

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, 11/17/2020, PM

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Present:

Jim DeTro (DT) - BOCC Chair, District 3 - attending virtually

Chris Branch (CB) - BOCC Vice-Chair, District 1

Andy Hover (AH) - BOCC, District 2

Lanie Johns (LJ) - Clerk of the Board

Leah McCormack (LM) - Treasurer

Cari Hall (CH) - Auditor

These notes were taken by an Okanogan County Watch volunteer via Zoom.. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized or paraphrased. Note taker comments or clarifications are in italics. These notes are published at <https://countywatch.org> and are not the official county record of the meeting. For officially approved minutes, which are normally published at a later time, see <https://okanogancounty.org/Commissioners/Minutes%2020/2020%Minutespage.html>.

Time stamps in notes below are in real time. To locate specific topics, a clock on the AV Capture video screen at <https://okanogancounty.org/avcapture.html> can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions: *Public comment:* Retiree Mary McHugh of Twisp area wants to know why the assessed valuation her house and barn have risen by 30%, (over \$100,000) in one year - threatening her ability to keep her home in the Methow. Risk Management/Human Resources update; *Central Services:* New servers, PC's, & monitors on order; new website update; new mics to be ordered; *Prosecutor's Update:* *Noma objects to using external counsel; additional staff attorney needed;* law library; *possible cuts to Planning staff to hire attorney.* District Ranger Furr recommends *temporary closure of Cutthroat & hairpin turn areas along HWY20* to prevent anticipated overuse and danger to inexperienced winter recreationists this winter. *No BOCC meetings next week* - Clerk Lanie Johns on vacation, and Cmr. DeTro completing quarantine.

1:30: Public Comment: Mary McHugh (MM), Poorman Creek (Twisp) Assessed valuation jumped over 30% on her house, and she wants to know why - and that was just on the house and barn. She lives about 4 miles out of Twisp.

AH - We had a notice from the assessor - the sales were up so high that they were going to revalue. Mine went up that much too, and parents' & brothers'. I do know they were revalued because of prices of homes.

Mary - You will force me to sell my home. I am a 71 year old retired teacher. I may have to sell my home to pay the tax. The assessor said I've missed the opening window for this year. And I will have to wait until next year to appeal. Another way to look at this is if I could qualify for a senior citizen discount. I guess you don't set that amount, but you may have influence. My taxes are \$5,000 and next year will be \$6-7000. You have to be under \$40,000 income for senior discount.

LJ - She can still appeal for 2022 by July 1.

AH - Is \$40,000 in the statute?

Lanie - It's combined income for the household.

AH - If the taxes are so far above...median income level for a household is above that in Okanogan County.

LJ - It takes into account any savings and household income as applied on one acre.

CB - "You and your house or co-tenant has income of \$40,000 or less." (Reading the law.)

MM - I have 5 acres, share a driveway with neighbors & they drive through my yard. Sometimes they invite 50 people for dinner. Not very much fun for me. I have a house - \$300,000 - and my barn - 40,00 (????) Total was \$340,000. Now it's to be 440,000 - taxable amount next April. And the property is another 100,000. So the total is \$540,00.

AH - \$ 541,500 - next year. Says they will talk with assessor

MM - Thanks for your interest today.

AH - The 1% tax increase we put in last few years is aboutIf you look at your tax statement, majority goes to schools, cemetery, EMS, & Fire Dist. Recommends she call the assessor's office.

LJ - Assessor's website shows distribution for property tax.

MM - If my property value has jumped \$100,000, my taxes to be paid will be much higher.

AH - Asks questions if there are reductions for people on fixed incomes. Only a few reasons the board can consider, through RCW and through Dept of Revenue and WAC's'

CB - The numbers are in the statutes...(reads from statute.)

LJ - Showing BOCC items that can be considered. It's based on market value.

AH - My own 1915 house is valued at close to \$300,000. Every house that has sold around me has sold for \$500,000.

CB - A friend down the road reduced his lot size just to reduce that.

LJ - For Okanogan, it lists income threshold for tax 2020-2024. Income #3 for an exemption is \$40,000. Deferral is \$45,000.

BOCC states they have no control over this, recommends she call Assessor's office.

2:01 - Tanya Craig: Risk Management/ Human Resources Update

Life flight; contract negotiations; indigent defense expense; Noxious weeds contract; Public defense - financial improvement due to trial cancelations. Balance of CARES Act funds: once all costs are entered, will not be much left. Nov. 30th deadline, clerk on vacation next week. Families with PUD bills in arrears - may need to go to Community Action. County has not yet figured out how much exactly is left (CARES Act funding.) DNS server upgrade.

2:19 AH - Traffic Safety commission. Reads the Resolution (158-2020) passed. 159-2020 - Converting one temporary labor position for one full-time PPE for the solid waste dept.

BOCC re-hashes issues on tax revaluation, reviews what % of taxes the county gets & the fact that a higher valuation raises taxes; the public concern isn't that BOCC gets too much, but that the value went up \$100,000 in one year.

2:30: Karen Beatty, Central Services Update.

Equipment reserve funds - 2 or 3 servers, one will be e-mail server. Going to replace and move to new server. Have purchased 14 PC's and monitors to be deployed.

New county web page: Design for front and inner pages have been done. Site map - Met with all Depts, who will be the admin, what they want or don't want, want to add. Sent last week. Their people in departments will make the design on their end.

2:32 Microphones to be ordered with Covid Funds - \$8,360

LJ - Not sure it's eligible. It's for the gallery, and we can't have any public in here right now.

AH - I was thinking it could pick up people talking at the table.

Karen - Includes people here and at the table, mics.

AH - We could probably pay for that later on. Let's hold off for now on that. We don't have....

LJ - Would probably purchase it from the equipment reserve fund - service and equipment

Karen - Includes 2 techs for 8 hours, room & board, and round trip.

AH - Do you want to put it in right now, or after budget determinations? It's not a huge amount.

Just thinking about whether it's necessary right now.

Karen or LJ Mics: Larger gooseneck, on and off buttons, centered more directly.

AH/CB - It's a Covid-related expense.. We are getting complaints from people that they can't hear.

LJ - The mic in gallery was extra.

Karen - Right now they (public) can hear you guys off and on.

LJ - Zoom was mandated - AVC capture isn't mandated. We have to do Zoom because of Covid.

CB - On the AVC part - there is a whole conversation with the governor about having meetings, from when we were talking about whether or not we couldanyway - When you are on Zoom, public still has the feeling it's not really public. They can't see what we are doing. We could be passing notes. That was an issue (at governor's office.) I can make that connection because of that conversation.

AH - I was always good with putting on the Covid stuff. It helps us communicate.

CB - Helps people know we are government.....

LJ - We could do it.

CB - The amount is small enough we could still pay if it backfired (*as Covid.*)

AH - If we were only doing zoom.

LJ - We should include the cost, now, when it's still....

Asks DeTro if he's ok with spending \$\$ on new microphones. (YES)

Go ahead and call them and get it going.

Power Outages:

Maurice got a couple of generators for outside the server room. 2 6500 ones, then had Cruise electric put in 30 ft cables so we can power up if we are here - great if we are here, but if not, we will lose everything but can power it back up. Have upgraded DNS servers to a newer operating system. A big thing for us.

Want to mention that on my radar, not for next year but the year after, will have to replace the core switch which is the brains of all the data. Probably under \$75,000. Next year or year after. A big piece.

AH - What is life span?

Karen - About 6 years?

CB - Do they just go bad?

2:48 - Problem with Cmr Detro's phone and feedback fixed. He will just listen. I Side conversations re time sheets and other details re Therapeutic Court and other things.

3:03PM - Prosecutor's office budget: Arian Noma & staff , Tanya Craig, Leah McCormack, Lisa Schreckengast, Cari Hall:

AH going line by line over what appears to be a draft, comparing with last year's budget, they are adjusting it for next year.

DSHS federal enforcement grant being cut by 15%. About \$47,000.

AH - thinks it's much less. Prosecutor - \$85,000. Do prosecutors get raises?

AH - Superior Court judge \$192,000/year?

TC - Something DID go up to \$13,300.

AH - What is state's share? \$30,000.

AH - Questions many lines, math, etc. Staff explains. They attempt to justify and move on. Staff shares many numbers, hard to follow. People shouting over each other. Food stamps? Doing anything with that?

Noma- We don't have personnel to get to it. Other criminal work. Woman: There is no money.

AH - So we have \$208,000 of DSHS funding.

AH - Cut Office supplies. Cut \$500.00.

AH - Asks about equipment....calculators...takes out \$300.00.

AH - cut \$500.00. Cut postage by \$1500 - oh, postage has gone up.

Is telephone for cell phones?? Noma - No. We don't have them.

AH - Hoping Central Services is getting bill for some of this.

AH - Travel? For people to go out an

Woman - Mostly training. Since Covid, no one is going out.

AH Asks about rent.

Woman - 700/month.

Things are pulled away from previous budget.

3:24 PM- Labor: Discussion of Deputy Prosecutor position: (Speaker?) We have a deputy prosecutor. We have been talking about public records stuff, Dave having a tough time. Any way this Deputy Prosecutor, if we paid out of current expense, could do that work?

Staff: - when Dave and his....get a lot of them, they do ask but they always wait for ??? To ask.

Noma - if county was going got supplement "her" salary Don't know how much time she would have , if we are trying to find out right now, she's only supposed to do that work. We can explore all of that now....figure out hours and wages.

AH - If they are cutting funding, we are going to have to split time with this person.....

Staff - she does report for every month - right now she does about 5 hours.

Noma - Right now she does public records. We do a lot of (???) Prosecutor can't get to that. There are a good number of those.

3:26 PM - Civil Side of Prosecutor's office:

AH - Civil side of prosecutors' office - getting a lot more public records requests, things coming from building dept. In order to balance budget and lighten load for the civil side for that, need to see how much - talk with her. I don't understand how the state can cut this. But if they cut, we have to make it up. Would be good to see how much she thinks she can devote to this.

Woman - I calculated the % of shortfall - about 40% of her time, give or take.

Noma - that's part of reason ...I'd not good at quantifying in dollars as far as what their work is worth. But I am good at evaluating people's work. We are going to be short. We will need another attorney.

AH - Is there something in between an attorney and a legal assistant?

Noma - If we had a non-attorney do this type of work, the lawyer will have to supervise it. If the person is not as experienced, the later will have to do more. If Milner, being a lawyer, were capable of taking on 40% more, then she could be the public records clerk. But with the lawsuits that are coming up, I know Gecas by himself cannot do it.

AH - I tend to agree that....will you go to the summary page? See page.....that's how much we are in the hole. The only thing that will go back into there will be our carry-over. How much will we have to shift in a levy shift? This doesn't include tase increases for next year, or having any \$\$ in reserve. So that's why we have to try and balance this budget with the money we have now in this budget.

LM - I have to play devil's advocate here. Support enforcement has been down in \$\$ before - down to prosecutor and 2 staff? I don't know how it supports itself. It will not support itself.

AH - Will have to look at what it does and if we can afford to keep it.

Noma - It is a big benefit to the community at large. If that division is gone, people with child support issues will have to go go Chelan or Wenatchee. So you have an attorney and 2 legal assistants.

(AH?) What can we do to keep this and keep it within budget? All departments do that.

Can Planning Budget be Cut in order to help the situation?

3:34 PM AH - Let's go to the Planning Budget. We said we were not going to do the DOD grant. And we said if we don't do it, will have a 1/2 planner and maybe not another planner beyond

that. Can't do one with out the other. If we are not getting timely questions answered on civil side of things, then having the other planner in there is tough. I know we have enough \$\$ between that yellow line up there....between that and the extra \$\$ we put into the prosecutor's budget already from here.....what's the wages onwhat was her wages??/ \$73,000. So that's \$30,000. If we do away with that, and with this planner, we can pay her the extra 40%. But she has to do 40% of her time to keep Dave (*Gecas*) so he can help us out. Current expense. That's the unfortunate reality. Another attorney - I don't know.

Noma - about \$100,000. For another attorney. Chief civil deputy makes \$104. So cheapest for criminal deputy - \$78. District court dept \$73, 068 w/o benefits, so about \$100,000

AH - So let's keep this as an option. Already talked about the 1/2 time planner. Unfortunate....our planning dept....we need people there.

3:37 PM So back to prosecutor's office and regular budget. Office and orating - 5,000. Small tools, equip. Here we put in extra 45,000 out of planning budget. ...even if we dropped professional services line down to \$30,000, we only have \$60,000. We'd have to come up with another 40,000 - we have a request from sheriff for 98,000 for cars. So we have 10,000 in witness fees. We have never used that.

3:40 - Cost and necessity of pathologists to prosecute increasing murders:

Noma - this year I know that, assuming it wouldn't come out of prof services. There are a number of murders committed in 2019 - they will absolutely come up. Without a pathologist, we will not be able to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt. *Some of them who are coming up are charging expert witness fees.*

AH - Suggest we cut down by \$5,000.
1500 postage. 8,000 in travel.

CH - 5,000 was for therapeutic courts, and then it said no.....couldn't follow.

?? - We can't take the 5500 off.

AH - Look at the travel previous . Hasn't gone over 3,000. Yes. We can take off the 3,000. Talk about expenses for advertising. If not a lot of turnover next year, it could be lower.

Noma - found a company that can do IT for 12,000.

AH - So we have been paying 12,000 for ???

Noma - We went to a ton of companies.

AH - Wo can drop it by \$38,000 . Yes.

Law Library

AH - So we have the law library, then we have the prosecutor's budget pays for law books. This one if for Westlaw.

Noma - and research engine, hard books.

AH - What is law library ? I thought it was for inmates.

?? - We don't have one anymore. If there is someone who needs helps, they ?get onto Westlaw.

AH - Law Library has 0 \$\$.

AH - Our caseload has gone down from 2013 - 2014. We have to do what we can.

AH - So we can pay for a civil attorney by doing this, by what we just saved. \$100,000 +/- Pay her and another attorney. Would rather give 40% of her time for civil stuff and then there rest for what we all do.

LM? Attorney that is paid out of there, I'm thinking it hasn't always been 100% of ???

Debate on use of outside attorneys, civil lawsuits affecting state and nation:

Noma - we will say we have one general, one criminal, one civil. So this extra \$45,000, it's when we have an outside attorney. We are ready and able to do everything - we just need the proper resources. By hiring a outside attorney - if we ignored the civil stuff and did only my criminal stuff - that wouldn't be right.

AH - but the problem is, I look at costs. If we are putting in \$50,000 one year, \$60,000 another year....110,000what was that?

CB - Probably right. But it saved us a lot too.

AH - And this saved us a lot . One atty costs us \$100,000. You are saying that if we were going to spend to on a civil prosecutor - they have to be very practiced on land and water use. These civil decisions affect not only us - they affect the state and the nation.

Noma- but I have to look at the law too. It's called separation of powers. When the BOCC makes the law, and then hire counsel to our own...

AH - We ask the prosecuting attorney if they can do this.

Noma - if the excuse is they don't have time.....

AH - But I have to look at costs too. But it's not that we are not properly funding you. No, we can't hire 6 more people Can we hire one. Maybe. Guess what goes away? Cop cars, etc.

3:55PM: Cost of murder trials

Noma - In last 18 years, how many people have been added?

AH - Probably none.

Noma - There's not a prosecutor's office in the nation that hasn't had at least one person added in the last 18 years.

(AH?) But your case load decreased.

In 2019, we had 5 murders. That's not a DUI. It's a murder!

AH - Yes - Do we want to fund prosecutors...can't do anything past a 1% to increase. \$140,000/year. That's our increase. When you talk about prosecutor's office, in big cities, where evaluations are going up, where tax base going up - our revenue only goes up \$150,000/year. Has to be software and all sorts of things. State is cutting funding. We are trying to not cut positions.

3:59 - Use of external counsel for land use cases - Noma objects

Noma - OK. I disagree. Just because you go to a Seattle attorney for land use decisions. Your best attorneys are right here.

CB - I've seen this in other places. And we had a case here recently that was a very unusual case, and we may not have won except for the advise we got. An expert law firm challenges you and they win....because the expertise was not there to deal with it. When you get just one permit ...and you hire an experienced attorney - and they win from a prosecutor who has no experience with land use.... *(Makes the point that the attorney with expertise might do it within the amount of time that is required, when staff attorneys would not be able to do it in the required amount of time.*

Noma - What I'm hearing is that any outside council you hire is better.

CB - Not saying that.

AH - I have total confidence in him (*Gecas?*) as a civil attorney. But he is busy doing so many other things - But when he says, for a specific thing maybe he says he doesn't have the expertise and should look elsewhere and we you should hire outside counsel.... Maybe I should listen to my attorney and do that.

Noma - I advise him to do more. Maybe because I came here is why he's been doing more. I'm trying to get him more support...

AH - Public Records Requests?

Noma - About 30% of his time. And even with this, you will still need another lawyer, even with outside council.

AH - OK If we can take this person and utilize her, we may get back - Let's move the gal from 60-40.

AH - Let's run down our tabs. Start back at #1. Our first under hearing is Dec. 7th. We will need to know what our carry over is before that. If we know on Dec. 7

AH - I think we can come up with a number no later than Nov. 30th.

All list numbers of the lines that need to be checked, investigated, changed, etc.
The main thing is how much carry-over we have, with all these "asks."

CH - with all the overtime we are going into, an amt we give you tomorrow may not be accurate.

Extra civil attorney is a big one - things are tight. Not saying no....not yet .

4:09 PM - Compromises on serious needs questioned: Planning Dept needs vs Prosecutor needs - Heated discussion

CB - I'm a little concerned with pitting some of these serious needs in planning against the prosecutor's office. Very concerned about the compromises we are facing. There are other issues that concern me. I don't think this conversation should focus so much on the need for a lands /water attorney. Should not depend upon that. I'm not so sure are other counties utilizing land use/water attorneys. We need to look into case load in prosecutor's office. I saw a lot of going back and forth with planning, and not a lot of money compared with what these asks are.

AH - Need for another planner and prosecutor are equal. I'm always up for a debate. For me....

CB - I understand because I've heard enough bout it.

AH - (*Ignores CB*) Goes on through the list of needs.

CB - One thing I'm focusing on is, without that coverage, you may find that it may cost us a whole lot.

AH - I agree with you, but if we are not able to keep our civil attorney, and he leaves and we (*have to find someone else,?*) that's not good either. We have the....

CB - I don't want to compromise what's going on in the Planning Dept for what is going on in the prosecutor's office, and the civil part. We need a better conversation about this, because I'm not seeing the evidence.

LM - As the department head of one of these departments, the sacrifices that the other departments - we have to share these resources. I just don't want to - I want to go on record as saying that I don't want the county to rob Peter to pay Paul.....When I was talking about that, I was not talking about the treasurer's or auditor's offices.

AH - We are all getting worked up about this. If we can't pay for the people, they get cut. If we can, people get hired. Look at the police cars. If we were in ER&R - we would be paying 1/4 of a million . We can't do that. We are buying 3, 5 at a time.....

CB - I'm not going to get worked up.

AH - I'm not worked up at all.

CB - I found it hard to get a word in edgewise in this conversation.

CB - We are leaning on a couple of questions here that I know are very loaded....the planning office, which doesn't make crap...and the prosecutorwe haven't talked at all about what has gone on over the years, case loads, etc.

4:16 PM - Review of county history in re this issue:

Noma - Will talk right now. *Goes into some cases and details, felonies.* (One attorney has 245 cases of serious felonies stacked up. Another has 145.) I only have 65 because I carry the murders and the arsons and the whole appellate unit. Appeals take quadruple the time as others. And then I have to administrate and supervise Dave with the civil stuff.

CB - trying to talk, Noma goes on rapidly about how busy they are.

CB - Just asking a question.

Noma - I'm giving the answer.

CB - I can't understand all of that. I have to sort through it. Is the case load unprecedented?

Noma - This may be the reason for so much turnover in that office You burn out quickly. Very quickly. Difficult for any department you are in to sustain.

CB - Has it always been that way?

Noma - I think so - definitely since I've been here.

CB - My curiosity - up until the time you have been managing this budget, has there been a demand

Noma - I think 1-2 people should have been added in the last 18-20 years.

CB - I'd like to see that. I know other counties have the same problem. But I'm asking is this last couple of years come to a head - has the turnover been higher?

Noma - Cases not too much higher. Covid hard to count. Staffing (???) There are people in the community who will be charged, but the files are piling up. In a non-Covid environment, basic thefts - they won't bring to jail because Covid shut them down. The sheriff sends the file to them - we will get to it.

CB - Unfortunately we have gotten down to the 11th hour, but I really need to have the comparison in front of me to make that budget decision. I need to see if something has changed dramatically. Need to see it.

4:22 PM Noma - Also, my style is different because I want everything in-house. The civil issues are as important, maybe more important. They do affect county, state, and nation - forever. That is a drastic change - a leadership decision I have made. But to do it, I need people.

CB - for me, it really does come down to that solid evidence of change that is worth pulling money from the road fund, etc. A lot of the civil is relatively routine.

AH - CB, that is great. What I am going to do is see what the carry - over is, list my priorities, and give my recommendations to the other commissioners. I agree with Branch that

CB - I appreciate that comment.

Woman - is there a way for the prosecutor's office to get an additional fine?

AH - The court sets the fees, and they always say this state does not allow it.

Noma - I can answer If the person is indigent, the state has now prohibited..made rules on what they can be charged. If there is a private rich defendant, they can be fined. But rich people don't commit crimes.

AH - so about the 60/40 split, figure out medicaid, etc. need to in the next couple of days be sure its going to work. Will need to add deputy prosecutor 60/40, pull the 45 out of professional services.

(Talk about what they will pull together..... Can't see who's speaking.)

AH If a decision we make causes litigation, ...that's why splitting up the lines is important. Criminal, civil, general. Civil 025, 20 at criminal, general -

Indigent Defense - Upcoming lawsuit on this issue , state level

CB - One thing that was brought up is important - indigent defense. We are still as far as WSAC is concerned, going to sue over that.

Noma - We should do that. And we'd be happy to do the lawsuit.

CB - The more productive thing we could do is to supply WASAC with the fact and figures, and that our prosecutor's office is greatly affected. We have prosecutors that are now WSAC , legislative steering committee - preparing to do that, and indigent defense is at the top of the list.

CH - Really think a meeting with the finance committee is needed before the 7th. Going back on 30th. No meetings next Monday or Tuesday.

AH - so the 30th or the 1st for finance committee.

LJ - the 30th is the better day, at probably 10:00 AM. I will do that right now.

4:30 PM - Discussion - Methow Ranger District Land Acquisitions Coordination - Concerns for this winter in re overuse of rough back country terrain by inexperienced recreationists - proposal to close a couple of areas temporarily

Chris Furr

So I'm basically giving you a heads up and looking for feedback on a building (*means rising?*) issue. History of really good cooperation with winter sports, sort of a gentleman's agreement among back country skiers, "motorized" activities - have not had a lot of issues, but something that has been sort of there - is new models of new bikes and snowmobiles getting back into rough back county terrain and avalanche area - because of visitation we saw this summer, don't want to sit back and see something bad to happen before taking action. Talking about for 1 season, a closure for motorized use in a couple of discrete areas - around Cutthroat and the hair pin turn . Not supposed to be long-term, but looking for a longer term solution...an emergency closure. Would need to get public input for a longer thing. Looking at a very busy season; not a local issue, but a lot of inexperienced people. Coming from somewhere else, parking along the highway, getting into the high basins. Need for action because there is low likelihood maybe , but long-term problem, maybe not even an avalanche, but maybe just deep ruts. We are talking with all groups. Wanted to loop back with you all and see if there are concerns you have.

AH - how did you come up with those areas? High use for back country skiers or avalanche?

CF - A mix. Working with the groups where there is risk, where there is new....and a lot of that area is avalanche prone.

AH - going up toward highway, toward Gilbert, near Cutthroat? Haven't typically snowmobilers used Cutthroat?

L - In talking with Ed Surret, they go up the road and into the trailhead, not more than that. Part too is helping people to understand where there are other permitted places.

AH - As long as you are working with snowmobile people and back country skiers, etc... no problem for me.

CB - I've been to all these areas - the hazards are real, and sometimes inexperienced with experienced people . Have been there with people who dig pits, etc. Washington pass, Cutthroat, one of the most surprising things was that I was skiing on a creek about 15 feet below me - and experience person may have known, but I didn't and if I'd fallen through it would have been serious, Been there when hundreds of snow mobiles were going over avalanche chutes.

Furr - Don't take it likely; not necessarily long-term, but you saw what we saw this summer. The business Methow trails has has been leading up to the season...not proposing a long-term solution. Even though we know they don't use those areas a lot, they are not willing to give up those places forever. But haven't had hard push-back.

CB - I know people I could ask....

JD - I appreciate you bringing this to us and making us aware, but from my standpoint you are the ranger, you see the problem. I would back whatever your decision is in identifying this problem and going forward with a temporary solution followed by a long-term solution.

F - I don't like surprises. Like you to give your 2 cents worth. Appreciate that when you see a problem you make us aware of it. In my opinion, it's your opinion.

CB - Yes...but I do know some folks who will take exception. Some very experienced back country skiers.

Furr - will keep you all appraised. Will bring it up if there is a closure order. All I have today. Will talk restoration at some period after comment period is over.

JD - Just a side bar. It did not happen under your tenure. But I've had a wrecker association tell me that they did several years ago a rescue - a tow - that has a deceased person in it, and the USFS made the request for them to do that, and somehow it got convoluted and the towing company got the bill And a 2nd incident on Harts Pass with an RV - got convoluted between

state patrol and towing co and the USFS - not on your tenure - but I want you to think about that and maybe discuss. The towing companies have alerted me they are not going to come any more.

Furr - Talked with Randy's Towing and sheriff - maybe didn't settle everything, but came to some understandings. Extension on the comment period for Twisp River Project - Its' my boss's decision. I anticipate talking with her on Thursday, with a decision quite soon.

CB - The Collaborative sent a letter on that yesterday.

4:50 PM: Resolution on overtime Res. #160-2020

4:57 PM: - DeTro will come in late at night or early in AM to sign everything, with Lanie leaving things on counter. They will all call in tomorrow at 4:00 PM to see if anything needs attention. DeTro states there are no meetings next week, so he will be able to complete his quarantine period and be back the following week.