

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS**

Appeal from Dorchester County
Court of Common Pleas
James E. Chellis, Master-in-Equity

Case No. 2016-CP-18-01812
Appellate Case No. 2020-001029

David Hannemann,
as President of the Live
Oak Village Homeowner's
Association, Inc.,

Respondent,

v.

William McFarland,

Appellant.

**APPENDIX TO
APPELLANT'S PETITION FOR REVIEW
OF LOWER COURT RULING
REGARDING AUTOMATIC STAY UNDER RULE 241, SCACR**

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SC Court of Appeals

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
)
 COUNTY OF DORCHESTER)
 David Hannemann, as President of the) C/A No. 2016-CP-18- 1812
 Live Oak Village Homeowner's)
 Association, Inc.,)
)
) *Plaintiff,*) **COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY**
) **JUDGMENT**
) (Non-Jury)
)
 Versus)
)
 William McFarland,)
)
) *Defendant.*)

2016 SEP -9 PM 4:50
 DORCHESTER COUNTY

Plaintiff David Hannemann, as President of the Live Oak Village Homeowner's Association, Inc., brings this action against Defendant William McFarland based on the allegations set forth below.

Parties

1. Plaintiff is a citizen and resident of Dorchester County, South Carolina.
2. Defendant William McFarland is a citizen and resident of Dorchester County, South Carolina.

Jurisdiction and Venue

3. The Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over the claims of this lawsuit under Article V, § 11 of the South Carolina Constitution and South Carolina Code § 14-5-350 (2016).
4. The Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendant because he resides in Dorchester County, South Carolina.
5. Venue is proper in this circuit court under South Carolina Code § 15-7-30 (2016) because the Defendant resides in Dorchester County, South Carolina.

Facts

6. The neighborhood of Live Oak Village is located in Summerville, South Carolina. The neighborhood association for this development, the Live Oak Village Homeowner's Association, Inc. was incorporated in 2002 (hereinafter, the "Association").

7. Sections 11 through 15 of the Association's Articles of Incorporation ("Articles") provide for an elected Board of Directors and officers to govern the organization's activities. Pursuant to Section 11 of the Articles, the Board of Directors of the Association shall elect its officers. The Articles are attached to this Complaint as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

8. The By-Laws of the Association ("By-Laws") provide additional structure for the functions and governance of the Board of Directors and officers of the corporation. Section 4 of the By-Laws provides that the Board of Directors shall govern the affairs of the Association, and that one of the three members of the Board of Directors shall be elected annually for a three-year term. The election of members of the Board of Directors must occur at the Association's annual meeting or at a meeting called for that purpose. By-Laws § 4(B). Section 5 of the By-Laws describes the requirements for Board meetings and quorum. The By-Laws are attached to this Complaint as Exhibit B and incorporated herein by reference.

9. Section 6 of the By-Laws identifies the powers and duties of the Board of Directors, including the duty to manage the fiscal affairs of the Association. Particularly, the Board of Directors shall prepare a budget, levy assessments and apply the proceeds of assessments in furtherance of the Board's duties. By-Laws § 6(A)(1). Additionally, the Board of Directors has a duty to cause to be kept a complete

record of all its acts and corporate affairs. By-Laws § 6(B)(1). Finally, the Board of Directors has the duty to establish annual assessments, to notify lot owners of the assessments, and to collect the assessment at monthly or other reasonable intervals. By-Laws §§ 6(B)(4) through 6(B)(7).

10. The By-Laws also provide that the President of the Association shall be a member of the Board of Directors and shall be elected annually. By-Laws § 7(A). The President shall have all the powers and duties which are usually vested in the office of the president of an association. By-Laws § 7(B).

11. Section 8 of the By-Laws describes with greater specificity the duties of the Board of Directors with respect to fiscal management. Such duties include the maintenance of an assessment roll for each lot within the Association as well as the creation and adoption of a budget for each fiscal year. By-Laws §§ 8(A) and 8(B). The Board of Directors shall determine the method of payment and due date for assessments, and must notify the members of the Association of the same. By-Laws § 8(C). Finally, the By-Laws require the Board to maintain a bank account for the monies collected from assessments:

“The depository of the Association shall be such bank or banks as shall be designed from time to time by the directors and in which the monies of the Association shall be deposited. Withdrawal of monies from such accounts shall be only by checks signed by such persons as are authorized by the directors.”

By-Laws § 8(C).

12. Section 14 of the By-Laws sets forth rules associated with annual and special assessments of the Association. Particularly, Section 14(C) states “It shall be the duty of the Board . . . to prepare and adopt a budget covering the estimated Common Expenses during the coming year”

13. On or about March 2009 the Defendant was elected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term. The Defendant was subsequently elected President of the Association. On or about October 4, 2012, the Board of Directors held a special meeting and voted to remove the Defendant as President of the Association and elect the Plaintiff to this position. The special meeting was properly noticed and a quorum was present. Thus, the Defendant's term as a member of the Board of Directors expired on or about October 4, 2012.

14. On or about November 16, 2012, the Plaintiff and the Secretary of the Board of Directors were sued by several members of the Association regarding actions taken by the then-elected Board.

15. In 2013, the Plaintiff and the Secretary of the Board filed a countersuit to the lawsuit.

16. The parties in both actions submitted motions for summary judgment. The court granted summary judgment in favor of the Plaintiff and the Secretary of the Board in or around March 2015.

17. The opposing parties appealed the order granting summary judgment in the original action against the Plaintiff.

18. The opposing parties also filed an additional suit against the Plaintiff for libel and slander in or around July 2015.

19. To date, the appeal of the 2012 action remains pending on appeal, and the Defendant has incorrectly maintained that any subsequent elections for positions on the Board of Directors or for officers of the Association must be stayed. This position is contrary to the Articles and By-Laws of the Association.

20. On or about May 17, 2015, the Association held its annual meeting. The meeting was properly noticed, and a quorum was present. Pursuant to the By-Laws, the Association held elections for a new Board of Directors, and the Plaintiff was elected one of the new members of the Board of Directors. An affidavit attesting to the validity of the meeting and the election of the Board of Directors, signed by the Association's attorney Capers G. Barr, IV, Esquire, is attached as Exhibit C and incorporated herein by reference.

21. On or about May 29, 2015, the Board of Directors met to elect officers for the 2015-2016 year. The meeting was duly noticed and a quorum was present. In accordance to the By-Laws, the Plaintiff was elected President of the Association.

22. In spite of these valid actions, the Defendant has willfully refused to acknowledge the authority properly vested in the Board of Directors elected on May 17, 2015 or the officers elected May 29, 2015.

23. On or about April 25, 2016, the Association held its annual meeting. The meeting was properly noticed, and a quorum was present. Pursuant to the By-Laws, the Donna Knight was duly elected to serve a three year term on the Board of Directors. A letter summarizing the actions taken to notice the meeting, along with a summary of the actions taken at the meeting, was sent to all members of the Association by the Association's attorney, Capers G. Barr, IV, Esquire, on May 5, 2016. This letter is attached as Exhibit D and incorporated herein by reference.

24. On or about May 20, 2016, in accordance with the By-Laws and the Articles of the Association, the Board of Directors met for the purpose of electing its officers for the 2016-2017 year. During this meeting, the Plaintiff was again elected President of the Association.

25. On or about May 31, 2016 the Plaintiff requested that the Defendant turn over the records of the Association, including the Association's bank information and checkbook, as he no longer was an elected officer of the Association.

26. In spite of this demand, the Defendant has refused to turn over the Association's records, bank information, and checkbook.

27. Despite the Plaintiff's rightful election as President of the Association, the Defendant has refused to recognize the Plaintiff's authority and has continued to act as if he were President of the Association. By way of example:

- a. On or about April 25, 2016, the Defendant, acting without authority, submitted invoices for the Association's annual assessment to all of its members;
- b. On or about June 20, 2016, the Defendant, acting without authority, submitted an accounting of expenses from the 2015-2016 year, including an Assessment Roll evidencing that the Defendant had improperly collected assessments from Association members for the 2016-2017 year.

28. The Defendant has, under the guise of continuing as President of the Association, notified members of assessments and collected the same. The Plaintiff believes that the proceeds from these assessments were deposited into the bank account of the Association over which the Defendant has improperly retained control.

29. The Defendant's refusal to turn over the corporate records, bank information, and checkbook of the Association is without reason and designed for the sole purpose of interfering with Plaintiff's ability to perform his duties as President.

30. The Plaintiff fears that, without the corporate records, bank information, and checkbook of the Association he will be unable to fully perform his official duties, unnecessarily exposing him to increased risk of future lawsuits in relation to the performance of his duties.

FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
Declaratory Judgment

31. The Plaintiff incorporates all of the above allegations into this cause of action as if repeated herein verbatim.

32. Under South Carolina law, the Court has the power to declare rights, status, and other legal relations whether or not further relief is or could be claimed. S.C. Code § 15-53-20 (2016).

33. Under the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Live Oak Village Homeowner's Association, Plaintiff has a duty to manage the fiscal affairs of the Association and is entitled to the documents necessary to achieve this purpose.

34. The Plaintiff prays that the Court issue a declaration that he is the rightfully elected President of the Association, and in this capacity is entitled to the corporate records, bank information, and checkbook of the Live Oak Village Homeowner's Association, Inc.

35. The Plaintiff is further entitled, pursuant to S.C. Code § 15-53-120, to an order compelling Defendant McFarland to turn over the entirety of the corporate records, bank information, and checkbook of the Association to Plaintiff, immediately and without further delay.

FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
Attorney's Fees and Costs

36. Section 15(D) of the By-Laws provides that each owner shall strictly comply with the By-Laws, rules, and regulations of the Association, and any owner's failure to comply with the same shall be grounds for imposing fines, suspending voting rights, or for instituting legal action. Further, Section 15(D) of the By-Laws states, "Should the Declarant or the Association employ legal counsel to enforce any of the

foregoing, all costs incurred with such enforcement, including court costs and reasonable attorneys fees, shall be paid by the violating Owner.”

37. The Defendant has failed to comply with the By-Laws of the Association by willfully refusing to recognize the rightful election of the Plaintiff as President of the Association; by fraudulently continuing to act as if he retained the same authority of President of the Association; by falsely representing to other members of the Association that he possessed such authority; and by refusing to turn over the corporate records, bank information, and checkbook of the Association to the Plaintiff.

38. The Plaintiff has been forced to initiate the present legal action to correct these wrongs and properly perform his duties as President of the Association.

39. In light of these instances of non-compliance, as well as others which may be discovered during the course of this litigation, the Plaintiff is entitled to compensation from the Defendant for all reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred by the Plaintiff in relation to this action.

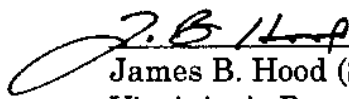
WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays that this Honorable Court inquire into these matters and issue an Order declaring that:

- a. The Plaintiff is the rightfully-elected President of the Live Oak Village Homeowner's Association, Inc.;
- b. In his capacity as President, the Plaintiff is entitled to possession of the corporate records, bank information, and checkbook of the Live Oak Village Homeowner's Association, Inc.; and
- c. The Defendant has a duty to turn over the corporate records, bank information, and checkbook of the Live Oak Village Homeowner's Association, Inc., to Plaintiff immediately;
- d. The Defendant must turn over the corporate records, bank information, and checkbook of the Live Oak Village Homeowner's Association, Inc., to Plaintiff immediately,

- e. Any failure to immediately turn over the corporate records, bank information, and checkbook to Plaintiff is a breach of Defendant; duty as a former officer of the Live Oak Village Homeowner's Association, Inc.;
- f. The Plaintiff is entitled to attorney's fees from Defendant for the costs of bringing this action pursuant to S.C. Code § 15-53-100 (2016); and
- g. The Plaintiff is entitled to any further relief, declaratory or otherwise, as the Court deems necessary and proper.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Attorneys for the Plaintiff
David Hannemann, as President of the Live
Oak Village Homeowner's Association, Inc.

9/8, 2016
Charleston, South Carolina

EXHIBIT "C"

LIVE OAK VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

2016-SEP-9 PM 4:50
 PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

1. INTRODUCTION

These are the By-laws of Live Oak Village Homeowners Association, Inc., a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of South Carolina (herein-after called "the Association"), which is organized for the purpose of managing the business of the homeowners association for the community known as Live Oak Village Subdivision in Dorchester County, South Carolina. The Subdivision (the "Subdivision") is identified more particularly in the stated Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions for the Subdivision for which these By-laws are attached as Exhibit "C" to the Declaration. The developer of this Subdivision is the Declarant, Oak Village Development, LLC, referred to as "Declarant".

- (A) The provisions of these By-laws are applicable to any and all land subject to the Declaration, and the terms and provisions of these By-laws are expressly subject to the effect of the terms, provisions, conditions, and authorizations contained in the Declaration. The terms and provisions of the Declaration shall be controlling wherever and whenever, if ever, they are or may be in conflict with these By-laws.
- (B) All present or future co-owners, tenants, future tenants, or their employees, invitees, licensees, or any other person that might use the lands of the Subdivision, or any of the facilities thereof in any manner, are subject to the regulations set forth in these By-laws and in the Declaration, as either, or both, may be amended or supplemented from time to time.
- (C) The office of the Association shall be: OAK VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT, LLC., 1413 Eagle Landing Blvd. Hanahan, SC 29408 or at any other place at the Board of Directors of the Association may designate from time to time.
- (D) The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31 of each year, unless changed by the Board of Directors of the Association as herein provided .
- (E) The seal of the Association shall bear the name of the Association and the words "South Carolina" .
- (F) There shall be no dividends or profits paid to any members nor shall any part of the income of the Association be distributed to its Board of Directors or officers. In the event there are any excess receipts over disbursements as a result of performing services, such excess shall be applied against future expenses, etc. The Association shall not pay compensation to its members, directors or officers for services rendered. At anyone time, the Board may retain a management firm, and may contract with said firm to provide management for the Association and its subordinate regimes, or operator owned/controlled property, to include, but not be limited to, the following services:
- (1) financial services;
 - (2) administrative and clerical services; and
 - (3) maintenance, to include providing of goods, materials, labor and equipment, personnel supervision, contract labor, landscaping, and security.

Upon final dissolution and liquidation, the Association may make distribution to its members as is permitted by law or any Court having jurisdiction thereof, and no such payment, benefit or distribution shall be deemed to be a dividend or distribution of income.

This Association shall issue no shares of stock of any kind or nature whatsoever. Membership in the Association and the transfer of that membership as well as the number of members/voles shall be in accordance with the terms and



conditions of the Declaration and the By-laws of the Association, and the voting rights of the Owners shall be as set forth in the Declaration and/or these By-laws of the Association.

2. MEMBERSHIP, VOTING, QUORUM, PROXIES

- (A) All persons who are Owners as defined in the Declaration shall be members of this Association, provided, however, that no non-owner, tenant, sub-lessee, or assign shall be a member, nor have voting rights in this Association. The rights and privileges of membership, including the right to vote and to hold an office in the Association, may be exercised by a member or a member's spouse, but in no event shall more than one (1) vote be cast or more than one (1) office held for each Lot. The foregoing is not intended to include Mortgagees or any other persons who hold an interest merely as security for the performance of an obligation, and the giving of a security interest shall not terminate or otherwise affect an Owner's membership in the Association. Notwithstanding any of the foregoing to the contrary, no Owner, whether one or more persons, shall have more than one membership/vote per Lot. Any membership shall automatically terminate when an Owner, as defined herein, is no longer seized and vested with title to any real property within the Subdivision, and membership and/or voting rights in the Association shall be limited to such Owners.
- (B) The quorum at members meetings shall consist of persons entitled to cast or proxy entitled to cast one-half (1/2) of the votes of the membership. The joinder of a member in the action of a meeting by signing and concurring in the minutes thereof shall constitute the presence of such person for the purpose of determining a quorum.
- (C) The vote of the Owners of a Lot owned by more than one person or by a corporation or other entity shall be cast by the person named in a certificate or appropriate resolution signed by all of the Owners of the Lot and filed with the Secretary of the Association, and such certificate or resolution shall be valid until revoked by subsequent certificate or resolution. If such a certificate is not on file, the vote of such Owners shall not be considered in determining the requirement for a quorum, nor for any other purpose.
- (D) Votes may be cast in person or by proxy. Proxies must be filed with the Secretary before the appointed time of the meeting for which their use is sought.
- (E) Approval or disapproval of an Owner upon any matters, whether or not the subject of an Association meeting, shall be by the same person who casts the vote of such Owner in an Association meeting.
- (F) Except where otherwise required under the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation of the Association, these By-laws, the Declaration, or where the same may otherwise be required by law, the affirmative vote of the Owners holding at least a majority of the total votes cast at a meeting at which a quorum is present, shall be binding upon the members/Owners.

3. ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERSHIP

- (A) The annual members meeting shall be held at the office of the Association or such other place as may be designated by the Board of Directors, on the first Wednesday in March of each year or at such other time as shall be designated by the Board of Directors, for the purpose of transacting any business authorized to be transacted by the members. The first annual meeting shall be held in 2002.
- (B) Special members meetings shall be held whenever called by the President or Vice President, by a majority of the Board of Directors, or upon written request of the members who are entitled to vote one-fourth (1/4) of all votes of the membership, and must be called by such officers upon receipt of a written request from the members of the Association owning a majority of the outstanding votes.

- (C) Notice of all members meetings, regular or special, shall be given by the President, Vice President or Secretary of the Association, or other officers of the Association in the absence of said officers, to each member, unless waived in writing, such notice to be written or printed and to state the time and place and object for which the meeting is called. Such notice shall be given to each member not less than ten (10) days nor more than sixty (60) days prior to the date set for such meeting, which notice shall be mailed or presented personally to each member within said time. If presented personally, receipt of such notice shall be signed by the member, indicating the date on which such notice was received by him or her. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed properly given when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the member at his or her post office address as it appears on the records of the Association, the postage thereon prepaid. Proof of such mailing shall be given by the affidavit of the person giving the notice. Any member may, by written waiver of notice signed by such member, waive such notice, and such waiver, when filed in the records of the Association, whether before or after the holding of the meeting, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice to such member. The presence at the meeting of members entitled to cast or proxy entitled to cast one-half (1/2) of the votes in each class of membership shall constitute a quorum for any action except as otherwise provided in the Articles of Incorporation or the Declaration of these By-laws. If any members meeting cannot be organized because a quorum has not been attained, or because the greater percentage of the membership required to constitute a quorum for particular purposes has not attended, whenever the latter percentage of attendance may be required as set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation, these By-laws or the Declaration, the members who are present, either in person or by proxy, may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum, or the required percentage of attendance if greater than a quorum, is present.
- (D) At meetings of membership, the President shall preside or, in the absence of the President, the membership may select a chairman in the event that the Board does not designate an acting President or presiding officer for any such meeting.
- (E) The order of business at annual members meetings, and, as far as practical, at any other members meeting, shall be:
- (1) Calling of the roll and certifying proxies
 - (2) Proof of notice of meeting or waiver of notice
 - (3) Reading of minutes
 - (4) Reports of officers
 - (5) Reports of committees
 - (6) Unfinished business
 - (7) New business
 - (8) Adjournment

4. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(A) **Governing Body; Composition**

The affairs of the Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors. Until the first annual meeting of the members, the affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Board of two (2) directors selected by the Declarants. Thereafter, the affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Board of three (3) directors elected as provided herein.

(B) **Term of Office**

At the annual meeting to be held in the calendar year 2002, the members shall elect one (1) director for a term of one (1) year, one (1) director for a term of two (2) years and one (1) director for a term of three (3) years, and at each annual meeting thereafter, Owners and members shall elect one (1) director for a

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term of three (3) years. The directors shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast by members at the meeting called for said purpose. In voting for directors, the membership shall have the number of votes set out in Section 3.4 of the Declaration.

(C) Removal

Any director may be removed from the Board, with or without cause, by a vote of the members holding at least a majority of the votes in the Association. In the event of death, resignation or removal of a director, his successor shall be selected by the remaining members of the Board and shall serve for the unexpired term of his predecessor.

(D) Compensation

No director shall receive compensation for any service he may render to the Association. However, any director may be reimbursed for his actual expenses incurred in the performance of his duties.

(E) Action Taken Without a Meeting

The directors shall have the right to take any action in the absence of a meeting of the directors which they could take at a meeting by obtaining the written approval of all the directors. Any action so approved shall have the same effect as though taken at a meeting of the directors.

5. MEETING OF DIRECTORS

(A) Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held monthly without notice, at such place and hour as may be fixed from time to time by resolution of the Board. Should said meeting fall upon a legal holiday, then that meeting shall be held at the same time on the next day which is not a legal holiday.

(B) Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held when called by the President of the Association, or by any two (2) directors, after not less than three (3) days notice to each director mailed or presented personally to such director within such time.

(C) Quorum

A majority of the number of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Every act or decision done or made by a majority of the directors present at a duly held meeting at which a quorum is present shall be regarded as the act of the Board.

If any director's meeting cannot be organized because a quorum has not attended, or because the greater percentage of the directors required to constitute a quorum for particular purposes has not attended, wherever the latter percentage of attendance may be required as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation, these By-laws or the Declaration, the directors who are present may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum, or the required percentage of attendance is greater than a quorum, is present. At any adjourned meeting, any business which might have been transacted at the meeting as originally called may be transacted without further notice. The joinder of a director in the action of a meeting by signing and concurring in the minutes thereof shall constitute the presence of such director for the purpose of determining a quorum.

6. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(A) Powers

The Board of Directors shall manage and direct the affairs of the Association and may exercise all of the powers of the Association subject only to approval by the Owners, as designated and defined in the Declaration, when such is specifically required by these By-laws. The Board of Directors shall exercise such duties and responsibilities as shall be incumbent upon it by law, the Declaration or these By-laws, or as it may deem necessary or appropriate in the exercise of its powers and shall include, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following:

- (1) To prepare and adopt a budget, make, levy and collect assessments against members and members Lots to defray the cost of the Common Areas and facilities of the Subdivision, and to use the proceeds of said assessments in the exercise of the powers and duties granted unto the Association;
- (2) To carry out the maintenance, care, upkeep, repair, replacement, operation, surveillance and the management of the Common Areas, Recreational Amenities, services and facilities of the Subdivision wherever the same is required to be done and accomplished by the Association for the benefit of its members;
- (3) To carry out the reconstruction of improvements after casualty and the further improvement of the property, real and personal;
- (4) To make and amend regulations governing the use of the Property, real and personal, in the Subdivision so long as such regulations or amendments thereto do not conflict with the restrictions and limitations which may be placed upon the use of such Property under the terms of the Declaration;
- (5) To acquire, operate, lease, manage and otherwise trade and deal with Property, real and personal, including Lots in the Subdivision, as may be necessary or convenient in the operation and management of the Association, except those which may be required by the Declaration to have approval of the membership of the Association;
- (6) To enforce by legal means the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws of the Association, the Declaration and the regulations hereinafter promulgated governing use of the property in the Subdivision;
- (7) To pay all taxes and assessments which are liens against any part of the Subdivision other than Lots and the appurtenances thereto, and to assess the same against the members and their respective Lots subject to such liens;
- (8) To carry insurance for the protection of the Subdivision the members of the Association, and the Association against casualty, liability and other risks;
- (9) To pay all costs of power, water, sewer and other utility services rendered to the Association and not billed to the Owners of the separate Lots;
- (10) To employ personnel for reasonable compensation to perform the services required for proper administration of the purposes of the Association as well as to dismiss said personnel;
- (11) To adopt and publish rules and regulations governing the use of the Common Areas and facilities of the Association, and the personal conduct of the members and their guests thereon, and to establish penalties for the infraction thereof;
- (12) To suspend the voting rights and right to use of the Common Areas and facilities of a member during any period in which such member shall be in default in the payment of any assessment levied by the Association. Such rights may also be suspended after notice and hearing, for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days for infraction of published rules and regulations;
- (13) To exercise for the Association all powers, duties and authority vested in or delegated to this Association by the Declaration and not reserved to the membership by other provisions of these By-laws, or the Certificate of Incorporation;

- (14) To declare the office of a member of the Board of Directors to be vacant in the event such member shall be absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the Board of Directors;
- (15) To employ a manager, a managing agent, an independent contractor, or such other employees or agents as they deem necessary, and to prescribe their duties; and
- (16) To make special assessments to the extent provided in the Declaration and these By-laws.

(B) Duties

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to:

- (1) Cause to be kept a complete record of all its acts and corporate affairs and to present a statement thereof to the members at the annual meeting of the members, or at any special meeting when such statement is requested in writing by one fourth (1/4) of the Class A Members who are entitled to vote;
- (2) Supervise all officers, agents and employees of the Association, and to see that their duties are properly performed;
- (3) Establish a fiscal year;
- (4) Establish the annual assessment period and fix the amount of the annual assessment against each member for each Lot owned, at least thirty (30) days in advance of each annual assessment;
- (5) Establish the initial deposit to be made by each member in order to bring his total assessment deposit to the level required to meet his proportional share of the Common Expense;
- (6) Send written notice of each assessment to every Lot Owner, at least thirty (30) days in advance to each annual assessment period, and levy all such assessments as liens;
- (7) Collect all such assessments at monthly or other regular intervals as may be determined at its discretion;
- (8) Foreclose the lien against any property for which assessments are not paid within thirty (30) days after due date or to bring an action at law against the Owner personally obligated to pay the same;
- (9) Issue, or to cause an appropriate officer to issue, upon demand by any person, a Certificate setting forth whether or not any assessment has been paid. A reasonable charge may be made by the Board for the issuance of these certificates. If a certificate states an assessment has been paid, such certificate shall be conclusive evidence of such payment;
- (10) Procure and maintain liability and fire and other hazard insurance on property owned by the Association;
- (11) Cause all officers or employees having fiscal responsibilities to be bonded, as it may deem appropriate;
- (12) Cause all of the facilities to be maintained;
- (13) Have a management agent for any of the above; and
- (14) Procure and maintain officers and directors liability insurance as it may deem appropriate.

(C) Meeting Location

Notwithstanding anything contained in these By-laws to the contrary, any meeting of members of directors may be held at any place within or without the State of South Carolina.

(D) Actions without Meetings

To the extent now or from time to time hereafter permitted by the law of South Carolina, the directors may take any action which they might take at a meeting of directors without a record of any such action so taken, signed by each director, to be retained in the Association's minute book and given equal dignity by all persons with the minutes of meetings led and held.

(E) Indemnity

The Association shall indemnify every director and every officer, their heirs, executors and administrators, against all loss, damages, costs or expenses of any type reasonably incurred by him in connection with any action, suit, or proceeding to which he is made a party by reason of his being or having been a director or officer of the Association, except as to such matters wherein shall be finally adjudged liable of gross negligence or willful misconduct. The Board may obtain for the Association directors and officers liability insurance coverage in such amounts as the Board deems necessary and appropriate.

7. OFFICERS

- (A) The executive officers of the Association shall be the President and Secretary, who shall be directors; a Vice President; and a Treasurer, all of whom shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors and who may be peremptorily removed by vote of the directors at any meeting. The Board of Directors shall from time to time elect such other officers and designate their powers and duties as the Board shall find to be required to manage the affairs of the Association.
- (B) The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association. The President shall have all the powers and duties which are usually vested in the office of the President of an association, including, but not limited to, the power to appoint committees from among the members from time to time, as the President may in the President's discretion determine appropriate, to assist in the conduct of the affairs of the Association.
- (C) Any Vice President, unless the majority may select a presiding officer, shall, in the absence or disability of the President, exercise the powers and perform the duties of President. He shall also generally assist the President and exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as shall be prescribed by the directors.
- (D) The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all proceedings of the directors and the members. He shall attend to the giving and serving of all notices to the members and directors, and such other notices required by law. He shall have custody of the seal of the Association and affix the same to instruments requiring a seal when duly signed. He shall keep the records of the Association, except those of the Treasurer, and shall perform all other duties incident to the office of Secretary of an association and as may be required by the directors or President. The Assistant Secretary shall perform the duties of Secretary when the Secretary is absent.
- (E) The Treasurer shall have custody of all of the property of the Association, including funds, securities and evidences of indebtedness. He shall keep the assessment rolls and accounts of members; he shall keep the books of the Association in accordance with good accounting practices; and he shall perform all other duties incident to the office of Treasurer.
- (F) The compensation of all officers and employees of the Association shall be fixed by the directors. This provision shall not preclude the Board of Directors from employing a director as an employee of the Association, nor preclude the contracting with a director for management of the Association.

8. FISCAL MANAGEMENT

The provisions for fiscal management of the Association set forth both in these By-laws and in the Declaration shall be supplemented and complimented by the following provisions:

- (A) The assessment roll shall be maintained in a set of accounting books in which there shall be an account for each Lot; for each subordinate regime; and for those developer-owned entities. Such an account shall designate the name and address of the Owner(s) or ownership/control entity, the amount of each

assessment against each category set forth immediately hereinabove, the dates and amount in which assessments come due, the amounts paid upon the account and the balance due upon assessments.

- (B) The Board of Directors shall adopt a budget for each fiscal year which shall contain estimates of the cost of performing the functions of the Association, including, but not limited to, the following items:
- (1) Common Expense budget, which shall include without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the estimated amounts necessary for maintenance, repair and/or replacement of: (a) all buildings and other improvements located within the Association's Common Areas; (b) all roads (not dedicated to the public), walks, lagoons, ponds, landscaped areas/natural areas and other improvements situated within the Common Areas or within easements encumbering Lots; (c) such security systems, utility lines, pipes, plumbing, wires, conduits and related systems which are a part of the service district, public or private utility or other person; (d) all lawns, trees, shrubs, hedges, grass and other landscaping situated within the Subdivision (but not on Lots) as it may be constituted from time to time; and (e) all maintenance of landscape and/or buffer easements; and
 - (2) Proposed Assessments against each member. Copies of the proposed budget and proposed Assessments shall be transmitted to each member at least thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the fiscal year for which the budget is made. If the budget is subsequently amended before the assessments are made, a copy of the amended budget shall be furnished each member concerned. Delivery of a copy of any budget or amended budget to each member shall not affect the liability of any member for any such assessment, nor shall delivery of a copy of such budget or amended budget be considered as a condition precedent to the effectiveness of said budget and assessments levied pursuant thereto, and nothing herein contained shall be construed as restricting the right of the Board of Directors to at any time in their sole discretion levy an additional Assessment in the event that the budget originally adopted shall appear to be insufficient to pay costs and expenses of operation and management, or in the event of emergencies.
- (C) The Board of Directors shall determine the method of payment of such Assessments and the due dates thereof and shall notify the members thereof. The Assessments will initially be on an annual basis unless changed by a vote of the majority of the Board of Directors.
- (D) The depository of the Association shall be such bank or banks as shall be designed from time to time by the directors and in which the monies of the Association shall be deposited. Withdrawal of monies from such accounts shall be only by checks signed by such persons as are authorized by the directors.
- (E) An audit of the accounts of the Association may be made annually and a copy of the report shall be furnished to each member not later than ninety (90) days after the last day of the fiscal year for which the report is made.
- (F) Fidelity bonds may be required by the Board of Directors from all officers and employees of the Association and from any contractor handling or responsible for Association funds. The amount of such bonds shall be determined by the directors, but shall be at least one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) the amount of the total annual assessments against members for common expenses. The premiums on such bonds shall be paid by the Association.

9. PHYSICAL MANAGEMENT

Except as may be herein otherwise specifically provided, the Association shall maintain and keep in good repair and have jurisdiction over the standards of exterior maintenance over all portions of the Common Areas and all Lots, which

responsibility shall include the maintenance, repair and/or replacement of: (i) all buildings and improvements located within the Association's Common Areas; (ii) all roads, walks, lagoons, ponds, landscaped areas, natural areas and other improvements situated within the Common Areas or within easements encumbering Lots; (iii) such security systems and utility lines, pipes, plumbing, wires, conduits and related systems which are a part of the Common Areas and which are not maintained by a public authority, public service district, public or private utility or other person; and (iv) all lawns, trees, shrubs, hedges, grass and other landscaping situated within the Subdivision (but not on Lots) as it may be constituted from time to time. The Association shall not be liable for injury or damage to any person or property (a) caused by the elements or by any Owner or any other person, (b) resulting from any rain or other surface water which may leak or flow from any portion of the Common Areas, or (c) caused by any pipe, plumbing, drain, conduit, appliance, equipment, security system or utility line or facility, the responsibility for the maintenance of which is not that of the Association, becoming out of repair. Nor shall the Association be liable to any Owner for loss or damage, by theft or otherwise, of any property of such Owner which may be stored or left in or upon any portion of the Common Areas or any other portion of the Property. No diminution or abatement of Assessments or charges shall be claimed or allowed by reason of any alleged failure of the Association to take some action or to perform some function required to be taken or performed by the Association under the Declaration, or for inconvenience or discomfort arising from the making of improvements or repairs which are the responsibility of the Association, or from any action taken by the Association to comply with any law, ordinance, or with any order or directive of any municipal or other governmental authority, the obligation to pay such Assessments and charges being a separate and independent covenant on the part of each Owner.

In the event that the Declarants or the Board of Directors determines that: (i) any owner has failed or refused to discharge properly his or its obligations with regard to the maintenance, cleaning, repair or replacement of items for which he or it is responsible hereunder; or (ii) that the need for maintenance, cleaning, repair or replacement which is the responsibility of the Association hereunder is caused through the willful or negligent act of an Owner, his family, tenants, guests or invitees, and is not covered or paid for by insurance in whole or in part, then in either event, the Declarants or the Association, except in the event of an emergency situation, may give such Owner written notice of Declarants's or the Association's intent to provide such necessary maintenance, cleaning, repairs or replacement, at the sole cost and expense of such Owner, and cleaning, repairs or replacement deemed necessary. Except in the event of emergency situations, such Owner shall have fifteen (15) days within which to complete the same in good and workmanlike manner, or if replacement is not capable of completion within said fifteen (15) day period, to commence said maintenance, cleaning, repair or replacement and diligently proceed to complete the same in good and workmanlike manner. In the event of emergency situations or the failure of any Owner to comply with the provisions hereof after such notice, the Declarants or the Association may provide (but shall not have the obligation to so provide) any such maintenance, cleaning, repair or replacement at the sole cost and expense of such Owner and said cost shall be added to and become a part of the Assessment to which such Owner and his Lot are subject and shall become a lien against such Lot and shall become a lien against such Owner's Lot. In the event that Declarants undertakes such maintenance, cleaning, repair or replacement, the Association shall promptly reimburse Declarants for Declarants's costs and expenses.

10. PARLIAMENTARY RULES

Roberts Rules of Order (latest edition) shall govern the conduct of corporate proceedings when not in conflict with the Articles of Incorporation and these By-laws or with the statutes of the State of South Carolina.

11. AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

Amendments to these By-laws shall be proposed and adopted in the following manner:

- (A) Amendments to these By-laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors of the Association acting upon vote of the majority of the directors or by members of the Association holding one-fourth (1/4) of the members in the Association, whether meeting as members or by instrument in writing signed by them.
- (B) Upon any amendment or amendments to these By-laws being proposed by said Board of Directors or members, such proposed amendment or amendments shall be transmitted to the President of the

Association, or other officer of the Association in absence of the President, who shall thereupon call a special joint meeting of the members of the Board of Directors of the Association and the membership for a date not sooner than twenty (20) days or later than sixty (60) days from receipt by such officer of the proposed amendment or amendments, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to give to each member written or printed notice of such meeting in the same form and in the same manner as notice of the call of a special meeting of the members if required as herein set forth.

- (C) In order for such amendment or amendments to become effective, the same must be approved by a vote of the members holding at least a majority of the total votes at a meeting at which a quorum is present. Thereupon, such amendment or amendments to these By-laws shall be transcribed, certified by the President or Secretary of the Association, and a copy thereof shall be recorded in the Register of Mesne Conveyances of Dorchester County, South Carolina, within ten (10) days from the date on which any amendment or amendments have been affirmatively approved by the directors and members.
- (D) At any meeting held to consider such amendment or amendments to the By-laws, the written vote of any member of the Association shall be recognized if such member is not in attendance at such meeting or represented thereat by proxy, provided such written vote is delivered to the Secretary of the Association at or prior to such meeting.
- (E) No amendment may be adopted or become effective without the prior written consent of the Declarant.

12. INSURANCE AND CASUALTY LOSSES

A) Insurance

- 1) The Board of Directors or its duly authorized agents shall have the authority to, and shall obtain and continue in effect, adequate property insurance, in such form as the Board deems appropriate, for the benefit of the Association and insuring all insurable improvements in and to the Common Areas against loss or damage by fire or other hazards, including, without limitation, extended coverage, flood, vandalism and malicious mischief. Such coverage to be in an amount sufficient to cover the full replacement cost (without depreciation, to include anticipated costs of demolition and clearing prior to building, but subject to such deductible levels as are deemed reasonable by the Board) of any repair or reconstruction in the event of damage or destruction from any such hazard.
- 2) The Board or its duly authorized agents shall have the authority and may obtain and continue in effect a public liability policy covering all the Common Areas and all damage or injury caused by the negligence of the Association, its members, its directors and officers, or any of its agents. Such public liability policy shall provide such coverages as are determined to be necessary by the Board of Directors.
- 3) The Board or its duly authorized agents shall have the authority and may obtain: (i) worker's compensation insurance to the extent necessary to comply with any applicable law; and (ii) such other types and amounts of insurance as may be determined by the Board to be necessary or desirable.
- 4) All such insurance coverage obtained by the Board of Directors shall be written in the name of the Association as trustee for each of the Owners and costs of all such coverage shall be a Common Expense. Exclusive authority to adjust losses under policies obtained by the Association and hereafter in force with respect to the Subdivision shall be vested in the Board of Directors; provided, however, that no Mortgagee or other security holder of the Common Areas having any interest in such losses may be prohibited from participating in the settlement negotiations, if any, related thereto. Insofar as permitted by law and reasonably obtainable, the Association shall be required to make every effort to secure insurance policies with the provisions hereinafter set forth:

- (a) All policies shall be written with a company holding rating of A + 10 or better in such financial categories as established by Best's Insurance Reports, if such a company is available or, if not available, its equivalent rating or the best rating possible,
 - (b) All property insurance policies shall be for the benefit of the Association, and/or its subordinate property regimes, Owners and Owner's Mortgagees, if applicable, as their interests may appear .
 - (c) All policies shall contain a waiver of the insurer's right to cancel without first giving thirty (30) days prior written notice of such cancellation to the Association and to any Mortgagee to which a mortgagee endorsement has been issued.
 - (d) In no event shall the insurance coverage obtained and maintained by the Association's Board of Directors hereunder be brought into contribution with insurance purchased by individual Owners or their Mortgagees, and all policies shall contain a provision that the "other insurance" clauses in such policies exclude from consideration policies obtained by individual Owners or their Mortgagees.
 - (e) All policies shall contain a waiver of subrogation by the insurer as to any claims against the Association, the Association's directors and officers, the Owners and their respective families, servants, agents, tenants, guests and invitees, including without limitation the Association's manager.
 - (f) All policies shall contain a provision that no policy may be canceled, invalidated or suspended on account of the conduct of one or more of the individual Owners, or their respective families, servants, agents, employees, tenants, guests and invitees, or on account of the acts of any director, officer, employee or agent of the Association or of its manager, without prior demand in writing delivered to the Association to cure the defect and the allowance of a reasonable time thereafter within which the defect may be cured.
- 5) It shall be the individual responsibility of each Owner at his own expense to provide, as he sees fit, public liability, property damage, title and other insurance with respect to his own Lot. The Board of Directors may require all Owners, to include the Declarant, to carry public liability and property damage insurance on their respective Properties and Lots, and to furnish copies of certificates thereof to the Association.

(B) Damage to or Destruction of Common Areas

Immediately after the damage or destruction by fire or other casualty to all or any part of the Common Areas covered by insurance written in the name of the Association, the Board of Directors or its duly authorized agent shall proceed with the filing and adjustment of all claims arising under such insurance and, in any such event, the Board shall obtain reliable and detailed estimates of the cost of repair or reconstruction, as used in this Article means repairing or restoring the damages to Property to substantially the same condition in which it existed prior to the fire or other casualty. Within sixty (60) days following any damage or destruction of all or part of the Common Areas, the Association shall use such insurance proceeds as may be available to restore or replace such damaged improvements, to include trees, shrubbery, lawns, landscaping, and natural vegetation. If the insurance proceeds, if any, for such damage or destruction are not sufficient to defray the cost thereof, and such deficiency cannot be appropriated from a reserve fund as may have been established for such purpose, the Board of Directors may levy a special assessment against all Owners, in an amount sufficient to provide funds to pay such excess cost of repair or reconstruction, provided that said special assessment is first approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of each class of membership present and voting at a meeting duly called to consider said special assessment. Such a special assessment shall be levied against the Owners equally in the same manner as annual assessments are levied. Any and all sums paid to the Association under and by virtue of such assessments shall be held by and for the benefit of the Association together with the insurance proceeds, if any, for such damage or destruction. Such insurance proceeds and assessments shall be disbursed by the Association in payment for such repair or

reconstruction pursuant to and in accordance with such method of distribution as is established by the Board of Directors. Any proceeds remaining after defraying such costs shall be retained by and for the benefit of the Association.

C) **Damage to or Destruction of Lots**

In the event of damage or destruction by fire or other casualty to any Lots, such Owner shall, at its/their own expense, promptly clear away the ruins and debris of any damaged improvements or vegetation and leave such Lot in a clean, orderly, safe and sightly condition. Such other Owner shall repair or rebuild such Lot other improvements to substantially the same condition as existed prior to such fire or other casualty and in accordance with all applicable standards, restrictions and provisions of this Declaration (including without limitation Article 10 hereof) and all applicable zoning, Subdivision, building and other governmental regulations. All such work of repair or construction shall be commenced promptly following such damage or destruction and shall be carried through, without interruption, diligently to conclusion.

13. **CONDEMNATION OF COMMON AREAS**

A) Whenever all or any part of the Common Areas of the Subdivision shall be taken by any authority having the power of condemnation or eminent domain, or is conveyed in lieu thereof by the Board acting with the approval by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total votes of the Association who are voting in person or by proxy, at a meeting duly called for such purpose, for as long as Declarants owns any Lot primarily for the purpose of sale, the award of proceeds made or collected for such taking or sale in lieu thereof shall be payable to the Association and shall be disbursed or held as follows:

- 1) If the taking or sale in lieu thereof involves a portion of the Common Areas on which improvements have been constructed, then, unless within sixty (60) days after such taking, Declarants, for so long as Declarant owns any Lot primarily for the purpose of sale, together with at least seventy-five (75%) percent of the total votes of the Association, shall otherwise agree, the Association shall restore or replace such improvements so taken, to the extent practicable, on the remaining lands included in the Common Areas which are available therefor, in accordance with the plans approved by the Board of Directors, the Architectural Control Committee, and by the Declarant, for so long as the Declarant owns any Lot primarily for the purpose of sale. If the awards or proceeds are not sufficient to defray the cost of such repair and replacement and such deficiency cannot be appropriated from a reserve fund as may have been established for such purpose, the Board of Directors may levy a special assessment against all Owners, provided that said special assessment is first approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of each class of membership present and voting at a meeting duly called to consider said special assessment. Such special assessment to be in an amount sufficient to provide funds to pay such excess cost of repair or reconstruction. Such special assessment shall be levied against the Owners equally in the same manner as annual assessments are levied, and additional special assessments may be made at any time during or following the completion of any repair or reconstruction. If such improvements are not to be repaired or restored, the award or proceeds shall be retained by and for the benefit of the Association.
- 2) If the taking or sale in lieu thereof does not involve any improvements to the Common Areas, or if there are not funds remaining after any such restoration or replacement of such improvements is completed, then such award, proceeds or net funds shall be retained by and for the benefit of the Association.
- 3) If the taking or sale in lieu thereof includes all or any part of a Lot and includes any part of the Common Areas, then a court of competent jurisdiction shall apportion such award or proceeds

and such award or proceeds shall be disbursed to the Association and the Owners so affected so as to give just compensation to the Owners of any Lot; provided, however, such apportionment may instead be resolved by the agreement of: (i) the Board of Directors; (ii) the Owners of all Lots wholly or partially taken or sold, together with the Mortgagees for such Lot; and (iii) the Declarant, for so long as the Declarant owns any Lot primarily for the purpose of sale.

14. Assessments

A) Purpose of Assessments

The assessments for Common Expenses provided for herein shall be used for the general purposes of promoting the recreation, health, safety, welfare, common benefit and enjoyment of the Owners and occupants of the Subdivision, and maintaining the Subdivision and improvements therein, all as may be more specifically authorized from time to time by the Board of Directors.

B) Creation of Lien and Personal Obligation of Assessments

Each Owner of a Lot by acceptance of a deed or other conveyance thereof, whether or not it shall be so expressed in such deed or conveyance, is deemed to covenant and agree to pay to the Association: (i) annual Assessments, such Assessments to be established and collected as provided in the Declaration and in Paragraph 14.C hereof; (ii) special Assessments, such assessments to be established and collected as provided in the Declaration and in Paragraph 14.D hereof; and (iii) individual or specific Assessments, against any particular Lot which are established pursuant to the terms of this Declaration, including but not limited to fines as may be imposed against such Lot in accordance with the provisions of these By-laws and of the Declaration. Any such Assessments, together with late charges as provided in the Declaration, together with court costs and reasonable attorneys fees incurred to enforce or collect such Assessments, shall be an equitable charge and a continuing lien upon the Lot, the Owner of which is responsible for payment. Each Owner shall be personally liable for Assessments coming due while he is the Owner of a Lot, and his grantee shall take title to such Lot subject to the equitable charge and continuing lien therefor, but without prejudice to the rights of such grantee to recover from his grantor any amounts paid by such grantee therefor; provided, however, the lien for unpaid Assessments shall not apply to the holder of any first priority institutional Mortgage or to the holder of any Mortgage securing a loan made by the Declarant, its affiliates, successors or assigns, and who take title to a Lot through foreclosure, or to any purchaser of such Lot at such foreclosure sale until title vests at which time charges for Assessments apply as to any other Owner. In the event of co-ownership of any Lot, all of such co-Owners shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire amount of such Assessments. Assessments shall be paid in such manner that unless otherwise provided by the Board, the annual Assessment shall be paid in equal quarterly installments.

C) Computation of Annual Assessments

It shall be the duty of the Board at least thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of the Association's fiscal year to prepare and adopt a budget covering the estimated Common Expenses during the coming year, such budget to include a capital contribution of reserve account if necessary for the capital needs of the Association. The total annual Assessments shall be divided among the Lots equally, except as provided in the Declaration, so that each Lot, shall be subject to equal annual Assessments. The Association's budget shall be revisable by the Board without the necessity of approval by the Owners. In the event the Board fails for any

reason to determine the budget for the succeeding year, then and until such time as a budget shall have been determined as provided herein, the budget and annual assessment in effect for the then current year shall be increased by five (5%) percent, and such increased budget shall be implemented for the succeeding year, until a new budget shall have been approved as provided above. If any budget at any time proves inadequate for any reason, then the Board may call a meeting of the Association for the approval of a special assessment as provided in Paragraph 14.D hereof. The Common Expenses to be funded by the annual assessments may include, but shall not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- 1) Management fees and expenses of administration including legal and accountant fees;
- 2) Utility charges for utilities serving the Common Areas and charges for other common services for the Subdivision, including trash collection and security services, if any such services or charges are provided or paid by the Association;
- 3) The cost of any policies of insurance purchased for the benefit of all Owners and the Association as required or permitted by the Declaration, including fire, flood and other hazard coverage, public liability coverage and such other insurance coverage as the Board of Directors determines to be in the interests of the Association and the Owners;
- 4) The expenses of maintenance, operation, repair and replacement of those portions of the Common Areas which are the responsibility of the Association under the provisions of the Declaration;
- 5) The expenses of maintenance, operation, repair and replacement of other amenities and facilities serving the Subdivision. The maintenance, operation, repair and replacement of which the Board from time to time determines to be in the best interest of the Association;
- 6) The expenses of the Architectural Control Committee which are not defrayed by plan review charges;
- 7) Ad valorem real and personal property taxes assessed and levied against the Common Areas;
- 8) Such other expenses as may be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors of the Association to be Common Expenses, including without limitation taxes and governmental charges not separately assessed against Lots; and
- 9) The establishment and maintenance of a reasonable reserve fund or funds (a) for maintenance, repair and replacement of those portions of the Common Areas which are the responsibility of the Association and which must be maintained, repaired or replaced on a periodic basis, (b) to cover emergencies and repairs required as a result of casualties which are not funded by insurance proceeds, and (c) to cover unforeseen operating contingencies or deficiencies arising from unpaid assessments or liens, as well as from emergency expenditures and other matters, all as may be authorized from time to time by the Board of Directors.

D) Special Assessments

In addition to the annual assessments authorized above, the Association may levy, in any assessment year, a special assessment applicable to that year only for the purpose of defraying, in whole or in part, the cost of any construction, reconstruction, repair or replacement of a capital improvement upon the Common Area, including fixtures and personal property related thereto, or for any other purpose set forth in the By-laws of the Association. So long as the total amount of the special assessments allocable to all of the Lots in the Subdivision does not exceed Seven Thousand and no/100 (\$7,000.00) Dollars for the

entire Subdivision in anyone fiscal year, the Board of the Association may impose the special assessment. Any special assessment which would cause the amount of special assessments allocable to the entire Subdivision to exceed this limitation shall be effective only if such assessment shall have the assent of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes of each class of members who are voting in person or by proxy at a meeting duly called for this purpose special assessments shall be paid as determined by the Board of Directors, and the Board may permit special assessments to be paid in instalments extending beyond the fiscal years in which the special assessment is imposed.

E) Individual Assessments

Any expenses of the Association occasioned by the conduct of less than all of the Owners or by the family, tenants, agents, guests or invitees of any Owner shall be specially assessed against such Owners and their respective Lots. The Individual assessments provided for in this Paragraph shall be levied by the Board of Directors and the amount and due date of such assessment so levied by the Board shall be as specified by the Board.

F) Initial Assessment

The Association shall collect the Initial Assessment as set out in Section 3.5 of the Declaration according to the terms and conditions thereof.

- G) All sums assessed against any Lot pursuant to the Declaration, together with court costs, reasonable attorneys fees, and late charges as provided herein, shall be secured by an equitable charge and continuing lien on such Lot in favor of the Association. Such liens shall be superior to all other liens and encumbrances on such Lot except only for: (a) liens of ad valorem taxes; and (b) liens for all sums unpaid on a first priority institutional Mortgage or on any Mortgage to the Declarants, or its affiliates, successors or assigns, and all amounts advanced pursuant to any such Mortgage and secured thereby in accordance with the terms of such instrument. Notwithstanding the foregoing to the contrary, the subordination of assessments to the lien of such mortgages shall only apply to such assessments, which have become due and payable prior to a foreclosure. All other person(s) acquiring liens or encumbrances on any Lot after the Declaration shall have been recorded shall be deemed to consent that such liens or encumbrances shall be inferior to such future liens for assessments as provided herein, whether or not such prior consent shall be specifically set forth in the Instruments creating such liens and encumbrances.

H) Effect of Nonpayment: Remedies of the Association

Any assessments of an Owner or any portions thereof which are not paid when due shall be delinquent. A lien and equitable charge as herein provided for each assessment shall be attached simultaneously as the same shall become due and payable, and if an assessment has not been paid within thirty (30) days, the entire unpaid balance of the annual assessment may be accelerated at the option of the Board and declared due and payable in full. The continuing lien and equitable charge of such assessment shall include all costs of collection (including reasonable attorneys fees and court costs) and any other amounts provided or permitted hereunder or by law. In the event that the assessment remains unpaid after sixty (60) days from the original due date, the Association may, as the Board shall determine, institute suit to collect such amounts and to foreclose its lien. The equitable charge and lien provided for in this Article shall be in favor of the Association, and each Owner, by his acceptance of a deed or other conveyance to a Lot, vests in the Association and its agents the right and power to bring all actions against him personally for the collection of such assessments as a debt and/or to foreclose the aforesaid lien in the same manner as other liens for the improvement of real property. The Association shall have the power to bid on the Lot at any foreclosure sale and to acquire, hold, lease, mortgage and convey the

same. No Owner may waive or otherwise escape liability for the assessments provided herein, including by way of illustration but not limitation, non-use of the Common Areas or abandonment of his Lot, and an Owner shall remain personally liable for assessments and late charges which accrue prior to a sale, transfer or other conveyance of his Lot .

In the event that any Lot is to be sold at the time when payment of any Assessment against the Owner of such Lot to the Association shall be in default (whether or not a claim of lien has been recorded by the Association) then the proceeds of such purchase shall, after payment of those sums given priority by S.C. Code Ann. Section 27-31-200 (1978) be applied by the purchaser first to payment of any then delinquent assessment or installment thereof due to the Association before the payment of any proceeds of purchase to the owner who is responsible for payment of such delinquent assessment.

In any voluntary conveyance of any Lot (other than deed in lieu of foreclosure as set forth above), the Grantee shall be jointly and severally liable with the Grantor for all unpaid assessments against Grantor made prior to the time of such voluntary conveyance, without prejudice to the rights of the Grantee to recover from the Grantor the amounts paid by the Grantee therefor.

Institution of a suit at law to attempt to effect collection of the payment of any delinquent assessment shall not be deemed to be an election by Association which shall prevent its thereafter seeking enforcement of the collection of any sums remaining owing to it by foreclosure, nor shall proceeding by foreclosure to attempt to effect such collection be deemed to be an election precluding the institution of suit at law to attempt to effect collection of any sums then remaining owing to it.

I) **Certificate**

The Treasurer, any Assistant Treasurer or the manager of the Association shall, within ten (10) days of a written request, and upon payment of such fee as is from time to time determined by the Board of Directors, furnish to any Owner or such Owner's Mortgagee which requests the same, a certificate in writing signed by the said Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer or manager of the Association setting forth whether the assessments for which such Owner is responsible have been paid, and, if not paid, the outstanding amount due and owing, together with all fines, late charges and other penalty charges. Such certificate shall be conclusive evidence against all but such Owner of payment of any assessments stated therein to have been paid.

J) **Date of Common Assessments.**

The annual assessments provided for herein shall commence as to each Lot as set forth the Declaration.

15. **RULE MAKING**

A) **Rules and Regulations**

Subject to the provisions hereof, the Board of Directors may establish reasonable rules and regulations concerning the use of Lots and the Common Areas and facilities located thereon, including without limitation the Recreational Amenities. In particular but without limitation, the Board of Directors may promulgate from time to time rules and regulations which shall govern activities which may, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, be environmentally hazardous, such as application of fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals. Copies of such rules and regulations and amendments thereto shall be furnished by the Association to all Owners prior to the effective date of such rules and regulations and amendments thereto. Such rules and regulations shall be binding upon the Owners, their families, tenants, guests, invitees, servants and agents, until and unless any such rule or regulation be specifically overruled, canceled or modified by the Board of Directors or in a regular or special meeting of the

Association by the vote of the Owners, in person or by proxy, holding a majority of the total votes in the Association, provided that in the event of such vote, such action must also be approved by the Declarants, for so long as the Declarants owns any Lot or Lot primarily for the purpose of sale.

B) Enforcement

Subject to the provisions hereof, upon the violation of the Declaration, the By-laws or any rules and regulations duly adopted hereunder, including without limitation the failure to timely pay any assessments, the Board shall have the power: (i) to impose reasonable monetary fines which shall constitute an equitable charge and a continuing lien upon the Lot, the Owners, occupants or guests of which are guilty of such violation; (ii) to suspend an Owner's right to vote in the Association; or (iii) to suspend an Owner's right (and the right of such Owner's family, guests and tenants and of the co-Owners of such Owner and their respective families, guests and tenants) to use any of the Common Areas, and the Board shall have the power to impose all or any combination of these sanctions. An Owner shall be subject to the foregoing sanctions in the event of such a violation by such Owner, his family, guests or tenants or by his Co-Owners or the family, guests or tenants of his Co-Owners. Any such suspension of rights may be for the duration of the infraction and for any additional period thereafter, not to exceed thirty (30) days.

C) Procedure

Except with respect to the failure to pay assessments, the Board shall not impose a fine, suspend voting rights or infringe upon or suspend any other rights of an Owner or other occupant of the Subdivision for violations of the Declaration, By-laws or any rules and regulations for the Association, unless and until the following procedure is followed:

- 1) Written demand to cease and desist from an alleged violation shall be served upon: the Owner responsible for such violation specifying:
 - (a) The alleged violation;
 - (b) The action required to abate the violation; and
 - (c) A time period of not less than ten (10) days during which the violation may be abated without further sanction, if such violation is a continuing one, or if the violation is not a continuing one, a statement that any further violation of the same provision of this Declaration, the Bylaws or of the rules and regulations of the Association may result in the imposition of sanctions after notice and hearing.
- 2) Within two (2) months of such demand, if the violation continues past the period allowed in the demand for abatement without penalty, or if the same violation subsequently occurs, the Board may serve such Owner with written notice of a hearing to be held by the Board in executive session. The notice shall contain:
 - (a) The nature of the alleged violation;
 - (b) The time and place of the hearing, which time shall be not less than ten (10) days from the giving of the notice;
 - (c) An invitation to attend the hearing and produce any statement, evidence and witnesses on his behalf; and
 - (d) The proposed sanction to be imposed.
- 3) The hearing shall be held in executive session of the board of Directors pursuant to the notice and shall afford the alleged violator a reasonable opportunity to be heard prior to the

effectiveness of any sanction hereunder, proof of notice and the invitation to be heard shall be placed in the minutes of the meeting. Such proof shall be deemed adequate if a copy of the notice, together with a statement of the date and manner of delivery, is entered by the officer, director or other individual who delivered such notice. The notice requirement shall be deemed satisfied if an alleged violator appears at the meeting. The minutes of the meeting shall contain a written statement of the results of the hearing and the sanction imposed, if any.

D) Enforcement

Each Owner shall comply strictly with the By-laws and the published rules and regulations of the Association adopted pursuant to the declaration, as either of the same may be lawfully amended from time to time, and with the covenants, conditions, and restrictions set forth in the Declaration and in the deed or other instrument of conveyance to his Lot, if any. Failure to comply with any of the same shall be grounds for imposing fines, for suspending voting rights or rights of use in and to the Recreational Amenities, or for instituting an action to recover sums due, for damages and/or for injunctive relief, such actions to be maintainable by the Declarant, the Board of Directors on behalf of the Association or, in a proper case, by an aggrieved Owner. Should the Declarant or the Association employ legal counsel to enforce any of the foregoing, all costs incurred in such enforcement, including court costs and reasonable attorneys fees, shall be paid by the violating Owner. Inasmuch as the enforcement of the provisions of the Declaration, the By-laws and the rules and regulation of the Association are essential for the effectuation of the general plan of development contemplated hereby and for the protection of present and future Owners, it is hereby declared that any breach thereof may not adequately be compensated by recovery of damages, and all other remedies, may require and shall be entitled to the remedy of injunction to restrain any such violation or breach or any threatened violation or breach. No delay, failure or omission on the part of the Declarant, the Association or any aggrieved Owner in exercising any right, power or remedy herein provided shall be construed as an acquiescence thereto as to the same violation or breach, or as to the enforcement. No right of action shall accrue nor shall any action be brought or maintained by anyone whomsoever against the Declarant or the Association for or on account of any failure to bring any action on account of any violation or breach, or threatened violation or breach, by any person under the provisions of the Declaration, the By-laws or any rules and regulations of the Association, however long continued.

16. DEFINITIONS.

All terms defined in the Declaration shall have the same meaning in these By-laws as in the Declaration.

17. CONFLICTS.

In the event of any conflict between the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and these By-laws, the Articles shall control; and in the case of any conflict between the Declaration and the provisions of these By-laws, the provisions of the Declaration shall control.



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
 COUNTY OF DORCHESTER)
 2017 FEB 21) PM 1:28
 IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
 FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 Case No. 2016-CP-18-1812

DAVID K. HANNEMANN,
 as President of the Live Oak Village
 Homeowner's Association, Inc.,

Plaintiff,

v.

WILLIAM MCFARLAND,
 Defendant.

AMENDED ANSWER
AND COUNTERCLAIM
(Jury Trial Requested)

COMES NOW the Defendant, William McFarland ("Mr. McFarland"), by and through his undersigned counsel, answering the Complaint for Declaratory Judgment (the "Complaint") of the Plaintiff, David K. Hannemann ("Mr. Hannemann"), as President of the Live Oak Village Homeowner's Association, Inc. (the "HOA"),¹ and counterclaiming against Mr. Hannemann, and would show unto this Honorable Court as follows.

GENERAL DENIAL

Mr. McFarland hereby denies all allegations of the Complaint except as expressly admitted or qualified in his specific responses below.

SPECIFIC RESPONSES²

Re: **Parties**

1. Admitted.
2. Admitted.

¹ Mr. McFarland denies that Mr. Hannemann is the rightfully elected HOA President.

² Each specific response is numbered to match the corresponding paragraph of the Complaint.

Re: **Jurisdiction and Venue**

3. No response is required because this paragraph states a conclusion(s) of law.
4. No response is required because this paragraph states a conclusion(s) of law.
5. No response is required because this paragraph states a conclusion(s) of law.

Re: **Facts**

6. Admitted.
7. The Articles speak for themselves; Mr. McFarland craves reference to them.
8. The By-Laws speak for themselves; Mr. McFarland craves reference to them.
9. The By-Laws speak for themselves; Mr. McFarland craves reference to them.
10. The By-Laws speak for themselves; Mr. McFarland craves reference to them.
11. The By-Laws speak for themselves; Mr. McFarland craves reference to them.
12. The By-Laws speak for themselves; Mr. McFarland craves reference to them.
13. Mr. McFarland admits only that he was elected to the HOA's Board of Directors (the "HOA Board") in or about March 2009 and subsequently elected HOA President.
14. Mr. McFarland admits only that the record in the referenced litigation speaks for itself; Mr. McFarland craves reference to that record.
15. Mr. McFarland admits only that the record in the referenced litigation speaks for itself; Mr. McFarland craves reference to that record.
16. Mr. McFarland admits only that the record in the referenced litigation speaks for itself; Mr. McFarland craves reference to that record. Mr. McFarland would, however, clarify that the referenced summary judgment in favor of Mr. Hannemann (as well as in favor of his referenced co-defendant, the supposed Secretary of the HOA Board) was a partial summary judgment, and it did not dispose of all of the claims against Mr. Hannemann (nor did it dispose

of all of the claims against his referenced co-defendant) in the referenced litigation, and at that, though the referenced litigation remains pending on appeal, the partial summary judgment in favor of Mr. Hannemann (and his referenced co-defendant) has itself been partially reversed by the South Carolina Court of Appeals.

17. Mr. McFarland admits only that the record in the referenced litigation speaks for itself; Mr. McFarland craves reference to that record.

18. Mr. McFarland admits only that the record in the referenced litigation speaks for itself; Mr. McFarland craves reference to that record.

19. Mr. McFarland admits only that, at present, the referenced appeal remains pending.

20. Denied.

21. Denied.

22. Denied.

23. Mr. McFarland admits only that attorney Barr sent the referenced letter, which speaks for itself; Mr. McFarland craves reference to that letter—though, to be clear, Mr. McFarland does not admit the correctness of the letter’s substance nor does Mr. McFarland admit that Mr. Barr was “the Association’s attorney,” as stated in the Complaint.

24. Denied.

25. Mr. Hannemann’s letter of May 31, 2016, speaks for itself; Mr. McFarland craves reference to that letter.

26. Admitted except for any wrongdoing that this paragraph might imply, which is expressly denied.

27. Mr. McFarland admits only that he does not recognize Mr. Hannemann's supposed authority (as Mr. McFarland denies that Mr. Hannemann is the rightfully elected HOA President) and that his (Mr. McFarland's) continued service as HOA President—which, Mr. McFarland maintains, is and has been proper—includes his efforts to collect and account for assessments from members of the HOA.

28. Mr. McFarland admits only that his continued service as HOA President—which he maintains is and has been proper—includes his efforts to collect and account for assessments from members of the HOA.

29. Denied.

30. Denied; Mr. McFarland denies that Mr. Hannemann is the rightfully elected HOA President.

Re: **First Cause of Action**
(Declaratory Judgment)

31. Mr. McFarland incorporates by reference his prior responses as though they were set forth here in full.

32. No response is required because this paragraph states a conclusion(s) of law.

33. The By-Laws speak for themselves, and Mr. McFarland craves reference to them; however, Mr. McFarland denies that Mr. Hannemann is the rightfully elected HOA President.

34. Denied.

35. Denied.

Re: **Second Cause of Action**
(Attorney's Fees and Costs)

36. The By-Laws speak for themselves; Mr. McFarland craves reference to them.

37. Denied.

38. Denied.

39. Denied.

Re: **Mr. Hannemann's Prayer for Relief**

Mr. McFarland denies Mr. Hannemann's prayer for relief, i.e., the unnumbered ("Wherefore") paragraph concluding the Complaint, including all subparagraphs.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

(Rule 12(b)(6), SCRCF)

1. The Complaint should be dismissed, in whole or in part, under Rule 12(b)(6) to the extent that it fails to state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action.

(Rule 12(b)(7), SCRCF)

2. The Complaint should be dismissed, in whole or in part, under Rule 12(b)(7) to the extent that it fails to join a party under Rule 19, SCRCF.

(Rule 12(b)(8), SCRCF)

3. The Complaint should be dismissed, in whole or in part, under Rule 12(b)(8) to the extent that another action is pending between the same parties for the same claim.

(Res Judicata and/or Collateral Estoppel)

4. To the extent applicable, the Complaint is barred, in whole or in part, by res judicata and/or collateral estoppel.

(Statute of Limitations)

5. To the extent applicable, the Complaint is barred, in whole or in part, by the statute of limitations.

(First-Breach Rule and/or Waiver)

6. To the extent that any claim Mr. Hannemann has asserted against Mr. McFarland sounds in contract, any such claim is barred, in whole or in part, by the first-breach rule and/or waiver.

(Estoppel; Laches; and/or Unclean Hands)

7. To the extent that any claim Mr. Hannemann has asserted against Mr. McFarland is in equity, any such claim is barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrines of estoppel, laches, and/or unclean hands.

COUNTERCLAIM

Parties

1. Mr. Hannemann is a citizen and resident of Dorchester County, South Carolina.
2. Mr. McFarland is a citizen and resident of Dorchester County, South Carolina.

Jurisdiction and Venue

3. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this counterclaim because it is a general trial court of the State of South Carolina with original jurisdiction in civil cases and the power to hear and determine cases of the general class to which this counterclaim belongs, as evidenced by the allegations set forth herein and the relief sought hereby.

4. This Court has jurisdiction over the parties to this counterclaim, all of whom are citizens and residents of the State of South Carolina; also, the acts and/or omissions attributable to Mr. Hannemann (set forth herein) giving rise to this counterclaim occurred in South Carolina.

5. Venue for this counterclaim is proper in Dorchester County because Mr. Hannemann is a resident of Dorchester County, and the most substantial part of the acts and/or

omissions attributable to Mr. Hannemann (set forth herein) giving rise to this counterclaim occurred in Dorchester County.

Facts

6. Mr. McFarland and his wife own their home located at 105 Oak Village Lane, Summerville, SC 29483, which is in Dorchester County and is further identified by Dorchester County TMS No. 137-05-05-016 (the "Lot").

7. The Lot is in the Dorchester County subdivision known as Live Oak Village, and as owners of the Lot, the McFarlands are members of the HOA; indeed, the McFarlands were the first residents of the subdivision, and they played an essential role in the creation and/or development of the subdivision and the HOA.

8. Formed for the purpose of managing the business of the homeowners association for the then proposed community to be known as the Live Oak Village subdivision, the HOA was incorporated on September 27, 2002, by incorporator John R. Payne ("Mr. Payne"), who, along with Scott S. Drummond ("Mr. Drummond"), was one of two initial (unelected) HOA officers and HOA Board members.

9. The McFarlands have owned the Lot since October 4, 2002, when they bought it from LowCountry Signature Homes, Inc.; the McFarlands' deed was recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Dorchester County on October 10, 2002, in Book 3272 at Page 017.

10. On October 8, 2002, a certain Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions for Live Oak Village, Summerville, South Carolina (the "Initial Declaration"), was recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Dorchester County in Book 3268 at Page 227.

11. The Initial Declaration was made by and among Mr. Payne; Mr. Drummond; LowCountry Signature Homes, Inc.; Payne Homes, LLC; and The Village Development

Corporation, LLC, and its signatories were Mr. Payne; Mr. Drummond; Oak Village Development, LLC, by Mr. Payne, its Managing Member; LowCountry Signature Homes, Inc., by Mr. Payne, its President; Payne Homes, LLC, by Mr. Payne, its Managing Member; and The Village Development Corporation, LLC, by The Village Construction Company, its Managing Member, through David Willis, Managing Member of The Village Construction Company.

12. According to the Initial Declaration, “Oak Village Development, LLC . . . ha[d] been designated as the ‘Developer’” and “Developer [wa]s the owner of certain real property” which “Developer” declared submitted to the covenants and restrictions set forth in the Initial Declaration and on which “Developer propose[d] to create a subdivision known as Live Oak Village . . . containing detached home site lots and common areas”

13. On November 26, 2002, however, an instrument titled Amendments to the Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions for Live Oak Village, Summerville, South Carolina (the “Amended Declaration”), was recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Dorchester County in Book 3332 at Page 198.

14. The Amended Declaration was made by and among Mr. Payne; Mr. Drummond; *Mr. McFarland; Mrs. McFarland*; LowCountry Signature Homes, Inc.; Payne Homes, LLC; and The Village Development Corporation, LLC, and *the McFarlands* were among its signatories—the other signatories being those persons and entities who had signed the Initial Declaration.

15. According to the Amended Declaration, “Oak Village Development, LLC . . . ha[d] been designated as the ‘Developer’” and “Developer [wa]s the owner of certain real property” which “Developer” declared submitted to the covenants and restrictions set forth in the Amended Declaration and on which “Developer propose[d] to create a subdivision known as Live Oak Village . . . containing detached home site lots and common areas”

16. Though it was recited that Oak Village Development, LLC, was “designated as the ‘Developer,’” context ties this designation to the notion that the referenced “Developer” owned all of the real property declared subject to the covenants and restrictions for the “propose[d]” subdivision of Live Oak Village “to [be] create[d].”

17. Oak Village Development, LLC, however, did not own all of the real property declared subject to the covenants and restrictions for the “propose[d]” subdivision of Live Oak Village “to [be] create[d];” the McFarlands already owned the Lot before the Initial Declaration was recorded, and the McFarlands, necessary signatories to the Amended Declaration for the “propose[d]” subdivision of Live Oak Village “to [be] create[d],” were, in fact, declarants, and, notwithstanding the designation of Oak Village Development, LLC, “as the ‘Developer,’” as declarants for the “propose[d]” subdivision of Live Oak Village “to [be] create[d],” within the framework of the Amended Declaration, the reference “Developer” applies to the McFarlands in respect of the rights and protections “Developer” is afforded.

18. Likewise, the By-Laws state, “The developer of this Subdivision is the Declarant, Oak Village Development, LLC, referred to as ‘Declarant.’” Notwithstanding this designation of Oak Village Development, LLC, as “Declarant,” again, the McFarlands were, in fact, declarants, and within the framework of the Amended Declaration—which, it should be noted, controls in the event of any conflict with the By-Laws and, at that, was filed after the By-Laws—the reference “Developer” applies to the McFarlands in respect of the rights and protections “Developer” is afforded, within the framework of the By-Laws, too, the reference “Declarant” applies to the McFarlands in respect of the rights and protections “Declarant” is afforded.

19. The McFarlands’ ownership of the Lot pre-dated completion of the basic initial improvements (to common areas, including utility systems, and to drainage systems and other

improvements serving the lots) as well as construction of entrance walls, fencing, a subdivision identification sign, mail receptacles, and the private road through the subdivision called for under the plan of development set forth in the Amended Declaration.

20. With Oak Village Development, LLC, unable or unwilling to complete the work called for under the plan of development, Mr. Payne appointed Mrs. McFarland registered agent of the HOA in 2008 (a position she continues to occupy), placed the McFarlands in charge of the HOA's bank account, and left it up to the McFarlands to see that remaining items in the plan of development were accomplished.

21. No tax returns having been previously filed on behalf of the HOA, the McFarlands saw to it that proper returns, including for returns for prior years, were filed for the HOA, and since beginning in approximately 2004 (and continuing at present), all vendor accounts of the HOA (water, electric, phone) and the HOA's bank account have been in the McFarland name.

22. The affairs of the HOA are to be governed by the HOA Board.

23. The HOA President is the chief executive officer of the HOA.

24. In 2009, Mr. McFarland was duly elected HOA President and to the HOA Board.

25. In 2012, while Mr. McFarland was the duly elected HOA President and a duly elected member of the three-member HOA Board, the HOA became dysfunctional because of the acts/omissions of the other (i.e., besides Mr. McFarland) two members of the HOA Board, Mr. Hannemann and Thomas Morris ("Mr. Morris").

26. This led to the filing of a lawsuit in the fall of 2012, which remains pending, captioned Live Oak Village Homeowners Association, Inc., et al. v. Morris et al., Case No.

2012-CP-18-2583 (the “Pending Suit”), against Messrs. Hannemann and Morris, and two other defendants who are no longer owners in the subdivision.

27. The Pending Suit alleges Messrs. Hannemann and Morris’s willful operation outside the scope of their authority as officers and/or directors of the HOA by taking, or failing to take, action as required by the HOA’s governing documents, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) Voting to waive fines that applied to themselves;
- (b) Failing to hold timely or properly noticed meetings the HOA or HOA Board;
- (c) Allowing unauthorized persons to vote and participate in HOA Board meetings;
- (d) Voting on matters in which they have a personal financial interest;
- (e) Voting in violation of South Carolina Code Ann. § 33-31-830;
- (f) Failing to properly handle HOA funds;
- (g) Failing to enforce covenants and restrictions in a uniform and unbiased manner; and
- (h) Violating the covenants and restrictions.

28. The Pending Suit also alleges that Messrs. Hannemann and Morris have conspired for the purpose of injuring the HOA.

29. In response to the Pending Suit, Messrs. Hannemann and Morris asserted third-party claims against Mr. McFarland, alleging causes of action for (a) an accounting, (b) conversion of HOA funds, (c) breach of fiduciary duty, and (d) negligence.

30. The trial court granted summary judgment in favor of Mr. McFarland (i.e., against Messrs. Hannemann and Morris) as to all of these claims.

31. As a result of the dysfunction that had led to the filing of the Pending Suit, no HOA meetings or elections were held in the years 2013 and 2014.

32. As the duly elected HOA Present and the only duly elected member of the HOA Board who did not cause the HOA to become dysfunctional (the other two members of the HOA Board being Messrs. Hannemann and Morris, who were responsible for the dysfunction), Mr. McFarland has, ever since the HOA became dysfunctional in 2012, continued to serve, de facto and/or de jure, as HOA President and the only member of the HOA Board authorized to conduct HOA business, and all other members of the HOA besides Messrs. Hannemann and Morris have consistently acted in conformity therewith—indeed, though not consistently, even Messrs. Hannemann and Morris have at times acted in conformity therewith.

33. Messrs. Hannemann and Morris caused purported HOA annual meetings to be held on May 17, 2015, and April 25, 2016, but those meetings, and any action taken at them, were invalid.

34. The HOA's governing documents require timely payment of annual HOA assessments. When an assessment, or any portion thereof, is not paid when due it is delinquent; the unpaid balance accrues interest (and an additional penalty may be assessed); and HOA voting rights are suspended as the non-paying member is not in good standing with the HOA.

35. In addition to the actions alleged against them in the Pending Suit, which compromise their standing with the HOA and their authority to act on its behalf, Messrs. Hannemann and Morris did not timely pay their \$1,000 annual HOA assessments for the years 2013 and 2014, and when they finally did provide checks for late payment of these

assessments—their checks, it should be noted, were provided to Mr. McFarland’s counsel in the Pending Suit, in conformity with Mr. McFarland’s de facto and/or de jure status as HOA President and the only member of the HOA Board authorized to conduct HOA business—they were not actually received by the HOA until after May 17, 2015, and at that they did not account for interest or penalties; accordingly, Messrs. Hannemann and Morris were not in good standing with the HOA and were not authorized to act on HOA matters at the time of the purported May 17, 2015, HOA annual meeting, and their lack of good standing/authority to act persisted at the time of the purported April 25, 2016, HOA annual meeting, as has continued to persist.

36. Additionally, Messrs. Hannemann and Morris’s 2015 HOA assessments were not paid on time—though when they did pay them, they did so via deposit into the HOA bank account that Mr. McFarland controls as de facto and/or de jure HOA President and the only member of the HOA Board authorized to conduct HOA business.

37. Despite years of his fellow HOA members consistently acting in conformity with Mr. McFarland’s status as de facto and/or de jure HOA President and the only member of the HOA Board authorized to conduct HOA business during the pendency of the Pending Suit, which included Mr. McFarland’s preparation of the annual HOA assessment notice provided to all members of the HOA in or about April of each year to cover the period from June 1 of the current year through May 31 of the year to follow, on April 26, 2016, Mr. Hannemann, representing himself to be HOA President and an HOA Board member, wrote all members of the HOA advising that, as a result of the purported HOA annual meeting on April 25, 2016, a new HOA assessment was owed by all members in the amount of \$600 for the six-month period from June 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016.

38. In his April 26, 2016, letter, Mr. Hannemann advised that the HOA members' payments for the new \$600 assessments would be deposited into a "new corporate []HOA checking account by the current Treasurer [Mr. Morris]," and that, if a member instead paid his/her annual assessment in accordance with the notice Mr. McFarland sent, it "could put you in jeopardy."

39. On May 31, 2016, however, Mr. Hannemann, again representing himself to be HOA President and an HOA Board member, wrote another letter to all HOA members acknowledging that, despite the assessment notice in his April 26, 2016, letter, "some assessments were paid into an account other than the newly established []HOA checking account," i.e., they had been paid in accordance with the annual HOA assessment Mr. McFarland sent.

40. Mr. Hannemann's May 31, 2016, letter continued, "While disappointing, the Board does not contemplate any action against homeowners regarding this issue at this time. However, Mr. Morris and I have sent our assessments to the newly established P.O. Box and checking account."

41. On November 28, 2016, Mr. Hannemann, again representing himself to be HOA President and an HOA Board member, wrote all HOA members advising of a \$1,000 annual assessment for the year 2017; as for those members who already paid \$1,000 back in May of 2016 in accordance with the assessment Mr. McFarland had sent (which, in point of fact, were all of the HOA members besides Messrs. Hannemann and Morris), Mr. Hannemann advised that their HOA assessments for 2017 were \$600 and were due by December 31, 2016, and that "[f]ailure to pay your assessment in a timely manner, December 31, 2016, could result in a lien being placed against you and your property."