I. Purpose

The purpose of the Audit Committee (the “Committee”) is to oversee the accounting and financial reporting processes of the Company and the audits of the financial statements of the Company.

The Committee’s responsibilities are limited to oversight. The Company’s management is responsible for establishing and maintaining accounting policies and procedures in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) and other applicable reporting and disclosure standards and for preparing the Company’s financial statements. The Company’s independent auditors are responsible for auditing and reviewing those financial statements.

II. Composition

The Committee must consist of at least three (3) directors, subject to any available exception. Each Committee member must satisfy the independence requirements of the Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (“Nasdaq”) and the more rigorous independence rules for members of the Audit Committee issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), subject to any available exception. Each Committee member must be able to read and understand fundamental financial statements, including a company’s balance sheet, income statement and cash flow statement. At least one member of the Committee must have past employment experience in finance or accounting, requisite professional certification in accounting, or any other comparable experience or background which results in the individual’s financial sophistication, including being or having been a chief executive officer, chief financial officer or other senior officer with financial oversight responsibilities. In addition, either at least one member of the Committee must be a financial expert as defined under SEC rules, or the Company must disclose the reasons why at least one member of the Committee is not a financial expert.

Committee members may be removed from the Committee, with or without cause, by the Board. Unless a Chair is designated by the Board, the Committee may designate a Chair by majority vote of the full Committee membership.

III. Meetings, Procedures and Authority

The Committee must meet at least once during each fiscal quarter. The Committee must meet separately, periodically, with management, with the internal auditor, if any, and with the independent auditor.

The Committee has the authority to establish its own rules and procedures for notice and conduct of its meetings so long as they are not inconsistent with any provisions of the Company’s bylaws that are applicable to the Committee.
The Committee may retain any independent counsel, experts or advisors that the Committee believes to be necessary or appropriate. The Company must provide for appropriate funding, as determined by the Committee, for payment of compensation to the independent auditor for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services, for payment of compensation to any advisors employed by the Committee and for payment of ordinary administrative expenses of the Committee that are necessary or appropriate in carrying out its duties.

The Committee may conduct or authorize investigations into any matters within the scope of the duties and responsibilities delegated to the Committee.

IV. Duties and Responsibilities

Interaction with the Independent Auditor

1. Appointment and Oversight. The Committee is directly responsible for the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the work of the independent auditor (including resolution of any disagreements between Company management and the independent auditor regarding financial reporting) and any other registered public accounting firm engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or related work or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company, and the independent auditor and each such other registered public accounting firm must report directly to the Committee. The Committee, or the Chair of the Committee, must pre-approve any audit and non-audit service provided to the Company by the independent auditor, unless the engagement is entered into pursuant to appropriate preapproval policies established by the Committee or if such service falls within available exceptions under SEC rules.

2. Annual Report on Independence and Quality Control. The Committee will ensure that the independent auditor prepares and delivers, at least annually, a written statement delineating all relationships between the independent auditor and the Company, will actively engage in a dialogue with the independent auditor with respect to any disclosed relationships or services that, in the view of the Committee, may impact the objectivity and independence of the independent auditor, and, if the Committee determines that further inquiry is advisable, will take appropriate action in response to the independent auditor’s report to satisfy itself of the auditor’s independence. The Committee shall obtain and review any report that may be prepared by the independent auditor describing the auditing firm’s internal quality-control procedures or any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, of the independent auditor, or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities within the preceding five (5) years, respecting one (1) or more independent audits carried out by the independent auditor and any steps taken to deal with such issues.

Annual Financial Statements and Annual Audit

3. Audit Problems. The Committee will discuss with the independent auditor any audit problems or difficulties and management’s response.

4. Form 10-K Review. The Committee will review and discuss the annual audited financial statements with management and the independent auditor, including the Company’s
disclosures under “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.”

5. **Audit Committee Report.** The Committee will provide the Company with the report of the Committee with respect to the audited financial statements for inclusion in each of the Company’s annual proxy statements.

**Quarterly Financial Statements**

6. **Form 10-Q Review.** The Committee will review and discuss the quarterly financial statements with management and the independent auditor, including the Company’s disclosures under “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.”

**Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

7. The Committee shall discuss with management its process for assessing the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting under Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (the “Sarbanes-Oxley Act”), including, but not limited to, any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies identified. The Committee shall review management’s report on its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of the end of each fiscal year and the independent auditor’s report on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, if applicable. The Committee shall discuss with the independent auditor the characterization of deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting. The Committee shall also discuss with management its remediation plan to address internal control deficiencies. The Committee shall determine that the disclosures describing any identified material weaknesses and management’s remediation plans are clear and complete. The Committee shall discuss with management its process for performing its required quarterly certifications under Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, including, but not limited to, the evaluation of the effectiveness of disclosure controls by the Company’s principal executive officer and principal financial officer. The Committee shall discuss with management and the independent auditor any (1) changes in internal control over financial reporting that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect the Company’s internal control over financial reporting that are required to be disclosed and (2) any other changes in internal control over financial reporting that were considered for disclosure in the Company’s periodic filings with the SEC.

**Other Duties and Responsibilities**

8. **Review of Earnings Releases.** The Committee must review the Company’s earnings press releases, as well as financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies.

9. **Budget Review.** The Company’s annual budget shall be submitted to the Committee for its review, and the Committee shall submit any recommended changes to the Board for its consideration.
10. **Risk Assessment and Risk Management.** The Committee must periodically review the Company’s risk assessment and risk management activities.

11. **Hiring of Independent Auditor Employees.** Prior to the Company’s hiring of employees or former employees of the Company’s independent auditor, the Committee must evaluate independence considerations and establish relevant requirements that comply with applicable SEC regulations and Nasdaq standards.

12. **Complaint Procedures.** The Committee must periodically review procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, and for the confidential and anonymous submission by Company employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

13. **Reports to the Board of Directors.** The Committee must report regularly to the Board regarding the activities of the Committee.

14. **Committee Self-Evaluation.** The Committee must at least annually conduct an evaluation of the performance of the Committee.

15. **Review of this Charter.** The Committee must annually review and reassess this Charter and submit any recommended changes to the Board for its consideration.

16. **Review of Related Person Transactions.** The Committee must review all related person transactions which are required to be reported under applicable SEC regulations on an ongoing basis and all such transactions must be approved by the Committee in accordance with the Company’s policies and procedures regarding related person transactions. The Committee shall periodically review such policies and procedures and recommend any changes to the Board, as appropriate.

V. **Delegation of Duties**

In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Committee is entitled to delegate any or all of its responsibilities to a subcommittee of the Committee.