

City makes adjustment to pay off sewer line project

Written by By Kevin Opsahl Sun Correspondent
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Gallup's utilities-water and sanitation department has been given almost \$12,000 more to pay off the work done on a sewer line repair for Marce Court.

At a meeting on March 23, the Gallup City Council unanimously approved \$11,980 — a little more than what the department's executive director, Dennis Romero, had requested.

"I'm thrilled," he said after the meeting. "It means we can pay the contractor and close the project out and move forward."

The contractor in this case was Dallago Corporation, which won a bid in the amount of \$199,925 to work on the project. But since costs went up, the total bill came to nearly \$212,000, Romero told the *Sun*.

During the meeting, he said he needed the budget adjustment because crews needed to do additional work — called a "change order" — on the sewer line.

"Because it was an old system, we found things that needed to be replaced and worked around that we didn't realize going into our design," he said. "So, as a result, we overshot the budget with the final change order by a little over \$12,000."

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Those things that needed to be replaced included manholes. Replacement of such infrastructure required “bypass pumping,” which led to a higher cost in the project, a council agenda said. Bypass systems are typically employed on a temporary basis. They allow work to take place by pumping fluid (sewage, trash, water, etc.) around the construction or work area without stopping the normal flow of the fluid.

Even though his department ended up doing more work on the line than it initially anticipated, Romero assured council members that “it was a successful project.”

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