

NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST CHURCH OF EDMONTON

26404 Highway 16 West, Spruce Grove, AB T7X 3H5
Phone: 780-960-0235, Fax: 780-960-9235

May 10, 2018

Parkland County

Attention: Mayor & Council

**RE: Development Permit 18-D-037 New Testament Baptist Church Modular Complex –
Request to Waiver Offsite Levies \$200,645.00**

Further to my previous letter and meeting with council, we have now received the attached Development Permit to proceed with the set up and renovation of a 4,200 square foot modular classroom structure. Attached are photographs of the used modular unit presently located on the Church property ready to start final renovations.

We are in general agreement with the Development Permit except for item #1 requiring an agreement with Parkland County pertaining to the payment of \$200,645. in offsite levies. As previously advised our Church and Christian school ministry operates as a registered charity and non-profit organization. We simply do not have the financial means to pay \$200,645. in order to hook up to the municipal water line.

We are not in same league as major land developers who have the means to develop subdivisions and recover their investment. In fact, our limited budget is supported by free will donations and Alberta Education Student Instruction Funding. Contrary to public schools we do not receive any government capital or infrastructure funding for our facilities. Furthermore, we do not expect government capital funding other than basic tax exemption.

In fact we are thankful that the developer of the Edmonton Springs subdivision immediately to the west of our Church property has generously agreed to waive the pro-rated water line construction costs that would be recoverable from our Church. Parkland County administration has provided a copy of the attached amended agreement between the County and the developer acknowledging and granting forgiveness of the water line costs for our Church.

During our previous discussions with the County administration and the developer there was no indication or mention from the County that there would be any additional fees involved for the Church to connect to the water line. We were not aware of the offsite levy costs until we received the development permit in the mail.

In any event, likewise we are requesting Parkland County to also please waive the related offsite levy costs in the amount of \$200,645. We understand the County has discretion to deal with charities and non-profit organizations differently than a commercial developer. Charities are generally exempted from federal and local taxes on the basis that they provide valuable charitable and volunteer services to the community at large. In our case we are involved in gospel ministry, missionary activity, supporting marriages, family crisis and grief counselling, youth activities and providing an accredited kindergarten through grade 12 Christian school program.

On that basis we sincerely believe that bonafide registered charities including our church ministry and Christian school should qualify for tax exemption including any related offsite levies in connection with this development permit. Furthermore, we do not want to defer the offsite levy costs which would result in a long term unfunded liability and heavy financial burden which no doubt will increase in the future.

Accordingly, we will be forever thankful to Parkland County Council and the community if they would generously approve our request to be exempted from the payment of the related offsite levies. We await your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Brian Coldwell", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pastor Brian Coldwell

Cell #: 780-916-6086

Email: bdcoldwell@gmail.com

Enclosures:

1. Development Permit.
2. Photographs.
3. Parkland County / Developer amended development agreement.