

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES**

### **1. Director Qualifications**

The Board will have a majority of directors who meet the criteria for independence required by the New York Stock Exchange. The Nominating and Governance Committee is responsible for reviewing with the Board, on an annual basis, the requisite skills and characteristics of new Board members as well as the composition of the Board as a whole. This assessment will include members' qualification as independent, as well as consideration of diversity, age, skills, and experience in the context of the needs of the Board. Nominees for directorship will be selected by the Nominating and Governance Committee in accordance with the policies and principles in its charter. The invitation to join the Board should be extended by Board itself, by the Chairman of the Nominating and Governance Committee and the Chairman of the Board.

The Board presently has eight members. It is the sense of the Board that a size of 7 to 12 is appropriate and, accordingly, the By-Laws of the Company provide for a Board size of up to 12 members.

It is the sense of the Board that individual directors whose responsibilities materially change from those responsibilities they held at the time they were elected to the Board should volunteer to resign from the Board. It is not the sense of the Board that in every instance a director who retires or changes from the position he held when he came on the Board should necessarily leave the Board. There should, however, be an opportunity for the Board through the Nominating and Governance Committee to review the appropriateness of continued Board membership under the circumstances.

It is the sense of the Board that directors should not serve on more than three other public company boards. Directors should advise the Chairman of the Board and the Chairman of the Nominating and Governance Committee in advance of accepting an invitation to serve on another public company board.

The Board does not believe it should establish term limits. While term limits could help insure that there are fresh ideas and viewpoints available to the Board, they hold the disadvantage of losing the contribution of directors who have been able to develop, over a period of time, increasing insight into the Company and its operations and, therefore, provide an increasing contribution to the Board as a whole. As an alternative to term limits, the Nominating and Governance Committee will review each director's continuation on the Board on an annual basis. This will allow each director the opportunity to conveniently confirm his or her desire to continue as a member of the Board.

The Board does believe that age limits are appropriate and has adopted a policy that no director shall be eligible for nomination for election at the Annual Meeting after the director attains age 72. At the time of adoption of this policy the Board determined that the policy shall apply to Mr. Melone when he attains age 75.

### **2. Director Responsibilities**

The basic responsibility of the directors is to exercise their business judgment to act in what they reasonably believe to be in the best interest of the Company and its shareholders. In discharging that obligation, directors should be entitled to rely on the honesty and integrity of the Company's senior executives and its outside advisors and auditors. The directors shall also be entitled to have the Company purchase reasonable directors' and officers' liability insurance on their behalf, to the benefits of indemnification to the fullest extent permitted by law and the Company's charter, by-laws and any indemnification agreements, and to exculpation as provided by state law and the Company's charter. The Board has the power to hire independent legal, financial or other advisors, as it may deem necessary, without consulting or obtaining the approval of any officer of the Company in advance.

Directors are expected to attend Board meetings and meetings of committees on which they serve, and to spend the time needed and meet as frequently as necessary to properly discharge their responsibilities. Information and data that are important to the Board's understanding of the business to be conducted at a Board or

committee meeting should generally be distributed in writing to the directors before the meeting, and directors should review these materials in advance of the meeting.

Directors are expected to attend the annual meeting of shareholders, absent compelling circumstances that prevents their attendance. Where a director is unable to attend an annual meeting in person but is able to do so by electronic conferencing, the Company will arrange for the director's participation by means where the director can hear, and be heard, by those present at the meeting.

The Chairman will establish the agenda for each Board meeting. Where the Chairman is unable to attend a Board meeting, a Chairperson of one of the standing committees (Audit, Compensation or Nominating & Governance) shall serve as Chairman of the meeting. Each Board member is free to suggest the inclusion of items on the agenda. Each Board member is free to raise at any Board meeting subjects that are not on the agenda for that meeting. The Board will review the Company's long-term strategic plans and the principal issues that the Company will face in the future during at least one Board meeting each year.

The non-management directors will meet in executive session at least quarterly. The chairperson of the Audit, Compensation, and Nominating and Governance Committees shall chair the executive sessions on a rotating basis which will be disclosed in the annual proxy statement.

The Board believes that the management speaks for the Company. Individual Board members may, from time to time, meet or otherwise communicate with various constituencies that are involved with the Company. But it is expected that Board members would do this with the knowledge of management and, absent unusual circumstances or as contemplated by the committee charters, only at the request of management.

### **3. Board Committees**

The Board will have at all times an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee and a Nominating and Governance Committee. All of the members of these committees will be independent directors under the criteria established by the New York Stock Exchange. Committee members will be appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the Nominating and Governance Committee, taking into consideration input from the individual directors.

Each committee will have a charter. The charters will set forth the purposes, goals and responsibilities of the committees as well as qualifications for committee membership, procedures for committee member appointment and removal, committee structure and operations and committee reporting to the Board. The charters will also provide that each committee will annually evaluate its performance.

The Board may, from time to time, establish or maintain additional committees as necessary or appropriate.

### **4. Director Access to Officers and Employees**

Directors have full and free access to officers and employees of the Company. Any meetings or contacts that a director wishes to initiate may be arranged through the CEO or the Secretary or directly by the director. The directors will use their judgment to ensure that any such contact is not disruptive to the business operations of the Company and will, to the extent not inappropriate, copy the CEO on any written communications between a director and an officer or employee of the Company.

The Board welcomes regular attendance at each Board meeting of senior officers of the Company. If the CEO wishes to have additional Company personnel attendees on a regular basis, this suggestion should be brought to the Board for approval.

### **5. Director Compensation**

The Compensation Committee will recommend the form and amount of director compensation, in accordance with the policies and principles set forth in its charter, for approval by the independent directors of the

Board. The Compensation Committee will conduct an annual review of director compensation. The Compensation Committee will consider that directors' independence may be jeopardized if director compensation and perquisites exceed customary levels.

#### **6. Director Orientation and Continuing Education**

All new directors must participate in the Company's Orientation Program, which should be conducted within two months of the annual meeting at which new directors are elected. This orientation will include presentations by senior management to familiarize new directors with the Company's strategic plans, its significant financial, accounting and risk management issues, its compliance programs, its Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, its principle officers, and its internal and independent auditors. In addition, the Orientation Program will include visits to Company headquarters and, to the extent practical, certain of the Company's significant facilities. All other directors are also invited to attend the Orientation Program.

#### **7. CEO Evaluation and Succession**

The Compensation Committee will conduct an annual review of the CEO's performance, as set forth in its charter. The Board of Directors will review the Compensation Committee's report.

The Nominating & Governance Committee should make an annual report to the Board on CEO succession planning. The entire Board will work with the Nominating and Governance Committee to nominate and evaluate potential successors to the CEO. The CEO should at all times make available his or her recommendations and evaluations of potential successors, along with a review of any development plans recommended for such individuals.

#### **8. Annual Performance Evaluation**

The Board of Directors will conduct an annual self-evaluation to determine whether it and its committees are functioning effectively. The Chairman of the Nominating and Governance Committee will lead the annual self-evaluation process and shall take input from each director and report annually to the Board following the end of each fiscal year. The assessment will focus on the Board's contribution to the Company and specifically focus on areas in which the Board or management believes that the Board could improve.