



Reynolds
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opportunity to view the minutes at various times during the day.

800-114

**Taum Sauk Fund Board Closes Meeting;
Courier Reporter Cites Sunshine Law**

During a meeting of the Taum Sauk Fund Board on Thursday, Oct. 15, board members agreed to enter into a closed session for a reason that a *Courier* reporter believed to be illegal according to the Sunshine Law.

Since the reporter believed the closed session to be illegal, an e-mail was sent to the board secretary after 72 hours had passed—the time required by the Sunshine Law for public records to be available. A request was made for the grant approval decisions that were made during the closed session or for a copy of the unapproved minutes. The secretary complied by sending the grant approval decisions made during the closed session, and the information was published in the following issue of the newspaper.

The *Courier* regrets that the board had not notified grant applicant winners before the newspaper was published. The reporter felt that a week after the decisions were made was adequate time for approved grant applicants to be notified.

Sunshine Law Attorney Jean Manake was questioned by the *Courier* about what was a legal reason to close a public meeting.

“When a public meeting is closed,” Manake said, “a member of the board must make a motion to close the meeting and must give the number of the exception listed in the Sunshine Law. There is no exception in the Sunshine Law for closing a meeting to select grant application approvals. If any board does that, it is in violation of the Sunshine Law.”