



Kalama City Council - Council Agenda Item Information Form

Meeting Date **March 1, 2017**

Prepared by: **Coni McMaster, Clerk/Treasurer**

Agenda Item: **7A Antique District I5 Sign – Request to Pay**

Summary: See the attached letter. The sign was established by the Kalama Antique Association which it is my understanding no longer exists. The City has paid for this sign or a portion of the fee in some years past – but not every year. It has come from the City Tourism funds after a request for help from the local Antique Association. It was not requested to be included in the 2017 budget.

Recommendation: Looking at the City’s business license records, there are only 3 antique stores in Kalama which makes me wonder if Kalama really has an “antique district” anymore. It appears that the other antique business owners are unwilling to help Mr. Norton to cover this fee. Would this not be something for the Chamber and business community to help support as the letter states it draws people to the restaurants and other stores? When the City had 10 or more antique shops the “district” did draw shoppers to come to town, and we could justify the funds from Tourism. With only 3, it becomes more of advertising for a certain business type. If the City were to pay for the sign, which is really only applicable to 3 active businesses, there are other business types (restaurants) that might also make the same request and how can the City do it for one and not another. This could border on a gift of public funds or establishing a special relationship that the auditors may consider ill advised. Also, Tourism funds come from the Hotel/Motel taxes and currently those funds are not growing as in the past. The City has seen less revenue in recent years while trying to support events that will bring tourists to the area.

I do not recommend the City pay for the Antique District Highway Sign.

Included in the Current Year’s Budget YES **NO If No – Fiscal Impact: **\$683****

Funding Source if not included in the current Budget - **Tourism – Fund 105 – projected carryover to 2018.**

► Options- Actions

If the Council does NOT want to fund the sign then no action is necessary.

If the Council does want to fund the sign: *I move the City Council authorize the payment of \$683 from Fund 105 – Tourism and direct staff to amend the 2017 budget accordingly.*