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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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R-133-1551

To: The Honorable Dave Greenspan
Ohio House of Representatives

From: Carla Napolitano, Attorney *en*

Date: June 24, 2019

Subject: County land banks and open meeting laws

You asked LSC whether county land banks are subject to Ohio's open meeting laws. Yes, it seems that a county land reutilization corporation, or county land bank, is generally subject to Ohio's Open Meeting Laws.¹ More specifically, the Ohio Revised Code states that:

Any meeting at which a decision or determination of the board [of directors] is required in connection with the relocation, location, expansion, improvement, or preservation of the business of the entity or is required in pursuit of any purpose under division (B) of section 1724.01 of the Revised Code for which a county land bank is organized **shall** be open to the public.²

In addition, at least one Ohio Attorney General Opinion concluded that a community improvement corporation that is designated as the agency of a political subdivision constitutes a public body for purposes of the Open Meeting Law.³

The Open Meeting Law requires that every public body must establish by rule a reasonable method for the public to determine the time and place of all regularly scheduled meetings and the time, place, and purpose of all special meetings. The rule must provide that any person, on request and payment of a reasonable fee, may obtain reasonable advance notification of all meetings at which a specific type of public business is to be discussed. The public body must give at least 24 hours' advance notice of each special meeting to all news media that have requested notification; or, for an emergency meeting requiring immediate official action, the member or members of a public body calling the meeting must immediately notify all news media that have requested notification.⁴

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¹ R.C. 121.22.

² R.C. 1724.11(B)(2) (emphasis added).

³ 1979 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 79-061.

⁴ R.C. 121.22(F).