





Library gets additional funding

A year ago, just before the COVID-19 pandemic was declared, the City of Gallup was talking about how to build a new regional animal shelter. Now they're talking again.

Gallup animal shelter back on the drawing board

Written by By Beth Blakeman Managing Editor Friday, 19 March 2021 04:23

At the Feb. 25, 2020 City Council meeting, Jackie McKinney was the outgoing mayor. He said he had friends on both sides of the land issue and didn't want to encumber the incoming mayor over site selection. So the council voted to table the issue.

Gallup got its new mayor, Louis Bonaguidi, at the same time COVID was entering the picture.

The sites under consideration for the shelter included an expansion of its current location (Balok Street off U. S. Highway 491) with the Gallup-McKinley County Humane Society north of the animal medical center, and some potentially donated land near Hasler Valley Road.

On March 9, more than a year later, the City Council put it on the agenda again. This time it accepted a grant agreement of \$261,000 for the new regional animal shelter.

The *Gallup Sun* asked Director of Planning and Development for the City of Gallup Clyde Strain, what that amount would mean for a shelter that received a concept design plan that said construction would run between \$7.9 million and \$8 million, depending on the site selected.

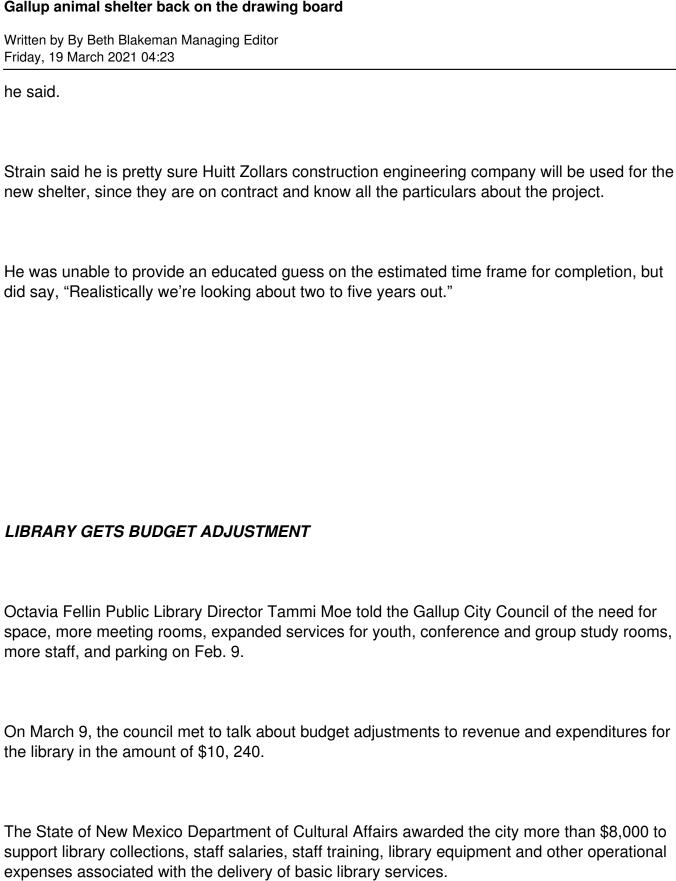
"We get grants here and there. We're trying to accumulate enough money," Strain said. "But yeah, we got a ways to go still. We have probably close to a million [dollars] now with other appropriations."

Strain said there is now enough money for site acquisition and design, and the city will continue to apply and ask the state for money.

Strain said the Balok Street site was chosen, because it is big enough for the expansion and has the infrastructure needed already in place.

"Now that we have a definite site, we can go to formal design and get a shovel-ready project,"

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In addition, the city received a little over \$2,100 of CARES Act funding to defray certain costs incurred by the library related to the pandemic.

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