

One litigation the Makanda Township Road District is involved in has cost the Road District over \$60,000 in legal fees. This litigation deals with a 950 foot length of Sheppard Lane, a sparsely populated dead end Township road. The Defendants in this case are the Makanda Township Road District and Highway Commissioner Danny Williams and the Plaintiffs are Clay and Rebecca Kolar and Bill Hunter and Martha Ellert. A short summary of this case is the following.

- In 2013 the defendant, Mr. Danny Williams, informed the plaintiffs of his plan to widen the whole Township portion of Sheppard Lane, including the 950 foot section bordering the property of the plaintiffs. The proposed widening would have defaced a portion of their properties and removed a large numbers of trees owned by the plaintiffs.**
- At that time the plaintiffs offered at no cost to the Township a compromise solution to widen that section of Sheppard Lane that would minimize impact to their properties. That offer was rejected by the Highway Commissioner. That option is still offered by the plaintiffs.**
- The case is about government overreach and abuse of authority by the Makanda Township Road District in an attempt to illegally take and deface private property that is protected from unlawful government seizure under the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Township Road District does not have a road easement for Sheppard Lane.**
- The legal action by the plaintiffs was simply to obtain an injunction to stop the illegal take and destruction of their private property by the Makanda Township Road District.**
- In addition to the initial ruling in 2014, the court has ruled in favor of the plaintiffs throughout the litigation. During this whole span of time up to the present Danny Williams has authorized payment from the Township Road Fund of over \$60,000 in needless legal costs unsuccessfully trying various legal maneuvers to nullify the original court decision. The original court decision is available for examination.**