



Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

550 17th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20429-9990

Division of Supervision and Consumer Protection

September 2, 2005

VIA FACSIMILE AND CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Board of Trustees
Florence Savings Bank
85 Main Street
Florence, Massachusetts 01062

Dear Members of the Board:

The notice of intent to effect a mutual holding company reorganization with the organization of an interim institution and a merger to facilitate a conversion from a mutual to stock form filed on behalf of Florence Savings Bank (Bank) was reviewed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) pursuant to the FDIC's regulations at 12 C.F.R. Sections 303.160 – 303.163 and other pertinent FDIC regulations. Based on the information presented and the representations made, the FDIC poses no objection to the proposed conversion transaction.

Enclosed is our Order and Basis for Corporation Approval (Order) for the applications filed on behalf of the Bank in conjunction with the conversion transaction, including considerations of deposit insurance and the proposed merger. Our approval is subject to the conditions stated in the Order, some of which must be met on an ongoing basis.

As part of the notice, the Bank requested, in accordance with 12 C.F.R. Section 303.161(a)(2), waiver of certain provisions of the FDIC's regulations pertaining to mutual-to-stock conversions, specifically, the depositor vote requirement of 12 C.F.R. Section 333.4(c)(2). We have reviewed the Bank's request and have found that a sufficient number of independent incorporators voted in favor of the proposed conversion. Therefore, the Bank's request for a waiver is granted.

Please notify the Boston Area Office in writing when the proposed transaction has been consummated. If an extension of time limit included in the Order is required, a letter requesting a specific extension of the limitation, including reasons therefore, should be submitted to the Boston Area Office.

Sincerely,

/S/

John M. Lane
Deputy Director

Enclosure

cc: Kathleen Brown
Thacher Proffitt & Wood LLP
1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20006

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Florence Savings Bank
Florence, Hampshire County, Massachusetts

Application for Federal Deposit Insurance and Consent to Merge

ORDER AND BASIS FOR CORPORATION APPROVAL

Pursuant to Section 5 and Section 18(c) and other provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance (FDI) Act, an application has been filed on behalf of Florence Savings Bank, Florence, Massachusetts (Mutual Institution), currently a state-chartered, mutually-owned Bank Insurance Fund (BIF) member with total resources of \$846,599,000 and total deposits of \$619,913,000 as of June 30, 2005, for the FDIC's consent to merge with Florence Interim Stock Savings Bank, Florence, Massachusetts, a proposed new interim, state-chartered stock savings bank. In addition, applications have been filed for Federal deposit insurance for Florence De Novo Mutual Savings Bank (a *de novo* mutual savings bank to be subsequently organized into a mutual holding company) and Florence Interim Stock Savings Bank.

The transaction is to effect the Mutual Institution's plan of reorganization which, solely to facilitate such undertaking, provides for:

- Mutual Institution to organize a new *de novo* mutual savings bank under Massachusetts law to be known as Florence De Novo Interim Mutual Savings Bank.
- Florence De Novo Interim Mutual Savings Bank to reorganize its mutual savings bank to become a mutual holding company to be known as Florence Bancorp, MHC.
- Florence Bancorp, MHC to establish a Massachusetts stock corporation subsidiary to be known as Florence Interim Stock Savings Bank.
- Mutual Institution to immediately merge with and into Florence Interim Stock Savings Bank, under the name of Florence Savings Bank, but with the charter of the Florence Interim Stock Savings Bank surviving (Resultant Bank or Florence Savings Bank).

Upon consummation of the reorganization, the deposits of the Florence Savings Bank will continue to be insured under the BIF. On the effective date of the reorganization, Florence Savings Bank will be a stock bank that is wholly owned by Florence Bancorp, MHC. An application for the establishment of Florence Bancorp, MHC, has been filed with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Following consummation of the merger, Florence Savings Bank will operate the same banking business, with the same management, at the same locations now being served by the Mutual Institution. The proposed transaction, per se, will not alter the competitive structure of banking in the market served by the Mutual Institution. Florence Savings Bank's main office will continue to be located at 85 Main Street, Florence, Massachusetts.

Notice of the proposed transaction, in a form approved by the FDIC, has been published pursuant to the FDI Act. A review of available information, including the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Statement of the proponent, disclosed no inconsistencies with the purposes of the CRA. Florence Savings Bank is expected to continue to meet the credit needs of its entire community, consistent with the safe and sound operation of the institution.

In connection with the applications, the FDIC has taken into consideration the financial and managerial resources and future prospects of the proponent banks and the Resultant Bank, the convenience and needs of the community to be served, and the effectiveness of the Resultant Bank's efforts in combating money laundering activities. In connection with the applications for deposit insurance, the FDIC has taken into consideration the financial history and condition; adequacy of the capital structure; future earnings prospects; general character and fitness of management; risk to the insurance fund; convenience and needs of the community; and consistency of corporate powers. Having found favorably on all statutory factors and having considered other relevant information, including reports on the competitive factors furnished by the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Office of Thrift Supervision, and the Attorney General of the United States, it is the FDIC's judgment that the applications should be and hereby are approved, subject to the following conditions:

1. That, except for the proposed transfer of stock to Florence Bancorp MHC, no shares of the stock of Florence Savings Bank shall be sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of, to any person (including any Employee Stock Ownership Plan) unless prior notice is provided to, and non-objection is received from, the FDIC;
2. That, prior to a sale, transfer or other disposition of any shares of Florence Savings Bank by Florence Bancorp, MHC, to any person (including any Employee Stock Ownership Plan) or a conversion of Florence Bancorp, MHC, to stock form, Florence Savings Bank will provide written notification to the FDIC and provide the FDIC with copies of all documents filed with the state and Federal banking and/or securities regulators in connection with any sale, transfer, disposition or conversion;
3. That, should any shares of stock of Florence Savings Bank be issued to persons other than Florence Bancorp, MHC, any dividends waived by Florence Bancorp, MHC, must be retained by Florence Savings Bank and segregated, earmarked or otherwise identified on its books and records; such amounts must be taken into account in any valuation of the institution and factored into the calculation used in establishing a fair and reasonable basis for exchanging shares in any subsequent conversion of Florence Bancorp, MHC, to stock form; such amounts shall not be available for payment to or the value thereof transferred to minority shareholders, by any means including through dividend payments or at liquidation;
4. That, any change in proposed management, including the board of directors, will render this approval null and void unless such proposal is approved by the FDIC prior to the consummation of the proposed transaction;

5. That, the proposed transaction may not be consummated unless and until the Florence Savings Bank has the authority to conduct a banking business, and that its establishment and operation as a stock savings bank have been fully approved by appropriate Commonwealth of Massachusetts officials, and its holding company, Florence Bancorp, MHC, is granted approval by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to become the holding company for Florence Savings Bank;
6. That, the transaction shall not be consummated sooner than fifteen calendar days after the date of this Order nor later than six months after the date of this Order, unless such period is extended for good cause by the FDIC; and
7. That, until the proposed transaction is consummated, the FDIC shall have the right to alter, suspend, or withdraw its approval should any interim development be deemed to warrant such action.

Pursuant to the delegated authority of the Board of Directors.

Dated at Washington, D.C. this 2nd day of September, 2005.

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John M. Lane
Deputy Director
Division of Supervision and Consumer Protection