## PORTSMOUTH SQUARE, INC.

# **AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER** (As Amended on January 13, 2011)

## Purpose:

The primary purpose of the Audit Committee is to assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling its responsibility of overseeing management's conduct of the Company's financial reporting process, the Company's systems of internal accounting and financial controls, and the annual independent audit of the Company's financial statements.

In discharging its oversight role, the Committee is empowered to investigate any matter brought to its attention and shall have full access to all books, records, facilities and personnel of the Company and the power to retain outside counsel, auditors or other experts for this purpose. The Board and the Committee are in place to represent the Company's shareholders, and the Company's independent registered public accounting firm is ultimately accountable to the Board and the Committee as such representatives of shareholders. It is the responsibility of the Committee to maintain free and open means of communication between the Board, the Company's independent registered public accounting firm and the financial management and internal auditors of the Company.

The Committee shall review the adequacy of this Charter on an annual basis.

## **Membership:**

The Committee shall be comprised of "independent" directors that meet the composition requirements as defined by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("NASDAQ") as may be modified and supplemented from time to time. Accordingly, all of the members of the Committee will be directors:

- 1. Who have no relationship to the Company that may interfere with the exercise of their independence from management and the Company;
  - 2. Are not affiliates of the Company;
  - 3. Do not receive any compensation from the Company other than in the capacity as director; and
- 4. Who are financially literate or who become financially literate within a reasonable period of time after appointment to the Committee.

In addition, at least one member of the Committee will qualify as an audit committee financial expert as defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The members of the Committee shall be elected by the Board at the annual meeting of the Board and shall serve until their successors shall be duly elected and qualified. Unless a Chairman of the Committee is elected by the full Board, the members of the Committee may designate a Chairman of the Committee by majority vote of the full Committee Membership.

#### **Meetings:**

The Committee shall meet at least four times annually, or more frequently as circumstances dictate. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Minutes of each meeting of the Committee should be recorded by the Secretary to the Committee. Approval by a majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall constitute approval by the Committee. The Committee may also act by unanimous written consent without a meeting. As part of its job to foster open communication, the Committee should meet at least annually with management and the Company's independent registered public

accounting firm in separate executive sessions to discuss any matters that the Committee or each of these groups believe should be discussed privately. In addition, the Committee or at least its Chairman should meet with the Company's independent registered public accounting firm and management quarterly to review the Company's financials consistent with #2 below. The Committee may request any officer or employee of the Company or the Company's outside counsel or the Company's independent registered public accounting firm to attend a meeting of the Committee or to meet with any members of, or consultants to, the Committee.

## **Key Responsibilities:**

The Committee's job is one of oversight, and it recognizes that the Company's management is responsible for preparing the Company's financial statements and that the Company's independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for auditing those financial statements pursuant to professional standards. Additionally, the Committee recognizes that financial management has more time, knowledge and detailed information about the Company than do Committee members. Consequently, in carrying out its oversight responsibilities, the Committee is not providing any expert or special assurance as to the Company's financial statements or any professional certification as to the outside auditor's work.

The following functions shall be the common recurring activities of the Committee in carrying out its oversight function. These functions are set forth as a guide with the understanding that the Committee may diverge from this guide as appropriate given the circumstances.

- 1. The Committee shall review with management and the Company's independent registered public accounting firm the audited financial statements to be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K (or the Annual Report to Shareholders if distributed prior to the filing of the Form 10-K) prior to the filing of the Form 10-K or, if deemed appropriate, prior to any year-end earnings release. The Committee shall review and consider with the Company's independent registered public accounting firm all matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards ("SAS") No. 114 (AICPA, *Professional Standards*, Vol. 1, AU Section 380), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) in Rule 3200T regarding "Communication with Audit Committees.
- 2. As a whole, or through the Committee chair, the Committee shall review with the Company's independent registered public accounting firm the Company's interim financial results to be included in the Company's quarterly reports to be filed with Securities and Exchange Commission and the matters required to be discussed by SAS No. 114 with respect to quarterly financial statements. Such review will occur prior to the Company's filing of the Form 10-Q or, if deemed appropriate, prior to any quarterly earnings releases.
- 3. Review disclosures made to the Committee by the Company's CEO and CFO during their certification process for the Form 10-K and Form 10-Q about any significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal controls or material weaknesses therein and any fraud involving management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal controls.

### 4. The Committee shall:

- (a) request from the Company's independent registered public accounting firm annually written disclosures and a letter required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent accountant's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence;
- (b) discuss with the Company's independent registered public accounting firm any disclosed relationships or services which may impact that firm's objectivity or independence; and
- (c) recommend that the Board take appropriate action in response to the Company's independent registered public accounting firm's report to satisfy itself of that firm's independence.

- 5. The Committee shall have the sole authority to appoint or replace the Company's independent registered public accounting firm (subject, if applicable, to shareholder ratification). The Committee shall be directly responsible for the compensation and oversight of the work of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm (including resolution of disagreements between management and the Company's independent registered public accounting firm regarding financial reporting) for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or related work. The Company's independent registered public accounting firm shall report directly to the Committee.
- 6. The Committee shall preapprove all auditing services and permitted non-audit services (including the fees and terms thereof) to be performed for the Company by its independent registered public accounting firm, subject to the de minimus exceptions for non-audit services described in Section 10A(i)(1)(B) of the Exchange Act which are approved by the Committee prior to the completion of the audit. The Committee may form and delegate authority to subcommittees consisting of one or more members when appropriate, including the authority to grant preapprovals of audit and permitted nonaudit services, provided that decisions of such subcommittee to grant preapprovals shall be presented to the full Committee at its next scheduled meeting.
- 7. Review and discuss quarterly reports from the Company's independent registered public accounting firm on:
  - (a) All critical accounting policies and practices to be used.
  - (b) All alternative treatments of financial information within generally accepted accounting principles that have been discussed with management, ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatments, and the treatment preferred by the independent registered public accounting firm.
  - (c) Other material written communications between the independent registered public accounting firm and management, such as any management letter or schedule of unadjusted differences.
- 8. Periodically consult with the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, out of the presence of management, about internal controls and the fullness and accuracy of the organization's financial statements.
- 9. Recommend to the Board policies for the Company's hiring of employees or former employees of the independent registered public accounting firm who participated in any capacity in the audit of the Company.
- 10. Discuss with management the Company's use of "pro forma" or "adjusted" non-GAAP information, as well as financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies. Such discussion may be done generally (consisting of discussing the types of information to be disclosed and the types of presentations to be made).
- 11. Establish regular and separate systems of reporting to the Committee by each of management, the independent registered public accounting firm, and the internal accountants regarding any significant judgments made in management's preparation of the financial statements, and the view of each as to appropriateness of such judgments.
- 12. Following completion of the annual audit, review separately with each of management and the independent registered public accounting firm any significant difficulties encountered during the course of the audit, including any restrictions on the scope of work or access to required information.
- 13. Review any significant disagreement among management and the independent registered public accounting firm in connection with the preparation of the financial statements.

- 14. Establish procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, and the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.
- 15. Establish, review, and update periodically a Code of Ethical Conduct, and ensure that management has established a system to enforce this Code.
- 16. Review and approve any transactions between the Company and its officers, directors or 5% shareholders.
- 17. The Committee shall have the authority, to the extent it deems necessary or appropriate, to retain independent legal, accounting or other advisors. The Company shall provide for appropriate funding, as determined by the Committee, for payment of compensation to the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the purpose of rendering or issuing an audit report and to any advisors employed by the Committee.

## **Reporting Responsibilities:**

The Committee shall prepare the report required by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission to be included in the Company's annual proxy statement.

The Committee shall prepare such other reports for the full Board of Directors and others as it shall deem necessary to discharge its responsibilities under this Charter.