



DIVISION OF
CORPORATION FINANCE

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

Mail Stop 4561

December 2, 2008

Samuel L. Neese
Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer
Highlands Bankshares, Inc.
P.O. Box 1128
Abingdon, VA 24212-1128

Re: Highlands Bankshares, Inc.
Revised Preliminary Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A
Filed November 24, 2008
File No. 000-27622

Dear Mr. Neese:

We have limited our review of your filing to those issues we have addressed in our comments. Where indicated, we think you should revise your document in response to these comments. If you disagree, we will consider your explanation as to why our comment is inapplicable or a revision is unnecessary. Please be as detailed as necessary in your explanation. In some of our comments, we may ask you to provide us with information so we may better understand your disclosure. After reviewing this information, we may raise additional comments.

Preliminary Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A

1. We previously issued a comment to you in which we indicated that, in preparing your disclosure, you should consider the need for financial statements and whether a sale of securities to the Treasury Department would have a material impact on your financial statements and evaluate whether pro forma financial statements are appropriate.

Where you expect the proceeds of the sale of securities to the Treasury Department to have a material impact on your balance sheet or income statement, our rules require you to provide pro forma statements that comply with Article 11 of Regulation S-X in your proxy statement. However, in our previous comment to you, we indicated that you could either provide pro forma financial statements or a textual discussion of the pro forma effect of the sale of securities to the Treasury Department.

In evaluating the impact of the potential sale of securities to the Treasury Department, you must consider the material effect of the transaction, including:

- how the application of the proceeds of the transaction may potentially effect your net interest margin;
- how the accretion and dividends on the preferred stock will impact the net income available to common shareholders; and
- how the transaction will impact your basic earnings per share, diluted earnings per share, and diluted shares outstanding.

Your assumptions regarding the use of proceeds from the transactions, such as an assumption regarding the pay down of existing debt or the investment of the proceeds in federal funds sold, must be factually supportable. You should consider only those plans for the proceeds that meet the factually supportable criteria.

Where you determine that the proceeds of the sale of securities to the Treasury Department will have a material impact on your balance sheet or income statement and elect to prepare and provide pro forma financial statements, you should include, in your proxy statement, a pro forma balance sheet for the most recent balance sheet date and a pro forma income statement for the most recent annual and interim periods that address the impact of both the minimum and maximum proceeds of the sale. If you choose to provide a textual discussion in lieu of pro forma financial statements, please address the minimum and maximum proceeds of the sale as well as the other items noted below.

In preparing pro forma financial statements, you should discuss any relevant assumptions you have made and you should briefly describe any pro forma adjustments such as your assumptions about interest savings on proceeds applied to pay down debt and interest income earned on proceeds invested. You should state that you used the treasury stock method for purposes of evaluating the effect of the warrants on diluted shares outstanding. You should also describe the methodologies you used to allocate the transaction process among the securities you may issue to the Treasury Department (relative fair value) and to accrete the discount on the preferred stock.

If you do not believe the sale of the securities to the Treasury Department will have a material impact on your balance sheet or income statement, provide us with your quantitative and qualitative analysis of your conclusion. In your analysis, discuss the impact to each of the items noted above as well as to total shareholders' equity and your capital ratios.

2. On page 5, under "Warrants," disclose the minimum and maximum number of warrants that will be issued.

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As appropriate, please amend your filing and respond to these comments within 10 business days or tell us when you will provide us with a response. You may wish to provide us with marked copies of the amendment to expedite our review. Please furnish a cover letter with your amendment that keys your responses to our comments and provides any requested information. Detailed cover letters greatly facilitate our review. Please understand that we may have additional comments after reviewing your amendment and responses to our comments.

We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filing to be certain that the filing includes all information required under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and that they have provided all information investors require for an informed investment decision. Since the company and its management are in possession of all facts relating to a company's disclosure, they are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosures they have made.

In connection with responding to our comments, please provide, in writing, a statement from the company acknowledging that:

- the company is responsible for the adequacy and accuracy of the disclosure in the filing;
- staff comments or changes to disclosure in response to staff comments do not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the filing; and
- the company may not assert staff comments as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States.

In addition, please be advised that the Division of Enforcement has access to all information you provide to the staff of the Division of Corporation Finance in our review of your filing or in response to our comments on your filing.

Please contact Matt McNair, Staff Attorney, at (202) 551-3583 or me at (202) 551-3418 with any questions.

Sincerely,

William C-L Friar
Senior Financial Analyst

cc: Robert M. Little, Jr.
FAX: (276) 619-2106