

P-868  
M. MIDLOTHIAN  
MINDOR

# ditorial

## Obey The Law

The Midlothian School Trustees have had a long history of secret meetings and we had hoped that with a new Superintendent, things would be different. We were wrong. First order of business Monday night was a secret meeting held at the request of R. W. Few, the tax collector.

Excerpts from Article 6252-17 of the Penal Code reads:

Section 1. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, every regular, special, or called meeting or session of every governmental body shall be open to the public.

Sec. 2. (a) The provisions of this Act do not apply to:

(1) deliberations pertaining to the DISMISSAL of a PUBLIC OFFICER or employee or to complaints or charges brought against such an officer or employee, unless he requests a public hearing;

(2) deliberations pertaining to the acquisition of additional REAL PROPERTY; or

(3) deliberations on matters affecting SECURITY.

(b) A governmental body may exclude any witness or witnesses from a hearing during examination of another witness in the matter being investigated.

(c) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prevent a governing body from CONSULTING WITH ITS ATTORNEY pertaining to any imminent or pending litigation or other legal matter involving the powers, duties, functions, or liabilities of the governing body.

(d) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the deliberations of GRAND JURIES.

Sec. 4. Any member of a governing body who wilfully calls or aids in calling or organizing a special or called meeting or session which is closed to the public, or who wilfully closes or aids in closing a regular meeting or session to the public, or who participates in a regular, special, or called meeting or session which is closed to the public without causing or attempting to cause his dissent to be entered in the record or minutes of the governing body, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$200 on the first offense, and shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 on each subsequent offense.

This is clearly the law and we intend to see that charges are filed against the offending trustees in future violations.