

MERIDIAN INTERSTATE BANCORP, INC.
AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

As adopted September 13, 2007

I. Purpose

The primary function of the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Meridian Interstate Bancorp, Inc. (the “Company”) is to assist the Board in its oversight of the quality and integrity of the Company’s financial statements, the Company’s compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, the independent auditor’s qualifications and independence, and the performance of the Company’s internal audit function and independent auditors. In addition, the Committee shall prepare the report required by the Securities and Exchange Commission rules to be included in the Company’s annual meeting proxy statement.

II. Organization

The Audit Committee will be comprised of three or more directors, as determined by the Board, each of whom shall satisfy the definition of independent director as defined in any qualitative listing requirements for Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. issuers and any applicable Securities and Exchange Commission rules and regulations. All members of the Audit Committee must be financially literate at time of appointment, meaning they must have the ability to read and understand fundamental financial statements, including the Company’s balance sheet, income statement and cash flow statement. In addition, at least one member of the Audit Committee shall have past employment 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 having been a chief executive officer, chief financial officer or other senior officer with oversight responsibilities. The members of the Audit Committee and the Chairperson of the Audit Committee will be elected by the Board on an annual basis.

III. Structure and Meetings

The Audit Committee shall meet four times per year, or more frequently as circumstances may require. A quorum of the Audit Committee shall be declared when a majority of the appointed members of the Audit Committee are in attendance. The Committee Chairperson shall preside at the meeting and, in consultation with other members of the Audit Committee, will set the frequency and length of each meeting and the agenda of the items to be addressed at each meeting. The Committee Chairperson shall ensure that the agenda for each meeting is circulated to each Audit Committee member in advance of the Meeting.

IV. Goals and Responsibilities

In carrying out its responsibilities, the Audit Committee believes its policies and procedures should remain flexible in order to best react to changing conditions and to ensure to

the directors and stockholders that the corporate accounting and reporting practices of the Company are in accordance with all requirements and are of the highest quality. To fulfill its responsibilities and duties the Audit Committee shall:

1. Provide an open avenue of communication between management, the independent auditor, internal audit department and the Board.
2. Meet with the independent auditors and management at least quarterly to review the Company's financial statements. In meetings attended by the independent auditors or by regulatory examiners, a portion of the meeting will be reserved for the Audit Committee to meet in closed session with these parties.
3. Keep written minutes for all meetings.
4. Review with the independent auditor and internal audit department the work to be performed by each to assure completeness of coverage, reduction of redundant efforts and the effective use of audit resources.
5. Review all significant risks or exposures to the Company found during audits performed by the independent auditor and internal audit department and ensure that these items are discussed with management. From these discussions, assess and report to the Board regarding how the findings should be addressed.
6. Review recommendations from the independent auditor and internal auditing department regarding internal controls and other matters relating to the accounting policies and procedures of the Company.
7. Following each meeting of the Audit Committee, the chairman of the committee will submit a record of the meeting to the Board including any recommendations that the Committee may deem appropriate.
8. Ensure that the independent auditor discusses with the Audit Committee their judgments about the quality, not just the acceptability, of the Company's accounting principles as applied in the financial reports. The discussion should include such issues as the clarity of the Company's financial disclosures and degree of aggressiveness or conservatism of the Company's accounting principles and underlying estimates and other significant decisions made by management in preparing the financial disclosures.
9. Review the Company's audited annual financial statements and the independent auditor's opinion regarding such financial statements, including a review of the nature and extent of any significant changes in accounting principles.
10. Arrange for the independent auditor to be available to the full Board at least annually to discuss the results of the annual audit and the audited financial statements that are a part of the annual report to stockholders.

11. Review with management, the independent auditor, internal audit department and legal counsel, legal and regulatory matters that may have a material impact on the financial statements.
12. Review with management and the independent auditor all interim financial reports filed pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
13. Generally discuss earnings press releases and financial information as well as earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies.
14. Select the independent auditor, considering independence and effectiveness, and be ultimately responsible for their compensation, retention and oversight (including resolution of disagreements between management and the auditor regarding financial reporting) for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or related work, and each such registered public accounting firm shall report directly to the audit committee. The Audit Committee should confirm the independence of the independent auditor by requiring them to disclose in writing all relationships that, in the auditor's professional judgment, may reasonably be thought to bear on the ability to perform the audit independently and objectively.
15. Review the performance of the independent auditor.
16. Review the activities, organizational structure and qualifications of the internal audit department. The Audit Committee should also review and concur in the appointment, replacement, reassignment, or dismissal of the manager of the internal audit department.
17. Have in place procedures for (1) receiving, retaining and treating complaints regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters, and (2) the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.
18. Approve, in advance, all permissible non-audit services to be completed by the independent auditor.
19. Set clear hiring policies for hiring employees or former employees of the independent auditors.
20. The Audit Committee shall review periodically, but no less frequently than quarterly, a summary of the Company's transactions with directors and executive officers of the Company and with firms that employ directors, as well as any other related person transactions, for the purpose of recommending to the disinterested members of the Board of Directors that the transactions are fair, reasonable and within Company policy and should be ratified and approved. "Related person" and "transaction" shall have the

meanings given to such terms in Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation S-K, Item 404, as amended from time to time.

21. Review with the Compliance Officer the company's compliance with federal laws and regulations.

V. Performance Evaluation and Disclosure Obligations

In addition to the responsibilities presented above, the Audit Committee will examine this Charter on an annual basis to assure that it remains adequate to address the responsibilities of the Audit Committee. Further, the Audit Committee will disclose in each annual proxy statement to its stockholders whether it satisfied the responsibilities during the prior year in compliance with the Charter, and will disclose a copy of the Charter once every three years either in the annual report to stockholders or proxy statement or provide a copy of the Charter on its website.

VI. Audit Committee Resources

The Audit Committee is authorized to retain independent counsel and other advisors as it deems necessary to carry out its duties. In connection therewith, the Audit Committee shall be provided appropriate funding, as determined by the Audit Committee, for payment to such counsel and other advisors. In addition, the Audit Committee shall be provided funding for ordinary administrative expenses of the Audit Committee.

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