Our drinking water storage capacity is below normal recommended minimums and water pressure reliability is at stake at the outer reaches of our water distribution system.

Thank you again for your support and for your work in helping secure these funds. We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to pursue building a new water tower that will increase our ISO Fire Rating, fire protection, emergency response and public health continuity for the residents of North St. Paul.

Sincerely,

Brian Frandle
City Manager
City of North St. Paul

