

From: Teresa Fortner [mailto:Teresa.Fortner@ridesvta.com]

Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 10:24 AM

To: Law Rev and Info <rev.info@leg.state.fl.us>

Subject: RE: Notice of special called Board Meeting

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Good morning,

I just spoke with Arnold Cooperman(?) regarding a question of advertising a Special District, Special Called Board of Directors meeting for Suwannee Valley Transit Authority.

He went through the statutes with me regarding the need to advertise on our Agency's website. We determined that there was no rule in the statutes that require as such.

My Administrator, Larry Sessions, would like to know if you could put that information in e-mail form, stating such.

Thank you in advance.

Teresa Fortner,

Administrative Support

Teresa.fortner@Ridesvta.com

(386) 362-RIDE ext 6329

Prior to this email, Ms. Fortner call the FL AG for advice.

From: Healy, Susan [mailto:HEALY.SUSAN@leg.state.fl.us]

Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 11:00 AM

To: Teresa Fortner <Teresa.Fortner@ridesvta.com>

Subject: FW: Notice of special called Board Meeting

Ms. Fortner,

I am going to forward your request to Arnie Cooperman for further reply. Our division publishes and distributes the official Florida Statutes and while we can assist you with finding material in the statutes, we do not give legal advice or provide legal services or opinions. While Mr. Cooperman may not have found a specific reference to a need to announce a meeting on your district's website, as a public agency there may be other statutory requirements regarding notification of a public meeting. This question may be one better answered by your district's general counsel.

Susan Healy

Program Administrator

Law Book Services Office

850-717-0422

Fax: 850-488-4188

From: Teresa Fortner [mailto:Teresa.Fortner@ridesvta.com]

Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 11:18 AM

To: Healy, Susan <HEALY.SUSAN@leg.state.fl.us>

Subject: RE: Notice of special called Board Meeting

Susan,

Thank you for your prompt reply. Could you forward my question to your district general counsel? Or do I need to make this request?

Teresa

From: Cooperman, Arnie [mailto:COOPERMAN.ARNIE@leg.state.fl.us]
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 11:25 AM
To: Teresa Fortner <Teresa.Fortner@ridesvta.com>
Subject: Special district meeting advertising

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Ms. Fortner,

As I stated on the phone, I did not find any requirement for website notice of a special district meeting. See Florida Statutes sections 189.015(1) and 286.011.

I did find a bill introduced for the upcoming legislative session, Senate Bill 1344, that would expand website notice provisions. See: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017/1444/BillText/Filed/PDF>.

Arnold Cooperman
Division of Law Revision and Information
(850) 717-0416

From: Healy, Susan
<HEALY.SUSAN@leg.state.fl.us>
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 11:26 AM
To: Teresa Fortner
Cc: Jessen, Linda; Cooperman, Arnie
Subject: RE: Notice of special called Board Meeting

Teresa,

We are part of the Florida Legislature and not a special district. I was referring to your district's general counsel. I did speak with Arnie and he is going to reply to your email with some information about a bill that has been filed that may address your question. Keep in mind that the legislative session has not begun yet and so that provision is not currently part of the statutes.

Susan Healy
Program Administrator
Law Book Services Office
850-717-0422
Fax: 850-488-4188

From: Teresa Fortner [mailto:Teresa.Fortner@ridesvta.com]
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 12:10 PM
To: Cooperman, Arnie <COOPERMAN.ARNIE@leg.state.fl.us>
Cc: Healy, Susan <HEALY.SUSAN@leg.state.fl.us>
Subject: RE: Special district meeting advertising

Arnie and Susan,

I have another question regarding this same issue. I understand that you are not able to give legal advice or provide legal services. The "reporter" that is questioning our advertisement is now citing the Sunshine law and Public Record Law.

I am forwarding copies of two pages that he is referring to on his blog. If you can assist me, that would be great. If not, perhaps guide me to the correct person.

Teresa

From: Healy, Susan
<HEALY.SUSAN@leg.state.fl.us>
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 12:18 PM
To: Teresa Fortner; Cooperman, Arnie
Cc: Jessen, Linda
Subject: RE: Special district meeting advertising

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Teresa,

I haven't read the attached material yet, but remember that I mentioned the general public meeting and public records laws. I believe that Arnie also referred to that. You need to take this issue to your district's general counsel. This is what your district has its own lawyer for. You can certainly read the the "Sunshine " laws online at the Legislature's website. These would be chapter 119 on public records and chapter 286 on public meetings. In particular look at section 286.0105, Florida Statutes.

We cannot give you any kind of opinion about your district's practices as they relate to the Florida Statutes. Once again, this is a matter for your district's attorney to address.

Susan Healy
Program Administrator
Law Book Services Office
850-717-0422
Fax: 850-488-4188

From: Healy, Susan
<HEALY.SUSAN@leg.state.fl.us>
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 12:55 PM
To: Teresa Fortner; Cooperman, Arnie
Cc: Jessen, Linda
Subject: RE: Special district meeting advertising

Teresa,

I think I may have found something additional that you need to look at. Chapter 120 of the Florida Statutes is the administrative procedures chapter. Section 120.525 references meeting notices placed on an agency's website. I checked the definitions section in chapter 120, section 120.52, for the definition of the term "agency." For purposes of chapter 120, agency includes special districts.

You can find chapter 120 online at www.leg.state.fl.us. And as with the other material you can order a reprint of chapter 120 online at www.flalegstore.com.

Susan Healy
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