

August 16, 2023

Roll No. 279004

Pastor Brian Coldwell
New Testament Baptist Church Of Edmonton
26404 HWY 16
Spruce Grove, AB T7X 3H5

Dear Pastor Coldwell:

Subject: Response to questions provided in Email dated July 20, 2023 (Attachment 1)

Thank you for your email dated July 20, 2023 regarding the applicability of Section 648(1.2) of the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) and its implications for the school's obligation to pay off-site levies.

Parkland County has confirmed, through a legal opinion, that the private school operated within the New Testament Baptist Church does not meet the criteria outlined in Section 648(1.2), as it does not fall under the classification of a school division established by Ministerial Order. The distinction between private schools and school divisions is outlined under Section 112 of the *Education Act* and is an important distinction in this case.

In addition, it is important to note that Parkland County and the New Testament Baptist Church of Edmonton have previously entered into a Deferred Servicing & Off-Site Levy Payment Agreement dated August 8, 2018. This agreement deferred payment of off-site levies under Development Permit 18-D-037 and stipulated that any future intensification/development (triggering event) of the Church property will require payment of levies which cannot be exempted based on your organization's charitable status.

We hope the information above provides the necessary clarification on this matter.

Sincerely,



Laura Swain,
Chief Administrative Officer

CC: Nancy Domijan, Director, Planning and Development Services
Karen Kormos, Manager, Development Planning & Safety Codes
Natasha De Sandi, Manager, Current & Long Range Planning

Attachment 1

From: Brian Coldwell <bdcoldwell@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:41 PM

To: Kristina Kowalski <kristina.kowalski@parklandcounty.com>; Allan Gamble <allan.gamble@parklandcounty.com>; Laura Swain <Laura.Swain@parklandcounty.com>; Nancy Domijan <Nancy.Domijan@parklandcounty.com>

Subject: Re: New Testament Baptist Church & Christian School - Off Site Levy Meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Parkland County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize this sender and know the contents are safe.

Dear Mayor Gamble , Councillor Kowalski and Admin Staff,

Attached FYI, are relevant sections of the MGA and School Act recently sent to my attention. I would respectfully request that we take this into consideration as we work to resolve this matter.

Thank You and GOD Bless.

Pastor Brian

On Thu, Jul 20, 2023 at 12:11 PM Brian Coldwell <bdcoldwell@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mayor Gamble, Councilor Kowalski, Laura and Nancy.

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with Chris Wall and me to discuss this important matter. As discussed we will now review what possible options are available to resolve this Off-Site Tax Levy and heavy financial burden. After our meeting a spoke very briefly with Councillor Kowalski to clarify for the record any AB Education funding the school receives is restricted to "Instructional Use Only" for teacher salaries, school books etc. This funding cannot be used for capital costs or infrastructure or Off Site Levies. We did not have time to get into full discussion of school and church budgets finances. It is important to clarify with approx. 100 day school students we would receive approx \$450,000. from AB Education for instructional use to pay approx. 6 teachers , plus education assistants and buy school books etc. I must kindly clarify the 4 million dollars briefly mentioned in the meeting is incorrect. We are willing to fully disclose our church and school board charitable non-profit status, and financial statements to document the fact that 90 % of our budget goes directly into charitable ministry for the church and school. The remaining 10 % is for administration, insurance , accounting and utilities etc. I simply want to make it clear that we are indeed a bona fide small charity and not in a financial position to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in off-site levies, intended for major commercial developers. I look forward to working toward a reasonable resolution of this matter.

Sincerely,

Pastor Brian Coldwell

New Testament Baptist Church