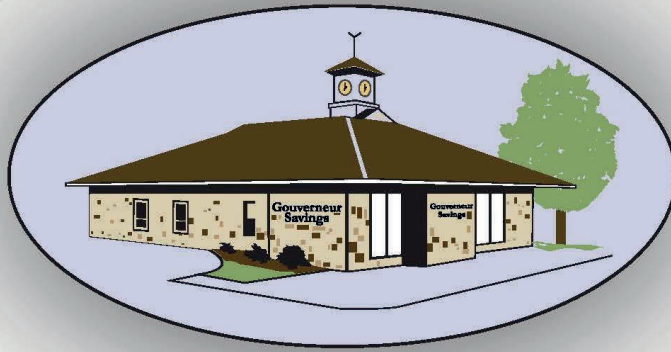


**Gouverneur Bancorp, Inc.**



**2024 Annual Report**

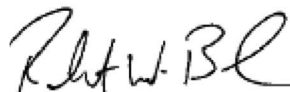


## President's Message

To Our Shareholders:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, officers and employees of Gouverneur Bancorp, Inc. and its subsidiary, Gouverneur Savings and Loan Association, I present to you our 2024 annual report.

I extend my sincere appreciation to you, our shareholders, for your continued support of our endeavors, and I especially want to thank the Board of Directors and staff who have worked diligently with me to achieve our positive results. We look forward to our continued success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. W. Barlow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Robert W. Barlow  
President and Chief Executive Officer



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

FORM 10-K

(Mark one)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024

or

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File Number: 000-56605

**GOVERNEUR BANCORP, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Maryland**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**42 Church Street, Gouverneur, New York**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**37-2102925**

(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No)

**13642**

(Zip Code)

**(315) 287-2600**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act: None

Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share

(Title of Class)

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.  Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.  Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.  Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files):  Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, smaller reporting company or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of, "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," and "smaller reporting company," in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller Reporting Company

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed a report on and attestation to its management's assessment of the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting under Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (15 U.S.C. 7262(b)) by the registered public accounting firm that prepared or issued its audit report.

If securities are registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act, indicate by check mark whether the financial statements of the registrant included in the filing reflect the correction of an error to previously issued financial statements.

Indicate by check mark whether any of those error corrections are restatements that required a recovery analysis of incentive-based compensation received by any of the registrant's executive officers during the relevant recovery period pursuant to §240.10D-1(b).

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).  Yes  No

As of March 28, 2024, the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, the aggregate market value of the common stock held by nonaffiliates of the registrant was \$11.6 million. The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's common stock as of December 20, 2024 was 1,107,134 shares.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of the Registrant's Proxy Statement for the 2025 Annual Meeting of Stockholders are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

**GOUVERNEUR BANCORP, INC.**

**Index to Annual Report on Form 10-K**

<b>Item Number</b>		<b>Page No.</b>
<b>PART I</b>		
Item 1	Business	1
Item 1A	Risk Factors	18
Item 1B	Unresolved Staff Comments	28
Item 1C	Cybersecurity	28
Item 2	Properties	30
Item 3	Legal Proceedings	30
Item 4	Mine Safety Disclosures	30
<b>PART II</b>		
Item 5	Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities	31
Item 6	[Reserved]	32
Item 7	Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	32
Item 7A	Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk	56
Item 8	Financial Statements and Supplementary Data	56
Item 9	Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	56
Item 9A	Controls and Procedures	56
Item 9B	Other Information	57
Item 9C	Disclosure Regarding Foreign Jurisdictions that Prevent Inspections	57
<b>PART III</b>		
Item 10	Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance	58
Item 11	Executive Compensation	58
Item 12	Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters	58
Item 13	Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence	58
Item 14	Principal Accountant Fees and Services	58
<b>PART IV</b>		
Item 15	Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules	59
Item 16	Form 10-K Summary	60
	Signatures	61

## CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements, which can be identified by the use of words such as “believes,” “expects,” “anticipates,” “estimates” or similar expressions. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to:

- statements of our beliefs, goals, intentions and expectations;
- statements regarding our business plans, prospects, growth and operating strategies;
- statements regarding the quality of our loan and investment portfolios; and
- estimates of our risks and future costs and benefits.

These forward-looking statements are based on current beliefs and expectations of our management and are inherently subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies, many of which are beyond our control. In addition, these forward-looking statements are subject to assumptions with respect to future business strategies and decisions that are subject to change.

The following factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ materially from the anticipated results or other expectations expressed in the forward-looking statements:

- general economic conditions, either nationally or in our market areas, that are worse than expected including as a result of employment levels and labor shortages, and the effects of inflation, a potential recession or slowed economic growth caused by supply chain disruptions or otherwise;
- changes in the level and direction of loan delinquencies and write-offs and changes in estimates of the adequacy of the allowance for credit losses;
- our ability to access cost-effective funding;
- our ability to pay future dividends at currently expected rates;
- fluctuations in real estate values and both residential and commercial real estate market conditions;
- demand for loans and deposits in our market area;
- deposit outflows and our ability to successfully manage liquidity;
- our ability to implement and change our business strategies;
- competition among depository and other financial institutions;
- inflation and changes in the interest rate environment that reduce our margins and yields, the fair value of financial instruments or our level of loan originations or prepayments on loans we have made and make;
- adverse changes in the securities or secondary mortgage markets;
- changes in laws or government regulations or policies affecting financial institutions, including changes in regulatory fees and capital requirements and insurance premiums;
- changes in the quality or composition of our loan or investment portfolios;
- technological changes that may be more difficult or expensive than expected;

- the inability of third-party providers to perform as expected;
- our ability to manage market risk, credit risk and operational risk in the current economic environment;
- our ability to enter new markets successfully and to capitalize on growth opportunities;
- our ability to ability to successfully integrate into our operations any assets, liabilities, customers, systems and management personnel we may acquire, including those acquired from Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent in September 2022, and our ability to realize related revenue synergies and cost savings within expected time frames and any goodwill charges related thereto;
- changes in consumer spending, borrowing and savings habits;
- changes in accounting policies and practices, as may be adopted by the bank regulatory agencies, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, the Securities and Exchange Commission or the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board;
- our ability to attract and retain key employees; and
- changes in financial condition, results of operations or future prospects of issuers of securities that we own.

Any of the forward-looking statements that we make in this report and in other public statements we make may later prove incorrect because of inaccurate assumptions, the factors illustrated above or other factors that we cannot foresee. Consequently, no forward-looking statement can be guaranteed. Except as required by applicable law or regulation, we do not undertake, and we specifically disclaim any obligation, to release publicly the result of any revisions that may be made to any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of the statements or to reflect the occurrence of anticipated or unanticipated events.

Further information on other factors that could affect us are included in the section captioned “Item 1A: Risk Factors.”



## PART I

### ITEM 1. BUSINESS

#### General

***Gouverneur Bancorp, Inc.*** Gouverneur Bancorp, Inc. (the “Company”) is a Maryland corporation that was incorporated in June 2023 to be the successor to Gouverneur Bancorp, Inc., a federally chartered corporation (the “Mid-Tier Holding Company”), upon completion of the second-step conversion of Gouverneur Savings and Loan Association (the “Bank”) from the two-tier mutual holding company structure to the stock holding company structure. Cambray Mutual Holding Company was the former mutual holding company for the Mid-Tier Holding Company prior to the completion of the second-step conversion. In conjunction with the second-step conversion, each of Cambray Mutual Holding Company and the Mid-Tier Holding Company merged out of existence and now cease to exist. The second-step conversion was completed on October 31, 2023, at which time the Company sold, for gross proceeds of \$7.2 million, a total of 723,068 shares of common stock at \$10.00 per share, including 57,845 shares sold to the Bank’s employee stock ownership plan. As part of the second-step conversion, each of the existing outstanding shares of Mid-Tier Holding Company common stock owned by persons other than Cambray Mutual Holding Company was converted into 0.5334 shares of Company common stock. As a result of the second-step conversion, all share information has been subsequently revised to reflect the 0.5334 exchange ratio, unless otherwise noted.

The Company is a savings and loan holding company regulated by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the “Federal Reserve Board”). The shares of the Company’s common stock are quoted on the OTCQB Marketplace (OTCQB) under the symbol “GOVB.”

***Gouverneur Savings and Loan Association.*** The Bank is a New York-chartered stock savings and loan association headquartered in Gouverneur, New York. The Bank has provided community banking services to individuals, families and businesses since 1892. The Bank currently conducts business through its five branch offices located in Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties in New York.

The Bank’s principal business consists of originating one- to four-family residential real estate mortgage loans and, to a lesser extent, commercial real estate loans, construction loans and home equity loans and lines of credit. We also offer commercial loans and consumer loans. We offer a variety of retail deposits to the general public in the areas surrounding our main office and our branch offices. We offer our customers a variety of deposit products with interest rates that are competitive with those of similar products offered by other financial institutions operating in our market area. We also utilize borrowings as a source of funds. Our revenues are derived primarily from interest on loans and, to a lesser extent, interest on investment securities and mortgage-backed securities. We also generate revenues from other income including deposit fees and service charges, realized gains on sales of securities, realized gains on sales of loans associated with loan production and realized gains on sales of other real estate owned.

***GS&L Municipal Bank.*** The Bank operates a limited-purpose wholly owned subsidiary, GS&L Municipal Bank, that was formed in September 2022 as a New York-chartered limited purpose commercial bank. The Bank formed GS&L Municipal Bank as a limited purpose commercial bank subsidiary because, under New York municipal laws, a New York-chartered savings and loan association, such as the Bank, is not authorized to directly receive New York state or municipal deposits. GS&L Municipal Bank has the power to receive deposits only to the extent of accepting for deposit the funds of the State of New York and its respective agents, authorities and instrumentalities, and local governments as defined in Section 10(a)(1) of the New York General Municipal Law. GS&L Municipal Bank’s purpose is to attract deposits from local municipalities and, at September 30, 2024, GS&L Municipal Bank had \$21.4 million in deposits. GS&L Municipal Bank is not authorized under New York law to make loans or to exercise certain fiduciary powers.

The Bank and GS&L Municipal Bank are each regulated by the New York State Department of Financial Services and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The accounts of both the Bank and GS&L Municipal Bank are consolidated in the consolidated financial statements of the Company.

Our principal executive offices are located at 42 Church Street, Gouverneur, New York 13642 and our telephone number is (315) 287-2600. Our website address is [www.gouverneurbank.com](http://www.gouverneurbank.com). Information on our website should not be considered a part of this report.

Throughout this report, references to “we,” “us” or “our” refer to the Company or the Bank, or both, as the context indicates.

### **Acquisition of Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent**

On September 16, 2022, we acquired Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent, a New York-chartered stock commercial bank headquartered in Cape Vincent, New York. At the effective time of the merger, Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent was merged with and into the Bank and each Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent stockholder became entitled to receive \$1,056.11 in cash for each share of Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent common stock that they held at the effective time of the merger. The fair value of the assets acquired as a result of the acquisition totaled \$81.9 million, loans totaled \$37.0 million and deposits totaled \$77.2 million. Goodwill recorded in the acquisition was \$4.2 million. We completed the acquisition to further expand our footprint and competitive position in Jefferson County and the Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River communities, to offer expanded products and services to Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent’s and the Bank’s customer bases, and to enhance our operational opportunities and future earnings.

### **Market Area**

We are headquartered in Gouverneur, New York and currently operate five branch offices located in Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties in New York. We consider our primary market area to be Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties, where we maintain branch offices, as well as Lewis County, where we make loans and accept deposits. These three counties, which are all predominately rural and comprised of many small towns and villages, are part of the North Country region in New York state. The North Country is the northernmost region of New York state, bordered by Lake Champlain to the east, the Adirondack Mountains to the south, the Mohawk Valley region to the southeast, the Canadian border to the north, and Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence Seaway to the west. The northern part of our primary market is situated on the St. Lawrence River, which forms the northern border of New York State and demarcates part of the international boundary between Canada and the United States, and includes private and public lands that are attractive vacation destinations. These vacation destinations include the Thousand Islands, a group of more than 1,800 islands in the St. Lawrence River with numerous waterfront hotels, resorts and marinas, as well as second vacation homes and cottages.

The economy of our primary market area is fairly diversified with employment sectors ranging across a number of industries, including manufacturing, agriculture, retail trades, construction, mining, health care, colleges and universities, other education and government service, as well as tourism-related businesses along the St. Lawrence River. Fort Drum, a major U.S. Army military installation, is also located at the southern edge of our primary market area within Jefferson County. More than 15,000 military service members and approximately 3,700 civilian personnel (including government contractors) work at Fort Drum, with an estimated 15,000 family members living on post or in the local area. In addition, more than 3,000 military retirees reside in the areas surrounding Fort Drum.

### **Competition**

The financial services industry is highly competitive. The Bank experiences substantial competition with other commercial banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, credit unions, securities and brokerage companies, mortgage companies, insurance companies, finance companies, money market funds and other non-bank financial service providers in attracting deposits and making loans. The competing major commercial banks have greater resources that may provide them a competitive advantage by enabling them to maintain numerous branch offices and mount extensive

advertising campaigns. The increasingly competitive environment is the result of changes in regulation, changes in technology and product delivery systems, additional financial service providers and the accelerating pace of consolidation among financial services providers.

The financial services industry has become even more competitive as a result of legislative, regulatory and technological changes and continued consolidation. Banks, securities firms and insurance companies can merge under the umbrella of a financial holding company, which can offer virtually any type of financial service, including banking, securities underwriting, insurance (both agency and underwriting) and merchant banking. Also, technology has lowered barriers to entry and made it possible for non-banks to offer products and services traditionally provided by banks, such as automatic transfer and automatic payment systems.

Some of our non-banking competitors have fewer regulatory constraints and may have lower cost structures. In addition, some competitors have assets, capital and lending limits greater than we do, greater access to capital markets and offer a broader range of products and services than we offer. These institutions may have the ability to finance wide-ranging advertising campaigns and may also be able to offer lower rates on loans and higher rates on deposits than we can offer.

Our competition for loans comes primarily from financial institutions in our market area. We intend to continue to rely upon local promotional activities, personal relationships established by officers, directors and employees with their customers and specialized services tailored to meet the needs of the communities served. Management believes that it can compete effectively as a result of local market knowledge, local decision making and awareness of customer needs.

### **Lending Activities**

Our loan portfolio consists primarily of one- to four-family residential mortgage loans. To a lesser extent, our loan portfolio consists of commercial real estate loans, construction loans and home equity loans and lines of credit, as well as commercial loans and consumer loans. Substantially all of our loans are secured by properties located within our local markets.

***One- to Four-Family Residential Loans.*** Our primary lending activity is the origination of mortgage loans to enable borrowers to purchase or refinance existing homes, including second vacation homes and cottages, in our market area. Our one- to four-family residential loans totaled \$103.6 million, or 82.4% of our total loan portfolio, at September 30, 2024.

We offer fixed-rate and adjustable-rate mortgage loans with terms up to 30 years. Borrower demand for adjustable-rate loans rather than fixed-rate loans is a function of the level of interest rates, the expectations of changes in the level of interest rates, the difference between the interest rates and loan fees offered for fixed-rate mortgage loans and the initial period interest rates and loan fees for adjustable-rate loans. The relative amount of fixed-rate mortgage loans (as opposed to adjustable interest rates) and adjustable-rate mortgage loans that can be originated or purchased at any time is largely determined by the demand for each in a competitive environment and the effect each has on our interest rate risk. The loan fees charged, interest rates, and other provisions of mortgage loans are determined by us on the basis of our own pricing criteria and competitive market conditions.

We offer fixed-rate loans with terms of one to 30 years. Our adjustable-rate mortgage loans are based on one-, five- or 10-year amortization schedule. Interest rates and payments on our adjustable-rate mortgage loans adjust every one, five or 10 years. Interest rates and payments on our adjustable-rate loans generally are adjusted to a rate that is based on the respective one-year Constant Maturity U.S. Treasury indices.

Due to historically low interest rate levels, borrowers generally have preferred fixed-rate loans in recent years. While we anticipate that our adjustable-rate loans will better offset the adverse effects on our net interest income of an increase in interest rates as compared to fixed-rate mortgages, the increased mortgage payments required of adjustable-rate loans in a rising interest rate environment could cause an increase in delinquencies and defaults. The marketability of the underlying property also may be adversely affected in a high interest rate environment. In addition, although adjustable-

rate mortgage loans help make our asset base more responsive to changes in interest rates, the extent of this interest rate sensitivity is limited by the annual and lifetime interest rate adjustment limits.

While one- to four-family residential real estate loans are normally originated with up to 30-year terms, such loans typically remain outstanding for substantially shorter periods because borrowers often prepay their loans in full upon sale of the property pledged as security or upon refinancing the original loan. Therefore, average loan maturity is a function of, among other factors, the level of purchase and sale activity in the real estate market, prevailing interest rates and the interest rates payable on outstanding loans.

We do not make conventional loans with loan-to-value ratios exceeding 97% and generally limit loan-to-value ratios on our conventional loans to 80%. Loans with loan-to-value ratios in excess of 80% generally require private mortgage insurance, a government guarantee or additional collateral. We require all properties securing mortgage loans to be appraised by licensed independent appraisers from appraisal management companies approved by our board of directors. Borrowers must obtain hazard insurance for all mortgage types and flood insurance for loans on property located in a flood zone, before closing the loan.

Our largest one- to four-family residential loan at September 30, 2024 was an owner-occupied one- to four-family residential loan for \$630,000 secured by a single-family residence located in Chaumont, New York, \$614,000 of which is outstanding. This loan is performing in accordance with its terms.

**Commercial Real Estate Loans.** We offer fixed rate and adjustable-rate mortgage loans secured by commercial real estate, including multi-family residential real estate. Our commercial real estate and multi-family residential real estate loans are generally secured by office buildings, retail and mixed-use properties, apartment buildings, and owner-occupied properties used for businesses. At September 30, 2024, our commercial real estate loan portfolio totaled \$11.2 million, or 8.9% of our total loan portfolio.

We originate commercial real estate loans with terms generally up to 20 years. Interest rates and payments on adjustable-rate loans adjust every one, five and ten years. Interest rates and payments on our adjustable-rate commercial loans generally are adjusted to a rate typically equal to the current Prime Rate, plus a spread based on credit-worthiness and risk. Loan amounts generally do not exceed 70% of the appraised value for well-qualified borrowers.

Our largest commercial real estate and multi-family residential real estate loan at September 30, 2024 had an outstanding balance of \$542,000. This loan is secured by an automobile collision center and car wash located in Gouverneur, New York and is performing in accordance with its terms.

Loans secured by commercial real estate and multi-family residential real estate generally have larger balances and involve a greater degree of risk than one- to four-family residential mortgage loans. Of primary concern in commercial real estate and multi-family residential real estate lending is the borrower's credit-worthiness and the feasibility and cash flow potential of the project. Payments on loans secured by income producing properties often depend on successful operation and management of the properties. As a result, repayment of such loans may be subject, to a greater extent than residential real estate loans, to adverse conditions in the real estate market or the economy. In reaching a decision on whether to make a commercial real estate or multi-family real estate loan, we consider the net operating income of the property, the borrower's expertise, current cash flow, credit history and profitability, and the value of the underlying property.

**Construction and Land Loans.** We originate (i) residential construction loans to individuals and purchase loans that finance the construction of owner-occupied residential dwellings for personal use, (ii) commercial construction loans for the development of projects including non-owner occupied residential dwellings, apartment buildings, single-family investment loans, as well as owner-occupied properties used for business and (iii) commercial land loans for the purchase and development of raw land.

Our residential construction loans generally provide for the payment of interest only during the construction phase, which can be up to 12 months. At the end of the construction phase, substantially all of our loans automatically convert to permanent mortgage loans. Construction loans generally can be made with a maximum loan to value ratio of 80% of the appraised value with maximum terms of 30 years. Our residential construction loans totaled \$1.9 million, or 1.5% of our total loan portfolio, at September 30, 2024. At September 30, 2024, our largest outstanding residential construction loan was for \$360,000, all of which was disbursed and outstanding, and was made to finance the construction of a residence located in Hammond, New York. This loan is performing in accordance with its terms. We also require periodic inspections of the property during the term of the construction.

Our commercial construction loans provide for payment of interest only during the construction phase and may, in the case of an apartment or commercial building, convert to a permanent mortgage loan upon the completion of construction. In the case of a single-family subdivision or construction or builder loan, as individual lots are sold, the principal balance is reduced by agreed upon release prices at the outset of the loan sufficient to liquidate the loan prior to the final sale. In the case of a commercial construction loan, the construction period may be up to 12 months. Loans are generally made to a maximum of 70% on commercial loans of the lower of the cost or the appraised market value as determined by an independent licensed appraiser. We also require periodic inspections of the property during the term of the construction loan. At September 30, 2024, there were no outstanding commercial construction loans.

We also offer land loans to individuals on approved residential building lots for personal use. The land loans in our loan portfolio have terms of up to 15 years and a maximum loan to value ratio of 65% of the appraised value. At September 30, 2024, our largest outstanding land loan was for \$95,000, and was secured by land located in Wellesley Island, New York. This loan is performing in accordance with its terms.

***Home Equity Loans and Lines of Credit.*** We offer home equity loans and lines of credit, which have adjustable rates of interest that are indexed to the prime rate as published in The Wall Street Journal for terms of up to 20 years. These loans are originated with maximum loan-to-value ratios of 80% of the appraised value of the property, and we require that we have a second lien position on the property. We also offer secured and unsecured lines of credit for well-qualified individuals and small businesses. Management includes these loans based on the collateral supporting the line of credit in either the non-residential, multi-family, commercial or one-to-four family categories for the purposes of monitoring and evaluating the portfolio. At September 30, 2024, such loans totaled \$1.6 million, or 1.3% of our total loan portfolio.

***Commercial Loans.*** These loans consist of operating lines of credit secured by general business assets and equipment. The operating lines of credit are generally short term in nature with interest rates tied to the Prime Rate plus and adjustments occurring daily, monthly, or quarterly based on the original contract. For adjustable loans, there is also an interest rate floor. The equipment loans are typically made with maturities of less than five years and are priced with a fixed interest rate. Longer repayments of up to 15 years can be made depending on the useful life of the equipment being financed. Generally, rates are fixed for not longer than five years and will reset, generally based on the Constant Maturity U.S. Treasury indices plus a spread, if the amortization or maturity of the loan is longer. At September 30, 2024, such loans totaled \$1.9 million, or 1.5% of our total loan portfolio.

***Consumer Loans.*** We offer a variety of consumer loans to our customer base, which include loans for automobiles, motorcycles, campers, boats and other recreational vehicles, as well as personal secured and unsecured loans. At September 30, 2024, such loans totaled \$5.5 million, or 4.4% of our total loan portfolio.

Consumer loans may entail greater risk than do residential mortgage loans, particularly in the case of consumer loans that are unsecured or secured by assets that depreciate rapidly. In such cases, repossessed collateral for a defaulted consumer loan may not provide an adequate source of repayment for the outstanding loan and the remaining deficiency often does not warrant further substantial collection efforts against the borrower. In addition, consumer loan collections depend on the borrower's continuing financial stability, and therefore are more likely to be adversely affected by job loss, divorce, illness, or personal bankruptcy. Furthermore, the application of various federal and state laws, including federal and state bankruptcy and insolvency laws may limit the amount which can be recovered on such loans.

***Loan Origination, Purchases and Sales.*** Loan originations come from a number of sources. The primary source of loan originations are our in-house loan originators, and to a lesser extent, advertising and referrals from customers and local realtors. We primarily originate our own loans and retain them in our portfolio. However, we also occasionally purchase loans or participation interests in loans.

We also occasionally sell some of the longer-term fixed-rate one-to-four family mortgage loans that we originate in the secondary market based on prevailing market interest rate conditions, an analysis of the composition and risk of the loan portfolio, liquidity needs and interest rate risk management goals. Generally, loans are sold with recourse and with servicing retained, which enables us to retain customer contact following the loan sale. We sold \$356,000 of loans during the year ended September 30, 2024 and sold no loans during the year ended September 30, 2023.

As of September 30, 2024, we had one outstanding sold commercial loan participation for \$199,000 and for which we are the lead lender. This loan is performing in accordance with its terms.

***Loan Approval Procedures and Authority.*** Our lending activities follow written, non-discriminatory underwriting standards and loan origination procedures established by our board of directors and management. Decisions on loan applications are made on the basis of detailed information submitted by the prospective borrower, credit histories that we obtain and property valuations. Our board of directors has established a Loan Committee, consisting of two directors and two officers.

The board of directors has granted loan approval authority to certain officers up to prescribed limits, depending on the seniority of the officer, the type of loan and the underlying security. Our President and Chief Executive Officer has aggregate approval authority of up to \$300,000 for residential and commercial real estate loans and secured commercial loans, \$200,000 for secured consumer loans and \$50,000 for unsecured commercial and consumer loans. Senior lenders may approve up to \$250,000 for residential and \$225,000 for commercial real estate loans, \$50,000 for commercial secured, \$70,000 for consumer secured, \$10,000 for commercial unsecured and \$25,000 for consumer unsecured. Individual loan officers generally can approve residential loans of up to \$200,000 for and \$75,000 for commercial real estate loans, \$25,000 for secured commercial loans, \$50,000 for secured consumer loans and \$3,500 for unsecured commercial and consumer loans. The Loan Committee generally may approve residential and commercial real estate loans and secured commercial loans of up to \$400,000, secured commercial loans up to \$400,000, consumer loans of up to \$250,000, commercial unsecured up to \$75,000 unsecured consumer loans of up to \$50,000. Any loans in excess of these amounts must be approved by the board of directors.

***Loans to One Borrower.*** The maximum amount that we may lend to one borrower and the borrower's related entities is limited by statute to generally 15% of our stated capital and reserves. At September 30, 2024, our regulatory lending maximum was \$4.9 million. We have an internal loan to one borrower limit of \$1.0 million, which is below our regulatory lending maximum.

***Loan Commitments.*** We issue commitments for fixed-rate and adjustable-rate mortgage loans conditioned upon the occurrence of certain events. Commitments to originate mortgage loans are legally binding agreements to lend to our customers and generally expire in 30 days.

***Delinquencies.*** When a borrower fails to make a required loan payment, we take a number of steps to have the borrower cure the delinquency and restore the loan to current status. We generally make initial contact with the borrower when the loan becomes fifteen days past due. If payment is not received by the 45th day of delinquency, additional letters are sent and phone calls generally are made to the customer. When the loan becomes 90 days past due, we generally commence pre-foreclosure proceedings against any real property that secures the loan or attempt to repossess any personal property that secures a consumer loan. If a foreclosure action is instituted and the loan is not brought current, paid in full, or refinanced before the foreclosure sale, the real property securing the loan generally is sold at foreclosure. We may consider loan workout arrangements with certain borrowers under certain circumstances. Management informs the board of directors on a monthly basis of the amount of loans delinquent more than 30 days, all loans in foreclosure and all foreclosed and repossessed property that we own.

## **Investment Activities**

We have legal authority to invest in various types of liquid assets, including U.S. Treasury obligations, securities of various federal agencies and of state and municipal governments, mortgage-backed securities and certificates of deposit of federally insured institutions. At September 30, 2024, our investment portfolio consisted primarily of municipal securities with maturities of five to more than ten years, corporate bonds, and mortgage-backed securities issued by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac or Ginnie Mae with stated final maturities of 30 years or less.

Our investment objectives are to provide and maintain liquidity, to maintain a balance of high quality, diversified investments to minimize risk, to provide collateral for pledging requirements, to establish an acceptable level of interest rate risk, to provide an alternate source of low-risk investments when demand for loans is weak and to generate a favorable return. Our board of directors has the overall responsibility for our investment portfolio, including approval of our investment policy. Our Chief Financial Officer is the designated investment officer and is responsible for the daily investment activities and is authorized to make investment decisions consistent with our investment policy.

## **Interest Rate Swap and Hedging Activities**

We use derivative instruments as a risk management tool and have entered into several interest rate swap agreements whereby we pay a fixed rate and receive a variable rate on a notional amount. The notional amount of the swap agreements at September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2023 was \$3.0 million and \$5.5 million, respectively. We enter into these arrangements to hedge the cost of certain funding sources and to increase the interest rate sensitivity of certain assets. Financial derivatives are recorded at fair value as other assets or liabilities. The accounting for changes in the fair value of a derivative depends on whether it has been designated and qualifies as a part of a hedging relationship. For a fair value hedge, changes in the fair value of the derivative instrument and changes in the fair value of the hedged asset or liability are currently recognized in current year earnings, and gains are the result of the swaps market value fluctuations with long-term bond rates and projected short-term rates.

## **Deposit Activities and Other Sources of Funds**

**General.** Deposits and loan repayments are the major sources of our funds for lending and other investment activities. Loan repayments are a relatively stable source of funds, while deposit inflows and outflows and loan prepayments are significantly influenced by general interest rates and market conditions.

**Deposit Accounts.** The vast majority of our depositors are residents of Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties in New York. Deposits are raised primarily from within our primary market area through the offering of a broad selection of deposit instruments, including checking accounts, money market accounts, regular savings accounts, club savings accounts, certificate accounts and various retirement accounts. Deposit account terms vary according to the minimum balance required, the time periods the funds must remain on deposit, and the interest rate among other factors. In determining the terms of our deposit accounts, we consider the rates offered by our competition, profitability to us, matching deposit and loan products and customer preferences and concerns. We generally review our deposit mix and pricing weekly. Our current strategy is to offer competitive rates, but not be the market leader in every type and maturity.

**Borrowings.** If necessary, we borrow from the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York to supplement our supply of lendable funds and to meet deposit withdrawal requirements. The Federal Home Loan Bank functions as a central reserve bank providing credit for member financial institutions. As a member, we are required to own capital stock in the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York and are authorized to apply for advances on the security of such stock and certain of our mortgage loans and other assets (principally securities that are obligations of, or guaranteed by, the United States), provided certain standards related to credit-worthiness have been met. Advances are made under several different programs, each having its own interest rate and range of maturities. Depending on the program, limitations on the amount of advances are based either on a fixed percentage of an institution's net worth or on the Federal Home Loan Bank's assessment of the institution's credit-worthiness. Under its current credit policies, the Federal Home Loan Bank generally limits advances to 25% of a member's assets, and short-term borrowings of less than one year may not exceed 10% of the

institution's assets. The Federal Home Loan Bank determines specific lines of credit for each member institution. There were no Federal Home Loan Bank advances outstanding at September 30, 2024. At September 30, 2024, we had the ability to borrow an additional \$59.3 million from the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York. Additionally, at September 30, 2024, we had a line of credit with the Federal Reserve Discount Window totaling \$5.0 million and a second line of credit with Atlantic Community Banker's Bank totaling \$4.0 million. At September 30, 2024, there were no outstanding balances under any of these additional credit facilities.

## **Regulation and Supervision**

The Bank is a New York-chartered stock savings and loan association, and the Bank's deposits are insured up to applicable limits by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The Bank is subject to extensive regulation by the New York State Department of Financial Services, as its chartering agency, and by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, as its primary federal regulator. The Bank is required to file reports with, and is periodically examined by, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the New York State Department of Financial Services concerning its activities and financial condition, and must obtain regulatory approvals prior to entering into certain transactions, including, but not limited to, mergers with or acquisitions of other financial institutions. The Bank is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York.

The regulation and supervision of the Bank establishes a comprehensive framework of activities in which an institution can engage and is intended primarily for the protection of depositors and borrowers and, for purposes of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the protection of the deposit insurance fund. This regulatory structure also gives the regulatory authorities extensive discretion in connection with their supervisory and enforcement activities and examination policies, including policies with respect to the classification of assets and the establishment of adequate loan loss reserves for regulatory purposes.

The Bank is a "savings association" under the Home Owners' Loan Act, as amended. As a result, the Company is a savings and loan holding company and is required to comply with the rules and regulations of the Federal Reserve Board applicable to savings and loan holding companies. The Company is also required to file certain reports with the Federal Reserve Board and is subject to examination by and the enforcement authority of the Federal Reserve Board. The Company is also subject to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission under the federal securities laws.

Any change in applicable laws or regulations, whether by the New York State Department of Financial Services, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve Board, the State of New York or Congress, could have a material adverse impact on the operations and financial performance of the Company and the Bank. In addition, the Company and the Bank are, and will continue to be, affected by the monetary and fiscal policies of various agencies of the United States Government, including the Federal Reserve Board. In view of changing conditions in the national economy and in the money markets, it is impossible for management to accurately predict future changes in monetary policy or the effect of such changes on the business or financial condition of the Company and the Bank.

Set forth below is a brief description of material regulatory requirements that are applicable to the Company and the Bank. The description is limited to certain material aspects of the statutes and regulations addressed, and is not intended to be a complete description of such statutes and regulations and their effects on the Company and the Bank.

### ***Regulation of the Bank***

***New York Banking Law.*** The Bank derives its lending, investment, and other authority primarily from the applicable provisions of New York state banking law and the regulations of the New York State Department of Financial Services, as limited by Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation regulations. Under these laws and regulations, savings associations, including the Bank, may invest in real estate mortgages, personal and commercial loans, certain types of debt securities (including certain corporate debt securities, and obligations of federal, state, and local governments and agencies), certain types of corporate equity securities, and certain other assets.



Under New York state banking law, New York State chartered savings associations may declare and pay dividends out of the balance of net profits after net worth exceeds ten percent of capital (which we refer to as the “undivided profits” of the savings and loan association) upon approval by the board of directors, unless there is an impairment of capital.

New York state banking law gives the Superintendent authority to issue an order to a New York state-chartered banking institution to appear and explain an apparent violation of law, to discontinue unauthorized or unsafe practices, and to keep prescribed books and accounts. Upon a finding by the New York State Department of Financial Services that any director, trustee, or officer of any banking organization has violated any law, or has continued unauthorized or unsafe practices in conducting the business of the banking organization after having been notified by the Superintendent to discontinue such practices, such director, trustee, or officer may be removed from office after notice and an opportunity to be heard. The Superintendent also has authority to appoint a conservator or a receiver for a savings and loan association under certain circumstances.

**Capital Requirements.** Federal regulations require Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation-insured state savings associations to meet several minimum capital standards: a common equity Tier 1 capital to risk-based assets ratio of 4.5%, a Tier 1 capital to risk-based assets ratio of 6.0%, a total capital to risk-based assets ratio of 8%, a Tier 1 capital to average assets leverage ratio of 4%, and a Tier 1 capital to total assets of 1.5%.

For purposes of the regulatory capital requirements, common equity Tier 1 capital is generally defined as common stockholders’ equity and retained earnings. Tier 1 capital is generally defined as common equity Tier 1 and additional Tier 1 capital. Additional Tier 1 capital includes certain noncumulative perpetual preferred stock and related surplus and minority interests in equity accounts of consolidated subsidiaries. Total capital includes Tier 1 capital (common equity Tier 1 capital plus additional Tier 1 capital) and Tier 2 capital. Tier 2 capital is comprised of capital instruments and related surplus, meeting specified requirements, and may include cumulative preferred stock and long-term perpetual preferred stock, mandatory convertible securities, intermediate preferred stock and subordinated debt. Also included in Tier 2 capital is the allowance for credit losses limited to a maximum of 1.25% of risk-weighted assets and, for institutions that made such an election regarding the treatment of accumulated other comprehensive income (“AOCI”), up to 45% of net unrealized gains on available-for-sale equity securities with readily determinable fair market values. Institutions that have not exercised the AOCI opt-out have AOCI incorporated into common equity Tier 1 capital (including unrealized gains and losses on available-for-sale securities). The Bank exercised the opt-out and therefore does not include AOCI in its regulatory capital determinations. Calculation of all types of regulatory capital is subject to deductions and adjustments specified in the regulations.

In determining the amount of risk-weighted assets for purposes of calculating risk-based capital ratios, all assets, including certain off-balance sheet assets (such as recourse obligations, direct credit substitutes, residual interests) are multiplied by a risk weight factor assigned by the regulations based on the risks believed inherent in the type of asset. Higher levels of capital are required for asset categories believed to present greater risk. For example, a risk weight of 0% is assigned to cash and U.S. government securities, a risk weight of 50% is generally assigned to prudently underwritten first lien one- to four-family residential mortgages, a risk weight of 100% is assigned to commercial and consumer loans, a risk weight of 150% is assigned to certain past due loans and a risk weight of between 0% to 600% is assigned to permissible equity interests, depending on certain specified factors.

In addition to establishing the minimum regulatory capital requirements, the regulations limit capital distributions and certain discretionary bonus payments to management if the institution does not hold a “capital conservation buffer” consisting of 2.5% of common equity Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted asset above the amount necessary to meet its minimum risk-based capital requirements. The capital conservation buffer requirement began being phased in starting on January 1, 2016 at 0.625% of risk-weighted assets and increased each year until fully implemented at 2.5% on January 1, 2019. At September 30, 2024, both the Bank and GS&L Municipal Bank exceeded the fully phased in regulatory requirement for the capital conservation buffer.

The Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act enacted in May 2018 required the federal banking agencies, including the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, to establish for financial institutions with assets of less than \$10 billion a community bank leverage ratio (the ratio of a bank's tangible equity capital to average total consolidated assets) of 8 to 10%. A qualifying community financial institution with capital meeting the specified requirements (including off balance sheet exposures of 25% or less of total assets and trading assets and liabilities of 5% or less of total assets) and electing to follow the alternative framework is considered to meet all applicable regulatory capital requirements including the risk-based requirements. The community bank leverage ratio was established at 9%, effective January 1, 2020. A qualifying financial institution may opt in and out of the community bank leverage ratio framework on its quarterly call report. A financial institution that ceases to meet any qualifying criteria is provided with a two-quarter grace period to comply with the community bank leverage ratio requirements or the general capital regulations by the federal regulators. In addition, Section 4012 of the CARES Act required that the community bank leverage ratio be temporarily lowered to 8%. The federal regulators issued a rule making the lower ratio effective April 23, 2020. The rules also established a two-quarter grace period for a qualifying community bank whose leverage ratio falls below the 8% community bank leverage ratio requirement so long as the bank maintains a leverage ratio of 7% or greater. Another rule was issued providing for the transition back to the 9% community bank leverage ratio, increasing the ratio to 8.5% for calendar year 2021 and to 9% thereafter. As of September 30, 2024, the Bank had not elected the community bank leverage ratio alternative reporting framework.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act required each federal banking agency to revise its risk-based capital standards for insured institutions to ensure that those standards take adequate account of interest-rate risk, concentration of credit risk, and the risk of nontraditional activities, as well as to reflect the actual performance and expected risk of loss on multifamily residential loans. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, along with the other federal banking agencies, adopted a regulation providing that the agencies will take into account the exposure of a bank's capital and economic value to changes in interest rate risk in assessing a bank's capital adequacy. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation also has authority to establish individual minimum capital requirements in appropriate cases upon determination that an institution's capital level is, or is likely to become, inadequate in light of the particular circumstances.

***Standards for Safety and Soundness.*** As required by statute, the federal banking agencies adopted final regulations and Interagency Guidelines Establishing Standards for Safety and Soundness to implement safety and soundness standards. The guidelines set forth the safety and soundness standards that the federal banking agencies use to identify and address problems at insured depository institutions before capital becomes impaired. The guidelines address internal controls and information systems, the internal audit system, credit underwriting, loan documentation, interest rate exposure, asset growth, asset quality, earnings and compensation, fees and benefits. The agencies have also established standards for safeguarding customer information. If the appropriate federal banking agency determines that an institution fails to meet any standard prescribed by the guidelines, the agency may require the institution to submit to the agency an acceptable plan to achieve compliance with the standard.

***Investments and Activities.*** Under federal law, all state-chartered savings associations insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation have generally been limited to activities as principal and equity investments of the type and in the amount authorized for federal savings associations, notwithstanding state law. In addition, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation is authorized to permit such institutions to engage in certain other state authorized activities or investments that meet all applicable capital requirements if it is determined that such activities or investments do not pose a significant risk to the Deposit Insurance Fund.

***Prompt Corrective Regulatory Action.*** Federal law requires, among other things, that federal bank regulatory authorities take "prompt corrective action" with respect to banks that do not meet minimum capital requirements. For these purposes, the law establishes five capital categories: well capitalized, adequately capitalized, undercapitalized, significantly undercapitalized and critically undercapitalized.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has adopted regulations to implement the prompt corrective action legislation. An institution is deemed to be "well capitalized" if it has a total risk-based capital ratio of 10.0% or greater, a

Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 8.0% or greater, a leverage ratio of 5.0% or greater and a common equity Tier 1 ratio of 6.5% or greater. An institution is “adequately capitalized” if it has a total risk-based capital ratio of 8.0% or greater, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of 6.0% or greater, a leverage ratio of 4.0% or greater and a common equity Tier 1 ratio of 4.5% or greater. An institution is “undercapitalized” if it has a total risk-based capital ratio of less than 8.0%, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of less than 6.0%, a leverage ratio of less than 4.0% or a common equity Tier 1 ratio of less than 4.5%. An institution is deemed to be “significantly undercapitalized” if it has a total risk-based capital ratio of less than 6.0%, a Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio of less than 4.0%, a leverage ratio of less than 3.0% or a common equity Tier 1 ratio of less than 3.0%. An institution is considered to be “critically undercapitalized” if it has a ratio of tangible equity (as defined in the regulations) to total assets that is equal to or less than 2.0%. As of September 30, 2024, both the Bank and GS&L Municipal Bank were a “well capitalized” institution under the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation regulations.

At each successive lower capital category, an insured depository institution is subject to more restrictions and prohibitions, including restrictions on growth, restrictions on interest rates paid on deposits, restrictions or prohibitions on the payment of dividends, and restrictions on the acceptance of brokered deposits. Furthermore, if an insured depository institution is classified in one of the undercapitalized categories, it is required to submit a capital restoration plan to the appropriate federal banking agency, and the holding company must guarantee the performance of that plan. Based upon its capital levels, a bank that is classified as well-capitalized, adequately capitalized, or undercapitalized may be treated as though it were in the next lower capital category if the appropriate federal banking agency, after notice and opportunity for hearing, determines that an unsafe or unsound condition, or an unsafe or unsound practice, warrants such treatment. An undercapitalized bank’s compliance with a capital restoration plan is required to be guaranteed by any company that controls the undercapitalized institution in an amount equal to the lesser of 5.0% of the institution’s total assets when deemed undercapitalized or the amount necessary to achieve the status of adequately capitalized. If an “undercapitalized” bank fails to submit an acceptable plan, it is treated as if it is “significantly undercapitalized.” “Significantly undercapitalized” banks must comply with one or more of a number of additional restrictions, including but not limited to an order by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to sell sufficient voting stock to become adequately capitalized, requirements to reduce total assets, cease receipt of deposits from correspondent banks or dismiss directors or officers, and restrictions on interest rates paid on deposits, compensation of executive officers and capital distributions by the parent holding company. “Critically undercapitalized” institutions are subject to additional measures including, subject to a narrow exception, the appointment of a receiver or conservator within 270 days after it obtains such status.

The previously referenced law establishing a “community bank leverage ratio” adjusted the referenced categories for qualifying institutions that opt into the alternative framework for regulatory capital requirements. Institutions that exceed the community bank leverage ratio are considered to have met the capital ratio requirements to be “well capitalized” for the agencies’ prompt corrective rules.

***Qualified Thrift Lender Test.*** As an insured savings association, the Bank must satisfy the qualified thrift lender, or “QTL,” test. Under the QTL test, the Bank must maintain at least 65% of its “portfolio assets” in “qualified thrift investments” (primarily residential mortgages and related investments, including mortgage-backed securities) in at least nine months of every 12-month period. “Portfolio assets” generally means total assets of a savings association, less the sum of specified liquid assets up to 20% of total assets, goodwill and other intangible assets, and the value of property used in the conduct of the savings association’s business. Alternatively, the Bank may satisfy the QTL test by qualifying as a “domestic building and loan association” as defined in the Internal Revenue Code. A savings association that fails the QTL test must operate under specified restrictions on new activities, branching, the issuance of dividends, and other restrictions. The Dodd-Frank Act made noncompliance with the QTL test subject to agency enforcement action for a violation of law. At September 30, 2024, the Bank satisfied the QTL test.

***Transaction with Affiliates and Regulation W of the Federal Reserve Regulations.*** Transactions between financial institutions and their affiliates are governed by federal law. An affiliate of a financial institution is any company or entity that controls, is controlled by or is under common control with the bank. In a holding company context, the parent bank or savings and loan holding company and any companies which are controlled by such parent holding company are affiliates of the bank (although subsidiaries of the financial institution itself, except financial subsidiaries, are generally

not considered affiliates). Generally, Section 23A of the Federal Reserve Act, which applies to insured savings associations through section 11 of the Home Owners' Loan Act, limits the extent to which the institution or its subsidiaries may engage in "covered transactions" with any one affiliate to an amount equal to 10.0% of such institution's capital stock and surplus, and with all such transactions with all affiliates to an amount equal to 20.0% of such institution's capital stock and surplus. Section 23B, also applicable to insured savings associations, relates to "covered transactions" as well as to certain other transactions and requires that all such transactions be on terms substantially the same, or at least as favorable, to the institution or subsidiary as those provided to a non-affiliate. The term "covered transaction" includes the making of loans to, purchase of assets from, and issuance of a guarantee to an affiliate, and other similar transactions. Section 23B transactions also include the provision of services and the sale of assets by an institution to an affiliate. In addition, loans or other extensions of credit by the financial institution to the affiliate are required to be collateralized in accordance with the requirements set forth in Section 23A of the Federal Reserve Act.

Sections 22(h) and (g) of the Federal Reserve Act, which are also applicable to insured savings associations, place restrictions on loans to a financial institution's insiders, i.e., executive officers, directors and principal stockholders. Under Section 22(h) of the Federal Reserve Act, loans to a director, an executive officer and to a greater than 10.0% stockholder of a financial institution, and certain of their affiliated interests, together with all other outstanding loans to such persons and affiliated interests, may not exceed specified limits. Section 22(h) of the Federal Reserve Act also requires that loans to directors, executive officers and principal stockholders be made on terms and conditions substantially the same as offered in comparable transactions to persons who are not insiders and also requires prior board approval for certain loans. In addition, the aggregate amount of extensions of credit by a financial institution to insiders cannot exceed the institution's unimpaired capital and surplus. Section 22(g) of the Federal Reserve Act places additional restrictions on loans to executive officers.

**Enforcement.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has extensive enforcement authority over insured state-chartered savings associations, including the Bank. The enforcement authority includes, among other things, the ability to assess civil money penalties, issue cease and desist orders and remove directors and officers. In general, these enforcement actions may be initiated in response to violations of laws and regulations, breaches of fiduciary duty and unsafe or unsound practices.

**Federal Insurance of Deposit Accounts.** The Bank is a member of the Deposit Insurance Fund, which is administered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposit accounts in the Bank are insured up to a maximum of \$250,000 for each separately insured depositor.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation imposes an assessment for deposit insurance on all depository institutions. Under the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's risk-based assessment system, insured institutions are assigned to risk categories based on supervisory evaluations, regulatory capital levels and certain other factors. An institution's assessment rate depends upon the category to which it is assigned and certain adjustments specified by Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation regulations, with less risky institutions paying lower rates. Assessment rates (inclusive of possible adjustments) for most banks with less than \$10 billion of assets currently range from 1 1/2 to 30 basis points of each institution's total assets less tangible capital. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation may increase or decrease the scale uniformly, except that no adjustment can deviate more than two basis points from the base scale without notice and comment rulemaking. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's current system represents a change, required by the Dodd-Frank Act, from its prior practice of basing the assessment on an institution's volume of deposits.

The Dodd-Frank Act increased the minimum target Deposit Insurance Fund ratio from 1.15% of estimated insured deposits to 1.35% of estimated insured deposits. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation was required to seek to achieve the 1.35% ratio by September 30, 2020. Insured institutions with assets of \$10 billion or more were supposed to fund the increase. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation indicated in November 2018 that the 1.35% ratio was exceeded. Insured institutions of less than \$10 billion of assets received credits for the portion of their assessments that contributed to raising the reserve ratio between 1.15% and 1.35% effective when the fund rate achieves 1.38%. The Dodd-Frank Act eliminated the 1.5% maximum fund ratio, instead leaving it to the discretion of the Federal Deposit Insurance

Corporation and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has exercised that discretion by establishing a long range fund ratio of 2%.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has authority to increase insurance assessments. A significant increase in insurance premiums would likely have an adverse effect on the operating expenses and results of operations of the Bank. Future insurance assessment rates cannot be predicted.

Insurance of deposits may be terminated by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation upon a finding that the institution has engaged in unsafe or unsound practices, is in an unsafe or unsound condition to continue operations or has violated any applicable law, regulation, rule order or regulatory condition imposed in writing. We do not know of any practice, condition or violation that might lead to termination of deposit insurance.

**Privacy Regulations.** Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation regulations generally require that the Bank disclose its privacy policy, including identifying with whom it shares a customer's "non-public personal information," to customers at the time of establishing the customer relationship and annually thereafter. In addition, the Bank is required to provide its customers with the ability to "opt-out" of having their personal information shared with unaffiliated third parties and not to disclose account numbers or access codes to non-affiliated third parties for marketing purposes. The Bank currently has a privacy protection policy in place and believes that such policy is in compliance with the regulations.

**Community Reinvestment Act.** Under the Community Reinvestment Act (the "CRA"), as implemented by Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation regulations, an insured state savings association has a continuing and affirmative obligation, consistent with its safe and sound operation, to help meet the credit needs of its entire community, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. The CRA does not establish specific lending requirements or programs for financial institutions nor does it limit an institution's discretion to develop the types of products and services that it believes are best suited to its particular community, consistent with the CRA. The CRA does require the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, in connection with its examination of a state savings association, to assess the institution's record of meeting the credit needs of its community and to take such record into account in its evaluation of certain applications by such institution, including applications to acquire branches and other financial institutions. The CRA requires the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to provide a written evaluation of an institution's CRA performance utilizing a four-tiered descriptive rating system. The Bank's latest Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation CRA rating was "Satisfactory."

The Bank is also subject to provisions of the New York state banking law which imposes continuing and affirmative obligations upon banking institutions organized in New York State to serve the credit needs of its local community (the "NYCRA") which are substantially similar to those imposed by the federal CRA. The NYCRA also requires the Superintendent to consider an institution's record of performance in meeting the credit needs of its community when reviewing an institution's application to engage in certain transactions, including mergers, asset purchases and the establishment of branch offices or automated teller machines, and provides that the institution's record of performance, as documented in a written assessment, may serve as a basis for the denial of any such application. The Bank's latest NYCRA rating was "Satisfactory."

**Consumer Protection and Fair Lending Regulations.** New York savings and loan associations are subject to a variety of federal statutes and regulations that are intended to protect consumers and prohibit discrimination in the granting of credit. These statutes and regulations provide for a range of sanctions for non-compliance with their terms, including imposition of administrative fines and remedial orders, and referral to the Attorney General for prosecution of a civil action for actual and punitive damages and injunctive relief. Certain of these statutes authorize private individual and class action lawsuits and the award of actual, statutory and punitive damages and attorneys' fees for certain types of violations.

**USA PATRIOT Act.** The Bank is subject to the USA PATRIOT Act, which gave federal agencies additional powers to address terrorist threats through enhanced domestic security measures, expanded surveillance powers, increased information sharing, and broadened anti-money laundering requirements. By way of amendments to the Bank Secrecy Act, Title III of the USA PATRIOT Act provided measures intended to encourage information sharing among bank regulatory agencies and law enforcement bodies. Further, certain provisions of Title III impose affirmative obligations on

a broad range of financial institutions, including banks, thrifts, brokers, dealers, credit unions, money transfer agents, and parties registered under the Commodity Exchange Act.

**Other Regulations.** Interest and other charges collected or contracted for by the Bank are subject to state usury laws and federal laws concerning interest rates. Loan operations are also subject to state and federal laws applicable to credit transactions, such as the:

- Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975, requiring financial institutions to provide information to enable the public and public officials to determine whether a financial institution is fulfilling its obligation to help meet the housing needs of the community it serves;
- Equal Credit Opportunity Act, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, creed or other prohibited factors in extending credit;
- Fair Credit Reporting Act of 1978, governing the use and provision of information to credit reporting agencies; and
- Rules and regulations of the various federal and state agencies charged with the responsibility of implementing such federal and state laws.

The deposit operations of the Bank are also subject to, among others, the:

- Right to Financial Privacy Act, which imposes a duty to maintain confidentiality of consumer financial records and prescribes procedures for complying with administrative subpoenas of financial records;
- Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act (also known as “Check 21”), which gives “substitute checks,” such as digital check images and copies made from that image, the same legal standing as the original paper check; and
- Electronic Funds Transfer Act and Regulation E promulgated thereunder, which govern automatic deposits to and withdrawals from deposit accounts and customers’ rights and liabilities arising from the use of automated teller machines and other electronic banking services.

**Federal Reserve System.** The Federal Reserve Act authorizes the Federal Reserve Board to require depository institutions to maintain noninterest-earning reserves against their transaction accounts (primarily negotiable order of withdrawal and regular checking accounts). The amounts are adjusted annually and, for 2019, the regulations provided that reserves be maintained against aggregate transaction accounts as follows: a 3% reserve ratio is assessed on net transaction accounts up to and including \$127.5 million; and a 10% reserve ratio is applied above \$127.5 million. The first \$16.9 million of otherwise reservable balances (subject to adjustments by the Federal Reserve Board) were exempted from the reserve requirements. The Bank complied with the foregoing requirements during 2019. On March 15, 2020, the Federal Reserve Board reduced reserve requirement to 0% effective as of March 26, 2020, which eliminated reserve requirements for all depository institutions.

### ***Regulation of the Company***

As a savings and loan holding company, the Company is subject to Federal Reserve Board regulations, examinations, supervision, reporting requirements and regulations regarding its activities. Among other things, this authority permits the Federal Reserve Board to restrict or prohibit activities that are determined to be a serious risk to the Bank.

Pursuant to federal law and regulations and policy, a savings and loan holding company, such as the Company, may generally engage in the activities permitted for financial holding companies under Section 4(k) of the Bank Holding

Company Act (subject to applicable requirements, such as making an election to be treated as a financial holding company) and certain other activities that have been authorized for savings and loan holding companies by regulation.

Federal law prohibits a savings and loan holding company from, directly or indirectly or through one or more subsidiaries, acquiring more than 5% of the voting stock of another savings association, or savings and loan holding company thereof, without prior written approval of the Federal Reserve Board or from acquiring or retaining, with certain exceptions, more than 5% of a non-subsidiary holding company or savings association. A savings and loan holding company is also prohibited from acquiring more than 5% of a company engaged in activities other than those authorized by federal law or acquiring or retaining control of a depository institution that is not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. In evaluating applications by holding companies to acquire savings associations, the Federal Reserve Board must consider the financial and managerial resources and future prospects of the company and institution involved, the effect of the acquisition on the risk to the insurance funds the convenience and needs of the community and competitive factors.

The Federal Reserve Board is prohibited from approving any acquisition that would result in a multiple savings and loan holding company controlling savings associations in more than one state, except for: (i) the approval of interstate acquisitions by savings and loan holding companies under 12 U.S.C § 1823(k); and (ii) the acquisition of a savings association in another state if the laws of the state of the target savings association specifically permit such acquisitions. The states vary in the extent to which they permit interstate savings and loan holding company acquisitions.

**Capital Requirements.** The Company is subject to the Federal Reserve Board’s capital adequacy guidelines for savings and loan holding companies (on a consolidated basis) which have historically been similar to, though less stringent than, those of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for the Bank. The Dodd-Frank Act, however, required the Federal Reserve Board to promulgate consolidated capital requirements for depository institution holding companies that are no less stringent, both quantitatively and in terms of components of capital, than those applicable to institutions themselves. Consolidated regulatory capital requirements identical to those applicable to the subsidiary banks apply to savings and loan holding companies; as is the case with institutions themselves, the capital conservation buffer was phased in between 2016 and 2019. However, the Federal Reserve Board has provided a “small bank holding company” exception to its consolidated capital requirements, and legislation and the related issuance of regulations by the Federal Reserve Board has increased the threshold for the exception to \$3.0 billion. As a result, The Company will not be subject to the capital requirement until such time as its consolidated assets exceed \$3.0 billion.

**Source of Strength.** Under 12 U.S.C. § 1831o-1, savings and loan holding companies must be a source of strength for their subsidiary depository institutions. The regulatory agencies must promulgate regulations implementing the “source of strength” policy that holding companies act as a source of strength to their subsidiary depository institutions by providing capital, liquidity and other support in times of financial stress.

**Dividends and Stock Repurchases.** The Federal Reserve Board has the power to prohibit dividends by savings and loan association subsidiaries of savings and loan holding companies if their actions constitute unsafe or unsound practices. The Federal Reserve Board has issued a policy statement on the payment of cash dividends by bank and savings and loan holding companies, which expresses the Federal Reserve Board’s view that a holding company should pay cash dividends only to the extent that the company’s net income for the past year is sufficient to cover both the cash dividends and a rate of earnings retention that is consistent with the company’s capital needs, asset quality and overall financial condition. The Federal Reserve Board also indicated that it would be inappropriate for a holding company experiencing serious financial problems to borrow funds to pay dividends. Under the prompt corrective action regulations, the Federal Reserve Board may prohibit a bank or savings and holding company from paying any dividends if the holding company’s bank subsidiary is classified as “undercapitalized.”

Federal Reserve Board policy also provides that a holding company should consult with the Federal Reserve Board supervisory staff prior to redeeming or repurchasing common stock or perpetual preferred stock if the holding company is experiencing financial weaknesses or if the repurchase or redemption would result in a net reduction, as of the end of a

quarter, in the amount of such equity instruments outstanding compared with the beginning of the quarter in which the redemption or repurchase occurred.

***Acquisition of the Company.*** Under the Federal Change in Bank Control Act, a notice must be submitted to the Federal Reserve Board if any person (including a company), or group acting in concert, seeks to acquire direct or indirect “control” of a savings and loan holding company. Under certain circumstances, a change of control may occur, and prior notice is required, upon the acquisition of 10% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the company or institution, unless the Federal Reserve Board has found that the acquisition will not result in a change of control. Under the Change in Control Act, the Federal Reserve Board generally has 60 days from the filing of a complete notice to act, taking into consideration certain factors, including the financial and managerial resources of the acquirer and the anti-trust effects of the acquisition. Any company that acquires control would then be subject to regulation as a savings and loan holding company.

### ***Federal Securities Laws***

The Company’s common stock is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and, as a result, the Company is subject to the information, proxy solicitation, insider trading restrictions and other requirements under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

### ***Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002***

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 is intended to improve corporate responsibility, to provide for enhanced penalties for accounting and auditing improprieties at publicly traded companies and to protect investors by improving the accuracy and reliability of corporate disclosures pursuant to the securities laws. We have policies, procedures and systems designed to comply with these regulations, and we review and document such policies, procedures and systems to ensure continued compliance with these regulations.

### ***Emerging Growth Company Status***

The Company is an emerging growth company and, for so long as it continues to be an emerging growth company, the Company may choose to take advantage of exemptions from various reporting requirements applicable to other public companies but not to “emerging growth companies,” including, but not limited to, reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation in our periodic reports and proxy statements, and exemptions from the requirements of holding a nonbinding advisory vote on executive compensation and stockholder approval of any golden parachute payments not previously approved. As an emerging growth company, the Company is also not be subject to Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which would require that our independent auditors review and attest as to the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. We have also elected to use the extended transition period to delay adoption of new or revised accounting pronouncements applicable to public companies until such pronouncements are made applicable to private companies. Such an election is irrevocable during the period a company is an emerging growth company. Accordingly, our financial statements may not be comparable to the financial statements of public companies that comply with such new or revised accounting standards.

The Company will cease to be an emerging growth company upon the earliest of: (i) the end of the fiscal year following the fifth anniversary of the completion of the Bank’s second-step conversion and offering, which was completed on October 31, 2023; (ii) the first fiscal year after our annual gross revenues are \$1.235 billion (adjusted for inflation) or more; (iii) the date on which we have, during the previous three-year period, issued more than \$1.0 billion in non-convertible debt securities; or (iv) the end of any fiscal year in which the market value of our common stock held by non-affiliates exceeded \$700 million at the end of the second quarter of that fiscal year.



## Personnel

At September 30, 2024, we had 40 full-time employees and no part-time employees. None of our employees are represented by a collective bargaining unit. We believe our relationship with our employees is good.

## Subsidiaries

The Company's only direct subsidiary is the Bank.

The Bank operates a limited-purpose wholly owned subsidiary, GS&L Municipal Bank, that was formed in September 2022 as a New York-chartered limited purpose commercial bank. GS&L Municipal Bank has the power to receive deposits only to the extent of accepting for deposit the funds of the State of New York and its respective agents, authorities and instrumentalities, and local governments as defined in Section 10(a)(1) of the New York General Municipal Law. GS&L Municipal Bank's purpose is to attract deposits from local municipalities and, at September 30, 2024, GS&L Municipal Bank had \$21.4 million in deposits. GS&L Municipal Bank is regulated by the New York State Department of Financial Services and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

## Executive Officers

Our executive officers are elected annually by the board of directors and serve at the board's discretion. The following individuals currently serve as the executive officers of the Company and the Bank:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Robert W. Barlow	President and Chief Executive Officer
James D. Campanaro	Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Sadie M. Hall	Vice President and Chief Operating Officer / Compliance Officer

Below is information regarding our executive officers who are not also a director. Each executive officer has held his or her current position for the period indicated below. Ages presented are as of September 30, 2024.

**James D. Campanaro** has been serving as the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company and Bank since May 2024. He began his career at the Bank in January 2017 as an accountant and advanced to senior accountant by June 2022. In December 2023, he was promoted to Vice President of Accounting. Mr. Campanaro holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and an MBA in Accounting from Alfred University, where he was inducted into the Pacioli Honor Society in Accounting. He earned the Certified Management Accountant (CMA) designation in July 2021 and the Certified in Strategy and Competitive Analysis (CSCA) certification in November 2021, both from the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA). He is an active member of the IMA and the Financial Managers Society (FMS), demonstrating his dedication to financial management and strategic analysis. Age 30.

**Sadie M. Hall** was hired as an accountant with the Bank in September 2012 and was named Compliance Officer and Assistant Vice President in February 2015. Mrs. Hall was named Vice President in January 2021 and, in December 2023, was also appointed to serve as Chief Operating Officer of the Company and the Bank effective as of January 3, 2024. She earned the Certified Regulatory Compliance Manager designation in May 2018 also currently serves as the BSA/OFAC Officer for the Bank. Mrs. Hall is a member of the Clifton Fine Hospital board and the Samaritan Medical Center Board of Trustees. In addition, Mrs. Hall is part owner of AJs Portables LLC in Lisbon, New York. Age 34.

## ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

*Investing in the Company's common stock involves risks. The investor should carefully consider the following risk factors before deciding to make an investment decision regarding the Company's stock. The risk factors may cause future earnings to be lower or the financial condition to be less favorable than expected. In addition, other risks that the Company is not aware of, or which are not believed to be material, may cause earnings to be lower, or may deteriorate the financial condition of the Company. Consideration should also be given to the other information in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, as well as in the documents incorporated by reference into this Form 10-K.*

### **Risks Related to Market Interest Rates**

#### ***Changes in interest rates could reduce our profits and asset values.***

Like most financial institutions, our profitability depends to a large extent upon our net interest income, which is the difference between our interest income on interest-earning assets, such as loans and securities, and our interest expense on interest-bearing liabilities, such as deposits and borrowed funds. Accordingly, our results of operations depend largely on movements in market interest rates and our ability to manage our interest-rate-sensitive assets and liabilities in response to these movements. Factors such as inflation, recession and instability in financial markets, among other factors beyond our control, may affect interest rates.

In a rising interest rate environment, we would expect that the rates on our deposits and borrowings would reprice upwards faster than the rates on our longer-term loans and investments, which would be expected to compress our interest rate spread and have a negative effect on our profitability. In addition, the high percentage of fixed rate loans in our one- to four-family residential real estate loan portfolio, which totaled 57.6% of our total loan portfolio at September 30, 2024, would also contribute to the negative effect on our profitability in a rising interest rate environment. Furthermore, increases in interest rates may adversely affect the ability of our borrowers to make loan repayments on adjustable-rate loans, as the interest owed on such loans would increase as interest rates increase. Conversely, decreases in interest rates can result in increased prepayments of loans and mortgage-related securities, as borrowers refinance to reduce their borrowing costs. Under these circumstances, we are subject to reinvestment risk as we may have to redeploy such loan or securities proceeds into lower-yielding assets, which might also negatively impact our income.

If interest rates rise, we expect that our net portfolio value of equity would decrease. Net portfolio value of equity represents the present value of the expected cash flows from our assets less the present value of the expected cash flows arising from our liabilities. At September 30, 2024, assuming a 400-basis point increase in market interest rates, we estimate that our net portfolio value of equity would decrease by \$14.9 million, or 30.71%.

Furthermore, the historically low interest rate environment in recent periods has contributed significantly to our loan growth, particularly in one- to four-family residential mortgage loans where refinance volume has been relatively high. The increase in market interest rates that we are now experiencing is likely to reduce our loan origination volume, particularly refinance volume, and/or reduce our interest rate spread, which would have a material adverse effect on our profitability and results of operations.

Any substantial, unexpected, prolonged change in market interest rates could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, liquidity and results of operations. Changes in the level of interest rates also may negatively affect the value of our assets, including the value of our available-for-sale investment securities and interest rate swap derivatives which generally decrease when market interest rates rise, and ultimately affect our earnings. During the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023, we incurred other comprehensive gains of \$2.5 million and \$165,000, respectively, related to net changes in unrealized holding gains (losses) in the available-for-sale investment securities portfolio caused by fluctuations in market interest rates during the period and changes in post-retirement benefits.

Changes in the level of interest rates also may negatively affect our ability to originate real estate loans, the value of our assets, and our ability to realize gains from the sale of our assets, all of which ultimately affect our earnings. Also, our interest rate risk modeling techniques and assumptions likely may not fully predict or capture the impact of actual interest rate changes on our balance sheet or projected operating results. See “*Item 7A: Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.*”

### **Risks Related to Changes in our Executive Management Team**

***Our business and operations could be negatively affected by our transition to new executive management.***

We depend upon our senior management team to direct our strategy and operations. Effective April 14, 2023, Charles C. Van Vleet, Jr., our former longtime President and Chief Executive Officer and a member of our board of directors, was appointed to assume the duties of President and Chief Executive Officer on an interim basis while we undertook a search for a permanent replacement for our former President and Chief Executive Officer, who resigned effective as of that same date. Effective March 27, 2024, following the completion of our search, Robert W. Barlow was appointed to succeed Mr. Van Vleet as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company and the Bank. In addition, Kimberly A. Adams, who served as our Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since 2010, retired from this role in May of 2024. Effective May 31, 2024, James D. Campanaro succeeded Ms. Adams as our Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. The transition to a new executive management team may result in a gap in institutional knowledge relative to our prior management team. In addition, as with any change in personnel at a senior management level, there will be a period of transition as our executive management team assimilates into their new roles. Although our current President and Chief Executive Officer has extensive experience in the financial services industry, we also anticipate that he will need time to develop a full understanding of the detailed operations of our institution, market area and customer base before he reaches full effectiveness. During this transition period, we could experience operational disruptions, and the implementation of our business strategy and growth plans could be negatively affected or delayed. As a result, our ability to successfully transition the operation of our company to new management, and to do so in a timely manner, may have a negative effect on our business results.

### **Risks Related to Our Recent Acquisition of Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent**

***We are subject to certain risks in connection with our recent acquisition of Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent.***

On September 16, 2022, we acquired Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent, a New York-chartered stock commercial bank headquartered in Cape Vincent, New York. At the effective time of the merger, Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent was merged with and into the Bank and each Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent stockholder became entitled to receive \$1,056.11 in cash for each share of Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent common stock that they held at the effective time of the merger. Mergers and acquisitions, such as our acquisition of Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent, involve a number of risks and challenges, including (1) our ability to achieve planned synergies, such as projected cost savings resulting from increased scale, and to integrate the branches and operations we acquire, and the internal controls and regulatory functions of the acquired entity into our current operations and (2) the diversion of management’s attention from existing operations, despite management devoting sufficient time to the ordinary operations of the business, which may adversely affect our ability to successfully conduct our business and negatively impact our financial results.

It is possible that we could also acquire other banking institutions, other financial services companies or branches of financial institutions in the future. Acquisitions typically involve the payment of a premium over book and trading values and, therefore, may result in the dilution of our tangible book value per share. Our ability to engage in future mergers and acquisitions depends on various factors, including: (1) our ability to identify suitable merger partners and acquisition opportunities; (2) our ability to finance and complete transactions on acceptable terms and at acceptable prices; and (3) our ability to receive the necessary regulatory and, when required, stockholder approvals. Our inability to engage in an acquisition or merger for any of these reasons could have an adverse impact on the implementation of our business strategies.

### **Risks Related to Recent Banking Industry Events**

***Financial challenges at other banking institutions could lead to disruptive and destabilizing deposit outflows, as well as an increase in Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation deposit premiums, which could negatively impact our profitability and results of operations.***

In March 2023, Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank experienced large deposit outflows, coupled with insufficient liquidity to meet withdrawal demands, resulting in the institutions being placed into Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation receivership. Additionally in May 2023, First Republic Bank experienced similar circumstances which resulted in the institution being placed into Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation receivership. The placement of these institutions into receivership has resulted in market disruption and increased concerns that diminished depositor confidence across the banking industry in general could lead to deposit outflows that could destabilize other institutions. At September 30, 2024, we had \$59.3 million in available liquidity with the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York and \$6.4 million in cash and cash equivalents, which was sufficient to cover 100% of our total \$17.9 million uninsured and uncollateralized deposits. Notwithstanding our significant liquidity, large deposit outflows could materially and adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. Following the placement of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank into Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation receivership, the federal banking regulators also issued a joint statement providing that the losses to support the uninsured deposits of those banks would be recovered via a special assessment on banks. The announced special assessment, as well as any future additional special assessments, increases in assessment rates or required prepayments in Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insurance premiums, to the extent that they result in increased deposit insurance costs, would reduce our profitability.

### **Risks Related to Liquidity and Dividend Matters**

***Insufficient liquidity could impair our ability to fund operations, pay dividends on outstanding shares of our stock, and jeopardize our financial condition, growth and prospects.***

We require sufficient liquidity to fund loan commitments, satisfy depositor withdrawal requests, make payments on our debt obligations as they become due, and meet other cash commitments. Liquidity risk is the potential that we will be unable to meet our obligations as they become due because of an inability to liquidate assets or obtain adequate funding at a reasonable cost, in a timely manner and without adverse conditions or consequences. Our sources of liquidity consist primarily of cash, assets readily convertible to cash (such as investment securities), increases in deposits, advances, as needed, from the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, and other borrowings. Our access to funding sources in amounts adequate to finance our activities or on acceptable terms could be impaired by factors that affect our organization specifically or the financial services industry or economy in general. Any substantial, unexpected, and/or prolonged change in the level or cost of liquidity could impair our ability to fund operations, pay dividends on outstanding shares of our stock, and meet our obligations as they become due and could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***Our ability to pay dividends is subject to the ability of the Bank to make capital distributions to the Company.***

On October 21, 2024, the Company declared a semi-annual dividend of \$0.08 per share payable on November 18, 2024 to shareholder of record as of the close of business on November 4, 2024. The Company is not permitted to pay dividends on its common stock if its stockholders' equity would be reduced below the amount of the liquidation account established by the Company in connection with the Bank' second-step conversion. The source of dividends will depend on the net proceeds of the October 2023 second-step conversion offering retained by the Company and earnings thereon, and dividends from the Bank. In addition, the Company is subject to state law limitations and federal bank regulatory policy on the payment of dividends. Maryland law generally limits dividends if the corporation would not be able to pay its debts in the usual course of business after giving effect to the dividend or if the corporation's total assets would be less than the corporation's total liabilities plus the amount needed to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of stockholders whose preferential rights on dissolution are superior to those receiving the distribution. Federal Reserve Board policy also provides that a holding company should consult with the Federal Reserve Board supervisory staff prior

to redeeming or repurchasing common stock or perpetual preferred stock if the holding company is experiencing financial weaknesses or if the repurchase or redemption would result in a net reduction, as of the end of a quarter, in the amount of such equity instruments outstanding compared with the beginning of the quarter in which the redemption or repurchase occurred. Under New York state banking law, New York State chartered savings associations may declare and pay dividends out of the balance of net profits after net worth exceeds ten percent of capital (which we refer to as the “undivided profits” of the savings and loan association) upon approval by the board of directors, unless there is an impairment of capital. Pursuant to Federal Reserve Board regulations, the Company may not make a distribution that would constitute a return of capital during the three years following the completion of the Bank’s second-step conversion. As a result, we cannot assure you that we will continue to pay dividends in the future, or that any such dividends that we have historically paid will not be reduced or eliminated in the future.

### **Risks Related to Our Lending and Deposit Activities**

#### ***Our emphasis on residential mortgage loans exposes us to lending risks.***

At September 30, 2024, \$103.6 million, or 82.4%, of our loan portfolio was secured by one- to four-family residential loans and we intend to continue to make loans of this type. One- to four-family residential mortgage lending is generally sensitive to regional and local economic conditions that significantly impact the ability of borrowers to meet their loan payment obligations, making loss levels difficult to predict. Declines in real estate values could cause some of our residential mortgages to be inadequately collateralized, which would expose us to a greater risk of loss if we seek to recover on defaulted loans by selling the real estate collateral.

#### ***Increases in our non-residential loan portfolio could expose us to increased lending risks and related loan losses.***

We supplement our residential mortgage loan originations by also originating higher yielding commercial real estate loans, construction loans and home equity loans and lines of credit. While we intend to continue to emphasize one- to four-family residential mortgage lending, we also intend to continue to focus on originating small business loans in our local market and on the origination of higher yielding non-residential loans to supplement our residential lending portfolio. We expect that any future increases in non-residential loans will be directly proportionate to increases in our residential loan portfolio, which will enable us to maintain the current overall composition of our loan portfolio. However, any increase in non-residential lending exposes us to greater lending risks, since these loans generally have more risk than the one- to four-family residential real estate loans we originate. Because the repayment of commercial real estate loans and commercial loans depends on the successful management and operation of the borrower’s commercial properties and/or related businesses, their repayment can be affected by adverse conditions in the local, regional and national real estate market or economy. Further, unlike residential mortgage loans, commercial loans are typically secured by collateral other than real estate, such as inventory and accounts receivable, the value of which may depreciate over time, may be more difficult to appraise or liquidate, and may be more susceptible to fluctuation in value at default. Because these loans also generally have relatively large balances, any charge-offs may be larger than those incurred with residential real estate loans.

#### ***If our allowance for credit losses is not sufficient to cover actual credit losses, our earnings could decrease.***

We maintain an allowance for credit losses, which is established through a provision for credit losses, that represents management’s best estimate of probable losses within the existing portfolio of loans. We make various assumptions and judgments about the collectability of our loan portfolio, including the creditworthiness of borrowers and the value of the real estate and other assets serving as collateral for the repayment of loans. In determining the adequacy of the allowance for credit losses, we rely on our experience and our evaluation of economic conditions. If our assumptions prove to be incorrect, our allowance for credit losses may not be sufficient to cover losses inherent in our loan portfolio and adjustment may be necessary to allow for different economic conditions or adverse developments in our loan portfolio. Consequently, a problem with one or more loans could require us to significantly increase the level of our provision for credit losses. Management also recognizes that significant new growth in our loan portfolio, new loan products and the refinancing of

existing loans can result in unseasoned loans that may not perform in a historical or projected manner and will increase the risk that our allowance may be insufficient to absorb losses without significant additional provisions.

The Financial Accounting Standards Board has delayed the effective date of the Current Expected Credit Loss, or CECL, standard. CECL became effective for the Company and the Bank on October 1, 2023. CECL requires financial institutions to determine periodic estimates of lifetime expected credit losses on loans, and recognize the expected credit losses as allowances for credit losses. This represents a change from the former method of providing allowances for loan losses that are incurred or probable, and required us to increase our allowance for loan losses, and to greatly increase the types of data we need to collect and review to determine the appropriate level of our allowance for credit losses. Under the former method, there was no reserve calculated for the acquired Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent loans with the net discount covering the calculated reserve amount. According to current CECL guidance, prior discounts are not utilized to offset CECL reserves. We will continue to accrete all of the discount into income. The initial adjustment for the reserve made on October 1, 2023 was for \$465,000. Although this adjustment was not reported in earnings and therefore will not have any material impact on our consolidated results of operations, it did make an impact on our consolidated financial position at the date of adoption of this ASU. On adoption date, \$367,000 of the adjustment was recognized in retained earnings, with the remaining \$98,000 recognized in deferred tax assets.

In addition, bank regulators periodically review our allowance for credit losses and as a result of such reviews, we may decide to adjust our allowance for credit losses or recognize further loan charge-offs. However, regulatory agencies are not directly involved in the process of establishing the allowance for credit losses, as the process is our responsibility and any adjustment of the allowance is the responsibility of our management. Material additions to the allowance would materially decrease our net income and may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and capital.

***We are subject to environmental liability risk associated with our lending activities or properties we own.***

A significant portion of our loan portfolio is secured by real estate, and we could become subject to environmental liabilities with respect to one or more of these properties, or with respect to properties that we own in operating our business. During the ordinary course of business, we may foreclose on and take title to properties securing defaulted loans. If, in doing so, hazardous conditions or toxic substances are found on these properties, we may be liable for remediation costs, as well as for personal injury and property damage, civil fines and criminal penalties regardless of when the hazardous conditions or toxic substances first affected any particular property. Environmental laws may require us to incur substantial expenses to address unknown liabilities and may materially reduce the affected property's value or limit our ability to use or sell the affected property. In addition, future laws or more stringent interpretations or enforcement policies with respect to existing laws may increase our exposure to environmental liability. Our policies, which require us to perform an environmental review before initiating any foreclosure action on non-residential real property, may not be sufficient to detect all potential environmental hazards. The remediation costs and any other financial liabilities associated with an environmental hazard could have a material adverse effect on us.

***Municipal deposits are an important source of cost-effective funds for us, and a reduced level of such deposits may hurt our profits.***

Municipal deposits are an important source of our cost-effective funds, and we intend to continue to solicit municipal deposits. As of September 30, 2024, GS&L Municipal Bank, the New York-chartered limited purpose commercial bank subsidiary of the Bank, held \$21.4 million in municipal deposits, consisting of public funds on deposit from local government entities domiciled in the State of New York. Given our use of these high-average balance municipal deposits as a source of spread income, our inability to retain such funds could have an adverse effect on our liquidity. In addition, our municipal deposits are primarily demand deposit accounts or short-term deposits and therefore are more volatile and sensitive to changes in interest rates. If we are forced to pay higher rates on our municipal deposits to retain those funds, or if we are unable to retain those funds, it could have an adverse effect on our net income.

## **Risks Related to Economic Conditions**

### ***Inflation can have an adverse impact on our business and on our customers.***

Inflation risk is the risk that the value of assets or income from investments will be worth less in the future as inflation decreases the value of money. Recently, there has been a rise in inflation and the Federal Reserve Board has raised certain benchmark interest rates in an effort to combat inflation. As discussed above under “— *Risks Related to Market Interest Rates — Changes in interest rates could reduce our profits and asset values,*” as inflation increases and market interest rates rise the value of our investment securities, particularly those with longer maturities, would decrease, although this effect can be less pronounced for floating rate instruments. In addition, inflation generally increases the cost of goods and services we use in our business operations, such as electricity and other utilities, which increases our noninterest expenses. Furthermore, our customers are also affected by inflation and the rising costs of goods and services used in their households and businesses, which could have a negative impact on their ability to repay their loans with us.

### ***A worsening of economic conditions in our market area could reduce demand for our products and services and/or result in increases in our level of non-performing loans, which could adversely affect our operations, financial condition and earnings.***

Local economic conditions have a significant impact on the ability of our borrowers to repay loans and the value of the collateral securing loans. A deterioration in economic conditions, especially local economic conditions, could have the following consequences, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations:

- demand for our products and services may decline;
- we may increase our allowance for credit losses;
- loan delinquencies, problem assets and foreclosures may increase;
- collateral for loans, especially real estate, may decline in value, thereby reducing customers’ future borrowing power, and reducing the value of assets and collateral associated with existing loans; and
- the net worth and liquidity of loan guarantors may decline, impairing their ability to honor commitments to us.

Historically, Fort Drum, a major U.S. Army installation located at the southern edge of our primary market area within Jefferson County, has played a significant role in our local economy, and future troop deployments or other changes in the U.S. Army’s staffing or utilization of Fort Drum could weaken economic activity in our primary market area. Moreover, a significant decline in general local, regional or national economic conditions caused by inflation, recession, acts of terrorism, a government shutdown, an outbreak of hostilities or other international or domestic calamities, unemployment or other factors beyond our control could further impact these local economic conditions and could further negatively affect the financial results of our banking operations. In addition, deflationary pressures, while possibly lowering our operating costs, could have a significant negative effect on our borrowers, especially our business borrowers, and the values of underlying collateral securing loans, which could negatively affect our financial performance. Further, any decline in local economic conditions may have a greater effect on our earnings and capital than on the earnings and capital of larger financial institutions whose real estate loans are geographically diverse.

Many of the loans in our portfolio are secured by real estate. Deterioration in the real estate markets could negatively affect a borrower’s ability to repay their loan and the value of the collateral securing the loan. Real estate values are affected by various factors, including changes in general or regional economic conditions, governmental rules or policies, and natural disasters. If we are required to liquidate a significant amount of collateral during a period of reduced real estate values, our financial condition and profitability could be adversely affected.

***We have a high concentration of loans secured by real estate in our market area. Adverse economic conditions, both generally and in our market area, could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.***

We have relatively few loans outside of our market area and, as a result, we have a greater risk of loan defaults and losses in the event of a further economic downturn in our market area, as adverse economic conditions may have a negative effect on the ability of our borrowers to make timely payments of their loans. A return of recessionary conditions and/or negative developments in the domestic and international credit markets may significantly affect the markets in which we do business, the value of our loans, investments, and collateral securing our loans, and our ongoing operations, costs and profitability. Any of these negative events may result in higher than expected loan delinquencies, increase our levels of nonperforming and classified assets, and reduce demand for our products and services, which may cause us to incur losses and may adversely affect our capital, liquidity and financial condition.

### **Risks Related to Our Funding**

***We may be required to rely more heavily on wholesale funding strategies for funding and liquidity needs if we are unable to generate core deposits, which could have an adverse effect on our net interest margin and profitability.***

We must maintain sufficient funds to respond to the needs of depositors and borrowers. Deposits have traditionally been our primary source of funds for use in lending and investment activities. We also receive funds from loan repayments, investment maturities and income on other interest-earning assets. While we emphasize generating transaction accounts, we cannot guarantee if and when this will occur. Moreover, deposit balances can decrease if customers perceive alternative investments as providing a better risk/return tradeoff. If we are not able to maintain our lower-cost transactional deposits at a level necessary to fund our asset growth or deposit outflows, we may be forced seek other sources of funds, including other certificates of deposit, Federal Home Loan Bank advances, and lines of credit to meet the borrowing and deposit withdrawal requirements of our customers, which may be more expensive and have an adverse effect on our net interest margin and profitability. In addition, although we did not have any brokered deposits at September 30, 2024, we may utilize brokered deposits to fund loan growth in the future, which may be a more expensive source of funding and have an adverse effect on our net interest margin and profitability.

### **Risks Related to Competitive Matters**

***Our asset size and strong competition within our market area may limit our growth and profitability.***

The financial services industry is highly competitive. In addition to insured institutions, a variety of other financial services firms, particularly credit unions, as well as mortgage brokerage firms, finance companies, mutual funds, insurance companies, securities brokerage firms and, more recently, financial technology (or “fintech”) companies, also operate in our market area. Some of these entities are unregulated or less regulated non-banking entities, operating locally and elsewhere. Many of these competitors have substantially greater resources and higher lending limits than we have and offer certain services that we do not or cannot provide. In addition, some of our competitors offer loans with lower interest rates and fees on more attractive terms than loans we offer.

Our asset size makes it more difficult to compete with other financial institutions that are larger and can more easily afford to invest in the marketing and technologies needed to attract and retain customers. Because our principal source of income is the net interest income we earn on our loans and investments, after deducting interest paid on deposits and other sources of funds, our ability to generate the revenues needed to cover our expenses and finance investments is limited by the size of our loan and investment portfolios. Accordingly, we are not always able to offer new products and services as quickly as our competitors. Competition also makes it increasingly difficult and costly to attract and retain qualified employees. Our lower earnings may also make it more difficult to offer competitive salaries and benefits. In addition, our smaller customer base may make it difficult to generate meaningful non-interest income from activities such as securities brokerage. Finally, institutions of our size are generally disproportionately affected by the continually increasing costs of complying with new banking and other regulations.



Our profitability depends upon our continued ability to successfully compete in our market area. If we must raise interest rates paid on deposits or lower interest rates charged on our loans due to competition, our net interest margin and profitability could be adversely affected.

### **Risks Related to Operational Matters**

*We face significant operational risks because of our reliance on technology. Our information technology systems may be subject to failure, interruption or security breaches.*

Information technology systems are critical to our business. Our business requires us to collect, process, transmit and store significant amounts of confidential information regarding our customers, employees and our own business, operations, plans and business strategies. We use various technology systems to manage our customer relationships, general ledger, securities investments, deposits, and loans. Our computer systems, data management and internal processes, as well as those of third parties, are integral to our performance.

Our operational risks include the risk of malfeasance by employees or persons outside our company, errors relating to transaction processing and technology, systems failures or interruptions, breaches of our internal control systems and compliance requirements, and business continuation and disaster recovery. There have been increasing efforts by third parties to breach data security at financial institutions. Such attacks include computer viruses, malicious or destructive code, phishing attacks, denial of service or information or other security breaches that could result in the unauthorized release, gathering, monitoring, misuse, loss or destruction of confidential, proprietary and other information, damages to systems, or other material disruptions to network access or business operations.

While we have established policies and procedures to prevent or limit the impact of system failures, interruptions and security breaches, including privacy breaches and cyber-attacks, there can be no assurance that such events will not occur or will be adequately addressed if they do. Although we take protective measures, the security of our computer systems, software, and networks may be vulnerable to breaches, unauthorized access, misuse, computer viruses, or other malicious code and cyber-attacks that could have an impact on information security. Because the techniques used to cause security breaches change frequently, we may be unable to proactively address these techniques or to implement adequate preventative measures.

In the event of a breakdown in our internal control systems, improper operation of systems or improper employee actions, or a breach of our security systems, including if confidential or proprietary information were to be mishandled, misused or lost, we could suffer financial loss, loss of customers and damage to our reputation, and face regulatory action or civil litigation. Any of these events could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Insurance coverage may not be available for such losses, or where available, such losses may exceed insurance limits.

In addition, we outsource a majority of our data processing requirements to certain third-party providers. Accordingly, our operations are exposed to risk that these vendors will not perform in accordance with the contracted arrangements under service level agreements, or we also could be adversely affected if such an agreement is not renewed by the third party vendor or is renewed on terms less favorable to us. If our third-party providers encounter difficulties, or if we have difficulty communicating with those service providers, our ability to adequately process and account for transactions could be affected, and our business operations could be adversely affected, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Threats to information security also exist in the processing of customer information through various other vendors and their personnel. To our knowledge, the services and programs provided to us by third parties have not suffered any security breaches. In cases where a third party experienced a security event communicated to the Bank, none of our systems or customer data were impacted or at risk. However, the existence of cyber-attacks or security breaches at third parties with access to our systems and customer data may not be disclosed to us by those parties in a timely manner.

***We are a community bank and our ability to maintain our reputation is critical to the success of our business. The failure to do so may materially adversely affect our performance.***

We are a community bank, and our reputation is one of the most valuable components of our business. A key component of our business strategy is to rely on our reputation for customer service and knowledge of local markets to expand our presence by capturing new business opportunities from existing and prospective customers in our market area and contiguous areas. Threats to our reputation can come from many sources, including adverse sentiment about financial institutions generally, unethical practices, employee misconduct, failure to deliver minimum standards of service or quality, compliance deficiencies, cybersecurity incidents and questionable or fraudulent activities of our customers. Negative publicity regarding our business, employees, or customers, with or without merit, may result in the loss of customers and employees, costly litigation and increased governmental regulation, all of which could adversely affect our business and operating results.

### **Risks Related to Accounting Matters**

***Changes in management's estimates and assumptions may have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements and our financial condition or operating results.***

In preparing our consolidated financial statements, our management is and will be required under applicable rules and regulations to make estimates and assumptions as of a specified date. These estimates and assumptions are based on management's best estimates and experience as of that date and are subject to substantial risk and uncertainty. Materially different results may occur as circumstances change and additional information becomes known. Areas requiring significant estimates and assumptions by management include our evaluation of the adequacy of our allowance for loan losses and our determinations with respect to amounts owed for income taxes.

***Changes in accounting standards could affect reported earnings.***

The regulatory bodies responsible for establishing accounting standards, including the Financial Accounting Standards Board, the Securities and Exchange Commission and other regulatory bodies, periodically change the financial accounting and reporting guidance that governs the preparation of our consolidated financial statements. In some cases, we could be required to apply new or revised guidance retroactively. These changes can be hard to predict and can materially impact how we record and report our financial condition and results of operations.

### **Risks Related to Laws and Regulations**

***Changes in laws and regulations and the cost of regulatory compliance with new laws and regulations may adversely affect our operations and/or increase our costs of operations.***

The Bank is subject to extensive regulation, supervision and examination by the New York State Department of Financial Services and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Company is subject to extensive regulation, supervision and examination by the Federal Reserve Board. Such regulation and supervision governs the activities in which an institution and its holding company may engage and are intended primarily for the protection of the federal deposit insurance fund and the depositors of the Bank, rather than for our stockholders. Regulatory authorities have extensive discretion in their supervisory and enforcement activities, including the imposition of restrictions on our operations, the classification of our assets and determination of the level of our allowance for credit losses. These regulations, along with existing tax, accounting, securities, insurance and monetary laws, rules, standards, policies, and interpretations, control the methods by which financial institutions conduct business, implement strategic initiatives and tax compliance, and govern financial reporting and disclosures. Any change in such regulation and oversight, whether in the form of regulatory policy, regulations, legislation or supervisory action, may have a material impact on our operations. Further, changes in accounting standards can be both difficult to predict and involve judgment and discretion in their interpretation by us and our independent accounting firm. These changes could materially impact, potentially even retroactively, how we report our financial condition and results of operations.

***Non-compliance with the USA PATRIOT Act, Bank Secrecy Act, or other laws and regulations could result in fines or sanctions.***

The USA PATRIOT and Bank Secrecy Acts require financial institutions to develop programs to prevent financial institutions from being used for money laundering and terrorist activities. If such activities are suspected, financial institutions are obligated to file suspicious activity reports with the U.S. Treasury's Office of Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. These rules require financial institutions to establish procedures for identifying and verifying the identity of customers seeking to open new financial accounts. Failure to comply with these regulations could result in fines or sanctions, including restrictions on pursuing acquisitions or establishing new branches. The policies and procedures we have adopted that are designed to assist in compliance with these laws and regulations may not be effective in preventing violations of these laws and regulations. Furthermore, these rules and regulations continue to evolve and expand.

***Monetary policies and regulations of the Federal Reserve Board could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

In addition to being affected by general economic conditions, our earnings and growth are affected by the policies of the Federal Reserve Board. An important function of the Federal Reserve Board is to regulate the money supply and credit conditions. Among the instruments used by the Federal Reserve Board to implement these objectives are open market purchases and sales of U.S. government securities, adjustments of the discount rate and changes in banks' reserve requirements against bank deposits. These instruments are used in varying combinations to influence overall economic growth and the distribution of credit, bank loans, investments and deposits. Their use also affects interest rates charged on loans or paid on deposits.

The monetary policies and regulations of the Federal Reserve Board have had a significant effect on the operating results of financial institutions in the past and are expected to continue to do so in the future. The effects of such policies upon our business, financial condition and results of operations cannot be predicted.

***We are an emerging growth company, and any decision on our part to comply only with certain reduced reporting and disclosure requirements applicable to emerging growth companies could make our common stock less attractive to investors.***

The Company is an "emerging growth company" under the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act of 2012. For as long as it continues to be an emerging growth company, the Company may choose to take advantage of exemptions from various reporting requirements applicable to public companies that are not emerging growth companies, including, but not limited to, reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation in our periodic reports and proxy statements, and exemptions from the requirements of holding a non-binding advisory vote on executive compensation. As an emerging growth company, The Company also is not subject to Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which would require that our independent auditors audit our internal control over financial reporting. In addition, as an emerging growth company, we have elected to take advantage of the extended transition periods for adopting new or revised financial accounting standards until the date they are required to be adopted by private companies (however, if any new or revised financial accounting standards would not apply to private companies, we would not be able to delay their adoption). Accordingly, our financial statements may not be comparable to those of public companies that adopt new or revised financial accounting standards as of an earlier date. Investors may find our common stock less attractive since we have chosen to rely on these exemptions. If some investors find our common stock less attractive as a result of any choices to reduce future disclosure, there may be a less active trading market for our common stock and the price of our common stock may be more volatile.

***We are also a smaller reporting company, and even if we no longer qualify as an emerging growth company, any decision on our part to comply only with certain reduced reporting and disclosure requirements applicable to smaller reporting companies could make our common stock less attractive to investors.***

In addition to qualifying as an emerging growth company, the Company is a “smaller reporting company” under the federal securities laws. For as long as it continues to be a smaller reporting company, it may choose to take advantage of exemptions from various reporting requirements applicable to public companies that are not available to companies that are not smaller reporting companies, including, but not limited to, reduced financial disclosure obligations and reduced disclosure obligations regarding executive compensation in our periodic reports and proxy statements. If some investors find our common stock less attractive as a result of any choices to reduce future disclosure, there may be a less active trading market for our common stock and the price of our common stock may be more volatile.

#### **ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS**

None.

#### **ITEM 1C. CYBERSECURITY**

##### **Cybersecurity Risk Management and Strategy**

The Company regards information and data as valuable assets. As a result, we have implemented safeguards to protect corporate informational and data assets. Associated and established technology resources maintain the integrity, availability, and privacy of confidential information of the respective assets. Additionally, we maintain a similar risk-based approach to our third-party vendors including identifying and overseeing cybersecurity risks they present.

##### *Integration into Overall Risk Management System*

The Company employs comprehensive methodologies for risk assessment and diligently identifies and evaluates potential cybersecurity threats and vulnerabilities across our systems, networks and data assets. This process involves regular examinations of emerging threats, conducting penetration tests, vulnerability scanning and thorough analysis of industry-specific risks.

The Company continues to expand investments in information technology security, including continuous end-user training, layered defenses, identifying and protecting critical assets, strengthening monitoring and alerting.

The Company’s Manager of Information Technology & Facilities (the “IT Manager”) is responsible for completing additional mandatory training to understand the processes, procedures, and technical requirements for securing information assets across the Company.

The Company has developed an Incident Response Plan to guide its actions in responding to real and suspected information security incidents. This includes unlawful, unauthorized, or unacceptable actions that involve a computer system or a computer network or ransomware. Cybersecurity threats that are identified and deemed material are escalated and communicated directly to the board of directors, in collaboration with relevant information technology personnel, insurance providers, legal counsel and, when necessary, external cybersecurity firms specializing in forensic investigations.

The Company sets forth enterprise-wide coordinated responses to identified threats, ensuring timely mitigation and remediation, and facilitating awareness and communication. Training sessions are held regularly at the senior and executive management levels to validate roles and responsibilities, and response protocols respective to cybersecurity threats.

### *Third-Party Access*

The Company has a fully integrated third-party risk management program to identify, assess, monitor and mitigate risks associated with third-party relationships, including cybersecurity risks. Under the program, risk ratings are assigned to each of the vendors based on an assessment of the vendor and its access to networks, systems, and confidential information. An assessment is conducted on each vendor to identify and measure the risks from cybersecurity threats that could impact our customer's data and our environment. Third parties that have access to our systems or customer data must have appropriate technical and organizational security measures and security control principles based on commercially acceptable security standards, and we require third parties in this class to agree by contract to manage their cybersecurity risks.

### *Material Cybersecurity Threat Risks*

The Company has not experienced any material losses relating to cybersecurity threats or incidents for the year ended September 30, 2024. We are not aware of any risks from cybersecurity threats, including as a result of any previous cybersecurity incidents that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect the Company, including our business strategy, results of operations or financial condition. Although we have a robust cybersecurity program that is designed to assess, identify, and manage material risks from cybersecurity threats, we cannot provide absolute surety that we have properly identified or mitigated all vulnerabilities or risks of incidents. The Company, and the third parties that the Company engages, are subject to constant and evolving threats of attack and cybersecurity incidents may be more difficult to detect for periods of time. A cybersecurity incident could harm our business strategy, results of operations, financial condition, reputation, and/or subject us to regulatory actions or litigation which may result in fines, judgments or indictments.

## **Cybersecurity Governance**

The board of directors is acutely aware of the critical nature of managing risks associated with cybersecurity threats. The Board has oversight responsibilities to ensure effective governance in managing these risks because it recognizes the significance of these threats to our operational integrity, shareholder and customer confidence and reputation.

### *Board of Directors Oversight*

The board of directors is responsible for the oversight of cybersecurity risk management and is composed of members with expertise in risk management, technology, and finance, thereby equipping them to manage and prevent cybersecurity risks effectively.

### *Management's Role in Managing Risk*

The IT Manager plays a pivotal role in informing the board of directors on cybersecurity risks. The IT Manager and members of senior management meet regularly and provide comprehensive briefings to both the board of directors. These briefings encompass a broad range of topics, including:

- the current cybersecurity landscape and emerging threats;
- the status of ongoing cybersecurity initiatives and strategies;
- incident reports and issued identified from any cybersecurity events; and
- compliance with regulatory requirements and industry standards.

In addition to our regularly scheduled board meetings, the IT Manager regularly communicates with senior staff regarding emerging or potential cybersecurity risks. They discuss any significant developments in the cybersecurity domain, which when reported to the board, ensures the board's oversight is proactive and responsive. The board actively participates in strategic decisions related to cybersecurity, offering guidance and approval for major initiatives. This involvement ensures that cybersecurity considerations are integrated into the broader strategic objectives of the Company. The board closely reviews these reports of the Bank's cybersecurity posture and the effectiveness of its risk management strategies prior to approval. This review helps in identifying areas for improvement and ensuring the alignment of cybersecurity efforts with the overall risk management framework.

#### *Cyber Risk Management Personnel*

The IT Manager directly reports to senior management. The IT Manager regularly meets with senior management to update and discuss any cybersecurity risks and incidents affecting the Company. This ensures that the highest levels of management are kept abreast of the cybersecurity posture and potential risks facing the Company. Furthermore, all significant cybersecurity matters and strategic risk management decisions are promptly escalated to the Board of Directors, ensuring that they have an up-to-date, comprehensive understanding of and can provide guidance on critical cybersecurity issues.

Primary responsibility for assessing and providing strategic direction to our cybersecurity program resides with our IT Manager, whose over eleven years of information technology experience in the financial services industry has provided him with in-depth knowledge and experience which are instrumental in developing and executing our cybersecurity strategies.

#### *Monitoring Cybersecurity Incidents*

The IT Manager and other information security staff utilizes vendor relationships and various other internet based daily updates for the latest developments in cybersecurity, including potential threats and innovative risk management techniques. This knowledge is crucial for the effective prevention, detection, mitigation, and remediation of cybersecurity incidents. The IT Manager provides structure for clear processes to ensure the regular monitoring of our information systems. This includes the deployment of advanced security measures and regular system audits to identify potential vulnerabilities. In the event of a cybersecurity incident, we believe we are equipped with a well-defined Incident Response Plan that is adequately resourced. This plan includes immediate actions to mitigate the impact and long-term strategies for remediation and prevent future incidents.

## **ITEM 2. PROPERTIES**

We conduct business through our five branch offices located in Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties in New York. At September 30, 2024, we owned four of our branch office locations and leased one of our branch office locations. At September 30, 2024, the total net book value of our land, buildings, furniture, fixtures and equipment was \$2.9 million.

## **ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

From time to time, the Company and the Bank are involved in routine legal proceedings in the ordinary course of business. At September 30, 2024, such routine legal proceedings, in the aggregate, are believed by management to be immaterial to our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

## **ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES**

None.

## PART II

### ITEM 5. MARKET FOR THE REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

#### Market Information

The common stock of the Company is quoted on the OTCQB Marketplace (OTCQB) under the symbol "GOVB."

#### Holdings

The number of shareholders of record of the Company at December 13, 2024 was 216.

#### Dividends

The Company's board of directors has the authority to declare dividends on our shares of common stock, subject to our capital requirements, our financial condition and results of operations, tax considerations, statutory and regulatory limitations, and general economic conditions. On October 21, 2024, the Company declared a semi-annual dividend of \$0.08 per share payable on November 18, 2024 to shareholder of record as of the close of business on November 4, 2024. This is the first cash dividend for the Company since the completion of the Bank's conversion from the mutual holding company form of organization to the stock holding company form of organization. We cannot assure you that we will continue to pay dividends in the future, or that any such dividends that we have historically paid will not be reduced or eliminated in the future.

The Company is not permitted to pay dividends on its common stock if its stockholders' equity would be reduced below the amount of the liquidation account established by the Company in connection with the Bank's second-step conversion. The source of dividends will depend on the net proceeds retained by the Company and earnings thereon, and dividends from the Bank. In addition, the Company is subject to state law limitations and federal bank regulatory policy on the payment of dividends. Maryland law generally limits dividends if the corporation would not be able to pay its debts in the usual course of business after giving effect to the dividend or if the corporation's total assets would be less than the corporation's total liabilities plus the amount needed to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of stockholders whose preferential rights on dissolution are superior to those receiving the distribution.

Federal Reserve Board policy also provides that a holding company should consult with the Federal Reserve Board supervisory staff prior to redeeming or repurchasing common stock or perpetual preferred stock if the holding company is experiencing financial weaknesses or if the repurchase or redemption would result in a net reduction, as of the end of a quarter, in the amount of such equity instruments outstanding compared with the beginning of the quarter in which the redemption or repurchase occurred.

The Bank is not permitted to pay dividends on its capital stock owned by the Company, its sole stockholder, if the Bank's stockholder's equity would be reduced below the amount of the liquidation account established in connection with the Bank's second-step conversion. In addition, the Bank will not be permitted to make a capital distribution if, after making such distribution, it would be undercapitalized under applicable regulation. The Bank must file an application with the Federal Reserve Board for approval of a capital distribution if the total capital distributions for the applicable calendar year exceed the sum of its net income for that year to date plus its retained net income for the preceding two years, or it would not be at least adequately capitalized following the distribution.

Under New York state banking law, New York State chartered savings associations may declare and pay dividends out of the balance of net profits after net worth exceeds ten percent of capital (which we refer to as the "undivided profits" of the savings and loan association) upon approval by the board of directors, unless there is an impairment of capital.

Pursuant to Federal Reserve Board regulations, the Company may not make a distribution that would constitute a return of capital during the three years following the completion of the Bank's second-step conversion.

In connection with the completion of the Bank's second-step conversion on October 31, 2023, the Company and the Bank established a liquidation account, for the benefit of eligible account holders and supplemental eligible account holders of the Bank under the plan of conversion and reorganization for the second-step conversion, in an aggregate amount equal to (i) Cambray Mutual Holding Company's prior 64.5% ownership interest in the former Gouverneur Bancorp, Inc.'s total stockholders' equity as of March 31, 2023, plus (ii) the former Gouverneur Bancorp's total stockholders' equity as of March 31, 2023 (which totaled \$26.3 million), and the value of the net assets of Cambray Mutual Holding Company as of March 31, 2023, excluding its ownership interest in the former Gouverneur Bancorp, Inc., which totaled \$260,000. The Company and the Bank will maintain the liquidation accounts for the benefit of eligible account holders and supplemental eligible account holders who continue to maintain deposit accounts at the Bank after the second-step conversion. The liquidation accounts are intended to preserve for eligible account holders and supplemental eligible account holders who continue to maintain their deposit accounts with the Bank a liquidation interest in the residual net worth, if any, of the Company or Bank (after the payment of all creditors, including depositors to the full extent of their deposit accounts) in the event of a liquidation of the Company and/or the Bank.

#### **Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans**

None.

#### **Share Repurchases**

Under current federal regulations, subject to limited exceptions, the Company may not repurchase shares of our common stock during the first year following the completion of the Bank's second-step conversion, which was completed on October 31, 2023. The Company did not repurchase any shares of its common stock during the quarter or fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

On December 11, 2024, the Company announced that its board of directors has approved a stock repurchase program to acquire up to 55,356 shares, or approximately 5.0%, of the Company's outstanding common stock. Under the stock repurchase program, repurchases will be conducted through open market purchases, which may include purchases under a trading plan adopted pursuant to Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 10b5-1, or through privately negotiated transactions. Repurchases will be made from time to time depending on market conditions and other factors. The stock repurchase program was adopted following the Company's consultation with the Federal Reserve Board.

**ITEM 6.** [RESERVED]

#### **ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

This discussion and analysis reflects our consolidated financial statements and other relevant statistical data, and is intended to enhance your understanding of our financial condition and results of operations. The information in this section has been derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of the Company that appear beginning on page F-1 of this report. You should read the information in this section in conjunction with the business and financial information regarding the Company and the financial statements provided in this report.

#### **Executive Summary**

Our results of operations depend primarily on our net interest income. Net interest income is the difference between the interest income we earn on our interest-earning assets, consisting primarily of loans and securities, and the interest we



pay on our interest-bearing liabilities, consisting of savings and club accounts, NOW and money market accounts and time certificates. Our results of operations also are affected by our provisions for credit losses, non-interest income and non-interest expense. Non-interest income currently consists primarily of service charges, unrealized gains (losses) on swap agreements, earnings on bank owned life insurance and loan servicing fees. Non-interest expense currently consists primarily of salaries and employee benefits, directors' fees, occupancy and data processing expense and professional fees. Our results of operations also may be affected significantly by general and local economic and competitive conditions, changes in market interest rates, governmental policies and actions of regulatory authorities.

We also use derivative instruments as a risk management tool and have entered into several interest rate swap agreements whereby we pay a fixed rate and receive a variable rate on a notional amount. We enter into these arrangements to hedge the cost of certain funding sources and to increase the interest rate sensitivity of certain assets. Financial derivatives are recorded at fair value as other assets or liabilities. The accounting for changes in the fair value of a derivative depends on whether it has been designated and qualifies as a part of a hedging relationship. For a fair value hedge, changes in the fair value of the derivative instrument and changes in the fair value of the hedged asset or liability are currently recognized in current year earnings, and gains are the result of the swaps market value fluctuations with long-term bond rates and projected short-term rates.

### **Business Strategy**

As a community-minded financial institution, we focus on serving the financial needs of local individuals, businesses and municipalities by executing a safe and sound, service-oriented business strategy that seeks to produce earnings that increase over time and can be reinvested in our business and communities. Our current business strategy consists of the following:

- **Continuing to emphasize residential mortgage lending.** We have been and will continue to be primarily a one-to four-family residential mortgage lender for borrowers in our market area. As of September 30, 2024, \$103.5 million, or 82.35%, of our total loan portfolio consisted of one- to four-family mortgage loans. Our primary market area, which is located in the northernmost region of New York state, borders the St. Lawrence River and includes private and public lands that are attractive vacation destinations. As a result, our one to four-family residential mortgage loan portfolio also includes loans made to purchase second vacation homes and cottages. We have primarily originated residential mortgage loans for our own portfolio, rather than for sale, and we generally service the loans we originate. We provide customers with alternatives for their borrowing needs by offering both fixed- and adjustable-rate products with various terms to maturity and pricing alternatives. Through our marketing efforts, our reputation, pricing and strong relationships with real estate agents, we attract mortgage loan business from walk-in customers, customers that apply online and existing customers. We believe that there are opportunities to increase our residential mortgage lending in our market area, and we intend to continue our emphasis on originating one- to four-family loans that meet our underwriting standards.

- **Increasing our non-residential loan portfolio.** Our principal loan origination activity remains primarily one-to four-family residential mortgage loans. We supplement these residential originations by also originating higher yielding commercial real estate loans, construction loans and home equity loans and lines of credit. While we intend to continue to emphasize one- to four-family residential mortgage lending, we also intend to continue to focus on originating small business loans in our local market and on the origination of higher yielding non-residential loans to supplement our residential lending portfolio. We expect that any future increases in non-residential loans will be directly proportionate to increases in our residential loan portfolio, which will enable us to maintain the current overall composition of our loan portfolio.

- **Increasing municipal deposits as a cost-effective source of funds to help generate future spread income.** To enhance our deposit taking activities, the Bank operates a limited-purpose wholly owned subsidiary, GS&L Municipal Bank, that was formed in September 2022 as a New York-chartered limited purpose commercial bank. We maintain GS&L Municipal Bank as a limited purpose commercial bank subsidiary because, under New York municipal laws, a New York-

chartered savings and loan association, such as the Bank, is not authorized to directly receive New York state or municipal deposits. As of September 30, 2024, GS&L Municipal Bank held \$21.4 million in municipal deposits, consisting of public funds on deposit from local government entities domiciled in the State of New York. We have devoted significant time and resources to forming GS&L Municipal Bank and establishing the infrastructure necessary for GS&L Municipal Bank to operate effectively, and we believe there are opportunities to continue to increase municipal deposits as a cost-effective source of funds to help generate additional income in the future. Accordingly, we intend to continue to solicit municipal deposits through GS&L Municipal Bank by leveraging our management team's existing relationships with local municipalities and governmental entities located in our primary market area.

- **Grow organically and through opportunistic expansion.** Following our acquisition of Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent in September 2022, our primary intention is currently to grow our balance sheet organically and use our capital to increase our lending and investment capacity. In addition to organic growth, we may also consider expansion opportunities in our market area or in contiguous markets that we believe would enhance both our franchise value and stockholder returns. These opportunities primarily include establishing loan production offices, establishing new, or de novo, branch offices (including micro branch offices) and/or acquiring branch offices. Consistent with this strategy, in January 2025, we expect to open a new loan production office in Potsdam, New York.

- **Improving our technology platform.** We intend to continue to build a technology platform that enables us to deliver enhanced products and services to our customers and is also scalable to accommodate our future organic growth plans. To accomplish this objective, we have made and are continuing to make additional investments in our information technology infrastructure, including data backup, security, accessibility, integration, business continuity, website development, online and mobile banking technologies and internal/external ease of use. We outsource a majority of our data processing requirements to our third-party core processor, and we rely on our third-party core processor for data processing and external data security. As a result, we expect that much of our additional investments in improving our technology platform, such as future upgrades and enhancements to our online banking platform, mobile banking app, core banking systems and branch workstation capabilities, all of which run through our core processing system, will be done through our third-party core processor.

We intend to continue to pursue these business strategies, subject to changes necessitated by future market conditions, regulatory restrictions and other factors. While we are committed to the business strategies noted above, we recognize the challenges and uncertainties of the current environment and plan to execute these strategies as market conditions allow.

### **Summary of Critical Accounting Policies**

In the preparation of our consolidated financial statements, we have adopted various accounting policies that govern the application of U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) and to general practices within the banking industry. Our significant accounting policies are described in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements included in this filing.

Certain accounting policies involve significant judgments and assumptions by us that have a material impact on the carrying value of certain assets and liabilities. We consider these accounting policies, which are discussed below, to be critical accounting policies. The judgments and assumptions we use are based on historical experience and other factors, which we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results could differ from these judgments and estimates under different conditions, resulting in a change that could have a material impact on the carrying values of our assets and liabilities and our results of operations.

### *Acquired Loans*

The Company has determined that there was no evidence of deterioration in credit quality since origination in loans acquired from Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent and that it was probable, at the acquisition date, that the Company will be able to collect all contractually required payments receivable.

### *Allowance for Credit Losses*

We consider the allowance for credit losses to be a critical accounting policy. Note 2 to the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024 discusses significant accounting policies, including the allowance for credit losses and the adoption of ASC 326, which changes the methodology under which management calculates its reserve for loans and investment securities, now referred to as the allowance for credit losses. Please refer to Note 2 to the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements for detail regarding the Company's adoption of ASU 2016-13: *Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments* and the allowance for credit losses. Although we believe that we use the best information available to establish the allowance for credit losses, future adjustments to the allowance may be necessary if economic conditions differ substantially from the assumptions used in making the evaluation.

Our financial results are affected by the changes in and the level of the allowance for credit losses. This process involves our analysis of complex internal and external variables, and it requires that we exercise judgement to estimate an appropriate allowance for credit losses. As a result of the uncertainty associated with this subjectivity, we cannot assure the precision of the amount reserved, should we experience sizeable loan losses in any particular period. For example, changes in the financial condition of individual borrowers, economic conditions, or the condition of various markets in which collateral may be sold could require us to significantly decrease or increase the level of the allowance for credit losses. Such an adjustment could materially affect net income as a result of the change in provision for credit losses. We also have approximately \$901,000 as of September 30, 2024 in non-performing assets consisting of non-performing loans. We continue to assess the collectability of these loans and update our appraisals on these loans as appropriate.

To determine the total allowance for credit losses, management estimates the reserves needed for each segment of the portfolio, including loans analyzed individually and loans analyzed on a pooled basis. The allowance for credit losses consists of amounts applicable to: (1) the commercial portfolio; (2) the real estate portfolio; and (3) the consumer portfolio.

Management monitors differences between estimated and actual credit losses. This monitoring process includes periodic assessments by senior management of loan portfolios and the models used to estimate the expected credit losses in those portfolios. Additions to the allowance for credit losses are made by changes to the provision for loan losses. Credit exposures deemed to be uncollectible are charged against the allowance for loan losses. Recoveries of previously charged off amounts are credited to the allowance for credit losses.

### *Specific Allowances for Identified Problem Loans*

We establish a specific allowance when loans are determined to not share common risk characteristics with pooled loans. Loss is measured by determining the present value of expected future cash flows or, for collateral-dependent loans, the fair value of the collateral less estimated selling expenses. Factors in identifying a specific problem loan include: (1) the strength of the customer's personal or business cash flows; (2) the availability of other sources of repayment; (3) the amount due or past due; (4) the type and value of collateral; (5) the strength of our collateral position; (6) the estimated cost to sell the collateral; and (7) the borrower's effort to cure the delinquency. In addition, for loans secured by real estate, we consider the extent of any past due and unpaid property taxes applicable to the property serving as collateral on the mortgage.

### *General Valuation Allowance on the Remainder of the Loan Portfolio*

We establish a general allowance for credit losses for loans that share common risk characteristics to recognize the expected lifetime credit losses associated with lending activities, but which, unlike specific allowances, has not been allocated to particular problem assets. This general credit loss allowance is determined by segregating the loans by loan category and using historical experience, current conditions, and reasonable and supportable forecasts to estimate the expected lifetime credit losses inherent. The allowance may be adjusted for significant factors that, in management's judgment, affect the collectability of the portfolio as of the evaluation date. These significant factors may include changes in lending policies and procedures, changes in existing general economic and business conditions affecting our primary market area, credit quality trends, collateral value, loan volumes and concentrations, seasoning of the loan portfolio, recent loss experience in particular segments of the portfolio, duration of the current business cycle and bank regulatory examination results. The applied loss factors are re-evaluated quarterly to ensure their relevance in the current real estate environment.

Although we believe that we use the best information available to establish the allowance for credit losses, future adjustments to the allowance for credit losses may be necessary and any material increase in the allowance for credit losses may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Furthermore, while we believe we have established our allowance for credit losses in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, as an integral part of their examination process, regulators will periodically review our allowance for credit losses. The regulators may have judgments different than managements, and we may determine to increase our allowance as a result of these regulatory reviews.

### *Fair Value Measurements*

We follow the guidance of FASB ASC 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures. This guidance permits entities to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value. The objective is to improve financial reporting by providing entities with the opportunity to mitigate volatility in reported earnings caused by measuring related assets and liabilities differently without having to apply complex hedge accounting provisions. This guidance clarifies that fair value is an exit price, representing the amount that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants. Under this guidance, fair value measurements are not adjusted for transaction costs. The guidance establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements).

### *Goodwill*

Goodwill represents the excess cost of the acquisition of Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent over the fair value of acquired tangible assets and liabilities and identifiable intangible assets. When calculating goodwill in accordance with FASB ASC 805-30-55-3, we evaluate whether the fair value of equity of the acquired company is a more reliable measure than the fair value of the equity interests transferred. We consider the assumptions required to calculate the fair value of equity of an acquired company using discounted cash flow models (income approach) and/or change of control premium models (market approach) which are generally based on a higher level of market participant inputs and therefore a lower level of subjectivity when compared to the assumptions required to calculate the fair value of equity interests transferred under a fair value pricing model. As a result, we consider the calculation of the fair value of the equity of an acquired company to be more reliable than the calculation of the fair value of the equity interests transferred. Goodwill is assessed at least annually for impairment and any such impairment will be recognized in the period identified. Goodwill is not amortized but is evaluated annually for impairment.

## Balance Sheet Analysis

### *General*

Total assets decreased by \$8.6 million, or 4.19%, to \$197.3 million at September 30, 2024 from \$205.9 million at September 30, 2023. The decrease in assets was primarily due to a decrease in cash and cash equivalents of \$4.0 million, a decrease in acquired loans of \$4.0 million, and a decrease in securities of \$1.3 million, partially offset by an increase in originated loans of \$3.3 million. Total loans, net of the allowance for credit losses, decreased by \$1.2 million, or 0.93%, to \$124.2 million at September 30, 2024 from \$125.4 million at September 30, 2023. The decrease in loans, net of the allowance for credit losses, was primarily due to a decrease in net loans acquired from Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent of \$4.0 million and the transition adjustment of the adoption of CECL, which resulted in an increase in the allowance for credit losses on loans of \$436,000, partially offset by an increase in newly originated loans of \$3.3 million. During 2024, there was a \$70,000 provision for credit loss and \$86,000 charged-off against non-performing loans.

Cash and cash equivalents decreased by \$4.0 million, or 38.79%, to \$6.4 million at September 30, 2024 from \$10.4 million at September 30, 2023. The decrease in cash can primarily be attributed to a decrease in Federal Home Loan Bank advances, partially offset by a net inflow of customer deposits and proceeds from securities maturing.

Securities available for sale decreased by \$1.3 million, or 2.74%, to \$45.3 million at September 30, 2024 from \$46.6 million at September 30, 2023. The decrease was primarily due to principal paydowns and maturities, partially offset by an increase to the market value of the portfolio.

There was no foreclosed real estate at September 30, 2024, down from \$101,000 at September 30, 2023 due to the sale of two other real estate owned (“REO”) properties. Due to the low number of REO properties, year over year balances can fluctuate significantly.

Accrued interest receivable and other assets decreased by \$497,000, or 9.95%, to \$4.5 million from \$5.0 million at September 30, 2023 primarily due to a decrease in the net deferred tax balance of \$330,000 and a \$240,000 decrease in the market value on swaps. This decrease was partially offset by a \$175,000 increase in the loans in process account at fiscal year-end.

Total deposits increased by \$1.1 million, or 0.71%, to \$159.9 million at September 30, 2024 from \$158.8 million at September 30, 2023. The increase in deposits can primarily be attributed to a \$11.7 million increase in time deposits, partially offset by a \$10.6 million decrease in non-maturing deposits, due to seasonal fluctuations with municipal deposits. The increase in time deposits can primarily be attributed to an increase in offering rates as market and competitor rates increased during the fiscal year.

There were no Federal Home Loan Bank advances at September 30, 2024 and \$14.0 million in advances at September 30, 2023. The decrease in advances was primarily due to principal maturities and increase in the Bank’s internal accounts from the net stock offering proceeds in October 2023 following the completion of the second-step conversion.

Shareholders’ equity increased by \$7.7 million, or 30.50%, to \$32.8 million at September 30, 2024 from \$25.1 million at September 30, 2023. The increase in shareholders’ equity was primarily a result of the completion of the second-step conversion on October 31, 2023, at which time the Company sold, for gross proceeds of \$7.2 million, a total of 723,068 shares of common stock at \$10.00 per share, including 57,845 shares sold to the Bank’s employee stock ownership plan. There was also a \$2.5 million increase to the market value adjustment on the securities portfolio included in the accumulated other comprehensive income component.

## Loans

Historically, our lending activities have emphasized one- to four-family residential real estate loans, and such loans continue to comprise the largest portion of our loan portfolio. Other areas of lending include commercial real estate loans and multi-family real estate loans, acquisition, development and land loans, commercial and industrial loans, home equity loans and lines of credit and consumer loans. Subject to market conditions and our asset-liability analysis, we expect to continue to increase our focus on commercial real estate and commercial and industrial loans, in an effort to diversify our overall loan portfolio and increase the overall yield earned on our loans. We compete for loans by offering high quality personalized service, providing convenience and flexibility, providing timely responses on loan applications and by offering competitive pricing of loan products.

As a financial services provider, we routinely are a party to various financial instruments with off-balance-sheet risks, such as commitments to extend credit and unused lines of credit. While these contractual obligations represent our potential future cash requirements, a significant portion of commitments to extend credit may expire without being drawn upon. Such commitments are subject to the same credit policies and approval process accorded to loans we make. For additional information, see Note 16 of the notes to consolidated financial statements provided in this filing.

**Loan Portfolio Composition.** The following table sets forth the composition of our loan portfolio by type of loan at the dates indicated. In addition to the loans included in the table below, at September 30, 2024, we had \$1.1 million of loans in process.

	September 30,			
	2024		2023	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
<b>Real estate loans:</b>				
One- to four-family residential	\$ 103,521	82.35 %	\$ 102,251	80.76 %
Commercial	11,239	8.94 %	11,490	9.08 %
Construction	1,945	1.54 %	2,265	1.79 %
Home equity loans and lines of credit	1,643	1.31 %	2,963	2.34 %
Commercial loans	1,843	1.47 %	1,501	1.19 %
<b>Consumer loans:</b>				
Automobile	2,528	2.01 %	3,027	2.39 %
Passbook	437	0.35 %	267	0.21 %
Other consumer	2,559	2.03 %	2,841	2.24 %
<b>Add:</b>				
Net deferred loan fees	437	—	437	—
<b>Less:</b>				
Net discount on acquired loans	(832)	—	(992)	—
Allowance for losses	(1,063)	—	(623)	—
<b>Total net loans</b>	<b><u>\$ 124,257</u></b>	<b>—</b>	<b><u>\$ 125,427</u></b>	<b>—</b>

**Contractual Maturities.** The following tables set forth the contractual maturities of our total loan portfolio at September 30, 2024. Demand loans, loans having no stated repayment schedule or maturity, and overdraft loans are reported as being due in one year or less. The tables present contractual maturities and do not reflect repricing or the effect of prepayments. Actual maturities may differ.

<u>September 30, 2024</u>	<u>One- to Four- Family Residential Real Estate</u>	<u>Commercial Real Estate</u>	<u>Construction</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Consumer</u>	<u>Total</u>
	(In thousands)					
<b>Amounts due in:</b>						
One year or less	\$ 207	\$ 509	\$ 1,930	\$ 299	\$ 142	\$ 3,087
More than one to five years	1,975	6,749	—	673	3,968	13,365
More than five to 15 years	28,746	1,421	—	793	1,160	32,120
More than 15 years	73,246	2,244	—	37	158	75,685
Total	<u>\$ 104,174</u>	<u>\$ 10,923</u>	<u>\$ 1,930</u>	<u>\$ 1,802</u>	<u>\$ 5,428</u>	<u>\$ 124,257</u>

**Fixed and Adjustable-Rate Loans.** The following tables set forth our fixed and adjustable-rate loans at September 30, 2024 that are contractually due after September 30, 2025.

<u>At September 30, 2024</u>	<u>Due After September 30, 2025</u>		
	<u>Fixed</u>	<u>Adjustable</u>	<u>Total</u>
	(In thousands)		
<b>Real estate loans:</b>			
One- to four-family residential	\$ 67,504	\$ 32,858	\$ 100,362
Commercial	7,553	2,861	10,414
Construction	—	—	—
Home equity loans and lines of credit	1,962	1,643	3,605
Commercial loans	1,215	288	1,503
<b>Consumer loans:</b>			
Automobile	2,639	—	2,639
Passbook	197	15	212
Other consumer	2,435	—	2,435
Total loans	<u>\$ 83,505</u>	<u>\$ 37,665</u>	<u>\$ 121,170</u>

### **Securities**

Our investment portfolio consists primarily of municipal bonds, mortgage-backed securities and U.S. government agency bonds.

**Portfolio Maturities and Yields.** The composition and maturities of the available-for-sale investment securities portfolio at September 30, 2024 are summarized in the table below. We did not have any held-to-maturity investment securities as of September 30, 2024. Maturities are based on the final contractual payment dates, and do not reflect the

effect of scheduled principal repayments, prepayments, or early redemptions that may occur. Yields on tax-exempt obligations have not been computed on a tax-equivalent basis, as the effect would not be material.

September 30, 2024	One Year or Less		More than One Year to Five Years		More than Five Years to Ten Years		More than Ten Years		Total		
	Amortized Cost	Weighted Average Yield	Amortized Cost	Weighted Average Yield	Amortized Cost	Weighted Average Yield	Amortized Cost	Weighted Average Yield	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Weighted Average Yield
(Dollars in thousands)											
<b>Securities available-for-sale:</b>											
Municipal bonds, treasuries, agencies, other government-sponsored enterprises	\$ 2,381	4.15 %	\$ 11,180	4.14 %	\$ 6,640	3.83 %	\$ 13,598	3.25 %	\$ 33,799	\$ 32,169	3.72
Residential mortgage-backed securities	—	— %	2,762	4.34 %	7,859	4.00 %	716	3.07 %	11,337	11,171	4.02
SBA-guaranteed debenture	—	— %	1,065	5.62 %	935	4.74 %	—	— %	2,000	2,008	5.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,381</b>	<b>4.15 %</b>	<b>\$ 15,007</b>	<b>4.28 %</b>	<b>\$ 15,434</b>	<b>3.97 %</b>	<b>\$ 14,314</b>	<b>3.24 %</b>	<b>\$ 47,136</b>	<b>\$ 45,348</b>	<b>3.86</b>

## Deposits

Our deposits are generated primarily from residents within our primary market area. We offer a selection of deposit accounts, including non-interest-bearing and interest-bearing checking accounts, savings accounts, NOW and money market accounts and time deposits, for both individuals and businesses. The following table sets forth the distribution of total deposits by account type at the dates indicated.

	At September 30,					
	2024			2023		
	Amount	Percent	Average Rate	Amount	Percent	Average Rate
Noninterest-bearing demand deposits	\$ 17,515	10.96 %	0.00 %	\$ 25,052	15.78 %	0.00
Regular savings and other deposits	57,940	36.23 %	0.10 %	66,570	41.93 %	0.10
NOW and money market deposits	48,167	30.12 %	0.29 %	42,625	26.84 %	0.35
Time deposits and certificates of deposit	36,280	22.69 %	3.98 %	24,531	15.45 %	2.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 159,902</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>\$ 158,778</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>	<b>—</b>

We did not have any brokered deposits at September 30, 2024 or 2023.

Uninsured deposits, which are the portion of deposit accounts that exceed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insurance limits, currently set at \$250,000, were approximately \$37.2 million at September 30, 2024 and \$42.3 million at September 30, 2023. GS&L Municipal Bank accounted for approximately \$19.3 million and \$17.5 million of the uninsured deposits at September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2023, respectively. At September 30, 2024, we had \$68.3 million in available liquidity with the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York and other borrowing sources and \$6.4 million in cash and cash equivalents, which was sufficient to cover 100% of our total \$17.9 million uninsured and uncollateralized deposits. Municipal deposits held by GS&L Municipal Bank are fully collateralized by available for sale government and collateralized mortgage obligation securities.

The following table sets forth the maturity of the uninsured certificates of deposit as of September 30, 2024.

Maturity Period:	At September 30, 2024	
	(In thousands)	
Three months or less	\$	1,638
Over three through six months		817
Over six through twelve months		1,819
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,274</b>



## **Results of Operations for the Fiscal Years Ended September 30, 2024 and 2023**

### ***Financial Highlights***

Net income for the year ended September 30, 2024 was \$539,000 compared to net income of \$317,000 for the year ended September 30, 2023. Net income for the year ended September 30, 2024 was higher than the year ended September 30, 2023 primarily due to a \$562,000 increase in the unrealized gain (loss) on interest rate swap agreements. The increase in net income was also impacted by a \$13,000 realized gain on sale of securities and \$75,000 realized gain on swaps unwound. Total interest income increased \$403,000 which was offset by interest expense increasing \$848,000 with market interest rates and competitor rates increasing.

### ***Net Interest Income***

Net interest income totaled \$7.1 million for the year ended September 30, 2024, as compared to \$7.6 million for the year ended September 30, 2023. The decrease in net interest income of \$445,000, or 5.87%, was primarily due to an increase in deposit interest expense of \$888,000, partially offset by an increase in total interest income of \$403,000 and a decrease in borrowing interest expense of \$33,000.

Interest income increased by \$403,000, or 4.93%, due to an increase in market rates resulting in higher interest rates on loan originations and loan repricing. Interest expense increased by \$848,000, or 148.77%, due to an increase in the cost of interest-bearing liabilities by 64 basis points from 0.69% to 1.33%. Net interest margin decreased by 16 basis points, or 0.16%, during the year ended September 30, 2024 to 4.03% compared to 4.19% at September 30, 2023.

### ***Provision for Credit Losses***

Management recorded credit loss provisions of \$70,000 and \$122,000 for the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. During 2024, we charged-off a total of \$86,000 against non-performing loans. During 2023, we charged-off a total of \$126,000 against non-performing loans. We recorded recoveries of \$15,000 and \$6,000 during the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

Based on a review of the loans that were in the loan portfolio at September 30, 2024, management believes that the allowance for credit losses is maintained at a level that represents its best estimate of inherent credit losses in the loan portfolio that were both probable and reasonably estimable.

### *Non-Interest Income*

The following table sets forth a summary of non-interest income for the periods indicated:

	<u>Year Ended September 30,</u>		<u>Change</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>
	(Dollars in thousands)			
Service charges	\$ 327	\$ 331	\$ (4)	1.33 %
Realized gain (loss) on sales of securities - AFS	13	(661)	674	101.97 %
Realized gain on swap unwound	75	654	(579)	88.53 %
Loss on disposal of premises and equipment, net	(14)	—	(14)	— %
Earnings on investment in bank owned life insurance	154	142	12	8.45 %
Earnings on deferred fees plan	78	41	37	90.24 %
Unrealized loss on swap agreements	(240)	(802)	562	70.07 %
Earnings on secondary market programs	45	42	3	7.14 %
Other non-interest income	334	324	10	2.96 %
Total non-interest income	<u>\$ 772</u>	<u>\$ 71</u>	<u>\$ 701</u>	

The increase in total non-interest income was primarily due to the reduction in the unrealized loss on swap agreements resulting from fluctuations with long-term bond rates and projected short-term rates. The unrealized loss on swap agreements was \$240,000 at September 30, 2024 compared to an unrealized loss of \$802,000 at September 30, 2023. For the year ended September 30, 2024, the Company unwound two off-balance sheet swaps for a realized gain of \$75,000 and sold four investments for a gain of \$13,000. For the year ended September 30, 2023, the Company unwound four off-balance sheet swaps for a realized gain of \$654,000 and sold fourteen investments for a loss of \$661,000.

### ***Non-Interest Expense***

The following table sets forth an analysis of non-interest expense for the periods indicated:

	<u>Year Ended September 30,</u>		<u>Change</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>
			<u>(Dollars in thousands)</u>	
Salaries and employee benefits	\$ 3,563	\$ 3,442	\$ 121	3.50 %
Occupancy expense	955	999	(44)	4.44 %
Other non-interest expense	749	920	(171)	18.59 %
Professional fees	671	529	142	27.08 %
Data processing	465	459	6	1.31 %
Intangibles & deposit premium expense	416	459	(43)	9.37 %
Directors fees	364	282	82	29.08 %
Postage and supplies	119	147	(28)	19.05 %
Earnings on deferred fees plan	78	41	37	90.24 %
Foreclosed assets, net	(7)	30	(37)	123.33 %
Total non-interest expense	<u>\$ 7,373</u>	<u>\$ 7,308</u>	<u>\$ 65</u>	

The increase in 2024 total non-interest expense included a \$142,000 increase in professional fees due to professional services resulting from the Bank's second step conversion, which was completed during the first quarter of fiscal year 2024, and expenses related to the Company's operations as a public company. Directors' fees increased \$82,000 over the same period due to partial directors' fees being paid at the mutual holding company level prior to the second step conversion and now through the new stock holding company. Other non-interest expense decreased \$171,000 for the year ended September 30, 2024, as compared to the year ended September 30, 2023, due to a reduction in one-time expenses related to the acquisition of CBCV and the second step conversion.

### ***Income Taxes***

The Company recorded an income tax benefit of \$63,000 and \$84,000 for the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The decrease in income tax benefit resulted from an increase in pre-tax book income and a change in interest income in tax-exempt securities. The Company's effective income tax rates were (13.24%) and (36.05%) for the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The income tax benefit in both 2024 and 2023 primarily reflects the Company's tax-exempt income, including earnings from securities and Bank-Owned Life Insurance (BOLI), which reduce the overall tax liability.

## Average Balances and Yields

The table below sets forth average balance sheets, average yields and costs, and certain other information for the periods indicated. No tax-equivalent yield adjustments have been made, as the effects would be immaterial. All average balances are daily average balances. Non-accrual loans were included in the computation of average balances only. The yields set forth below include the effect of deferred fees, discounts, and premiums that are amortized or accreted to interest income or interest expense. Deferred loan fees totaled \$437,000 for the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023. Loan balances exclude loans held for sale.

	For the Year Ended September 30,					
	2024			2023		
	Average Outstanding Balance	Interest	Average Yield/Rate	Average Outstanding Balance	Interest	Average Yield/Rate
	(Dollars in thousands)					
<b>Interest-earning assets<sup>(1)</sup>:</b>						
Loans	\$ 124,159	\$ 6,544	5.27 %	\$ 124,804	\$ 6,119	4.90 %
Securities	51,095	1,913	3.74 %	54,145	1,949	3.60 %
Other short-term investments	2,041	108	5.29 %	2,145	94	4.38 %
Total interest-earning assets	177,295	8,565	4.83 %	181,094	8,162	4.51 %
Noninterest-earning assets	23,718			24,833		
Total assets	<u>\$ 201,013</u>			<u>\$ 205,927</u>		
<b>Interest-bearing liabilities<sup>(1)</sup>:</b>						
Regular savings and club deposits	61,332	79	0.13 %	76,964	93	0.12 %
Money market and NOW deposits <sup>(2)</sup>	48,577	70	0.14 %	51,208	(9)	(0.02)%
Certificates of deposit	30,714	1,084	3.53 %	20,973	261	1.24 %
Total interest-bearing deposits	140,623	1,233	0.88 %	149,145	345	0.23 %
Federal Home Loan Bank advances and other borrowings <sup>(3)</sup>	5,741	185	3.22 %	6,677	225	3.37 %
Total interest-bearing liabilities	146,364	1,418	0.97 %	155,822	570	0.37 %
Noninterest-bearing demand deposits	23,720			23,362		
Other noninterest-bearing liabilities	273			1,054		
Total liabilities	170,357			180,238		
Total shareholders' equity	30,656			25,689		
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	<u>\$ 201,013</u>			<u>\$ 205,927</u>		
Net interest income		<u>\$ 7,147</u>			<u>\$ 7,592</u>	
Net interest rate spread <sup>(4)</sup>			3.86 %			4.14 %
Net interest-earning assets <sup>(5)</sup>	<u>\$ 30,931</u>			<u>\$ 25,272</u>		
Net interest margin <sup>(6)</sup>			4.03 %			4.19 %
Average interest-earning assets to interest-bearing liabilities			1.21 x			1.16 x

(1) The table on the following page provides a reconciliation of the impact of swap agreements in the table above with respect to the following items:

	<b>For the Year Ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>(Dollars in thousands)</b>	
Interest on loans, net of deferred fees	\$ 6,544	\$ 6,119
Impact of swap agreements	—	41
Interest on loans, excluding impact of swap agreements	\$ 6,544	\$ 6,078
Interest on money market and NOW deposit accounts	\$ 70	\$ (9)
Impact of swap agreements	(10)	(46)
Interest on deposits, excluding impact of swap agreements	80	\$ 37
Interest on borrowings	\$ 185	\$ 225
Impact of swap agreements	(132)	(125)
Interest on borrowings, excluding impact of swap agreements	\$ 317	\$ 350

- (2) Interest on money market and NOW deposit accounts includes net interest on swap agreements hedged against deposits.  
(3) Interest on Federal Home Loan Bank advances includes net interest on swap agreements hedged against borrowings.  
(4) Net interest rate spread represents the difference between the weighted average yield on interest-earning assets and the weighted average rate of interest-bearing liabilities.  
(5) Net interest-earning assets represent total interest-earning assets less total interest-bearing liabilities.  
(6) Net interest margin represents net interest income divided by average total interest-earning assets

### Rate/Volume Analysis

The following table presents the effects of changing rates and volumes on our net interest income for the periods indicated. The rate column shows the effects attributable to changes in rate (changes in rate multiplied by prior volume). The volume column shows the effects attributable to changes in volume (changes in volume multiplied by prior rate). The total column represents the sum of the prior columns. For purposes of this table, changes attributable to both rate and volume, which cannot be segregated, have been allocated proportionately based on the changes due to rate and the changes due to volume. There were no out-of-period items or adjustments required to be excluded from the table below.

	<b>Year Ended September 30, 2024</b>		
	<b>Compared to</b>		
	<b>Year Ended September 30, 2023</b>		
	<b>Increase (Decrease) Due to</b>	<b>Total Increase</b>	
	<b>Volume</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>(Decrease)</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>		
<b>Interest-earning assets:</b>			
Loans	(32)	457	425
Securities	(111)	75	(36)
Other short-term investments	(5)	19	14
Total interest-earning assets	(148)	551	403
<b>Interest-bearing liabilities:</b>			
Regular savings and club deposits	(21)	7	(14)
Money market and NOW deposits	1	78	79
Certificates of deposit	165	658	823
Total deposits	145	743	888
Federal Home Loan Bank advances and other borrowings	(30)	(10)	(40)
Total interest-bearing liabilities	115	733	848
Change in net interest income	(263)	(182)	(445)

## **Risk Management**

**Overview.** Managing risk is an essential part of successfully managing a financial institution. Our most prominent risk exposures are credit risk, interest rate risk and market risk. Credit risk is the risk of not collecting the interest and/or the principal balance of a loan or investment when it is due. Interest rate risk is the potential reduction of interest income as a result of changes in interest rates. Market risk arises from fluctuations in interest rates that may result in changes in the values of financial instruments, such as available-for-sale securities that are accounted for at fair value. Other risks that we face are operational risk, liquidity risk and reputation risk. Operational risk includes risks related to fraud, regulatory compliance, processing errors, technology, and disaster recovery. Liquidity risk is the possible inability to fund obligations to depositors, lenders or borrowers. Reputation risk is the risk that negative publicity or press, whether true or not, could cause a decline in our customer base or revenue.

**Management of Credit Risk.** The objective of our credit risk management strategy is to quantify and manage credit risk and to limit the risk of loss resulting from an individual customer default. Our credit risk management strategy focuses on conservatism, an excellent knowledge of the communities we lend in, and significant levels of monitoring. Our lending practices include conservative exposure limits and underwriting, extensive documentation and collection standards. Our credit risk management strategy also emphasizes diversification at the borrower level as well as regular credit examinations, continuous site visits by executive management and management reviews of large credit exposures and credits that might experience deterioration of credit quality. Our credit quality indicators are described in Note 6 to the consolidated financial statements included in this filing.

### ***Analysis of Classified and Non-Performing Assets***

**Classified Assets.** Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation regulations and our Asset Classification Policy provide that loans and other assets considered to be of lesser quality be classified as “substandard,” “doubtful” or “loss” assets. An asset is considered “substandard” if it is inadequately protected by the current net worth and paying capacity of the obligor or of the collateral pledged, if any. “Substandard” assets include those characterized by the “distinct possibility” that the institution will sustain “some loss” if the deficiencies are not corrected. Assets classified as “doubtful” have all of the weaknesses inherent in those classified as “substandard,” with the added characteristic that the weaknesses present make “collection or liquidation in full,” on the basis of currently existing facts, conditions and values, “highly questionable and improbable.” Assets classified as “loss” are those considered “uncollectible” and of such little value that their continuance as assets without the establishment of a specific loss reserve is not warranted. We classify an asset as “special mention” if the asset has a potential weakness that warrants management’s escalated level of attention. While such assets are not impaired, management has concluded that if the potential weakness in the asset is not addressed, the value of the asset may deteriorate, adversely affecting the repayment of the asset. Loans classified as impaired for financial reporting purposes are generally those loans classified as substandard or doubtful for regulatory reporting purposes.

An insured institution is required to establish allowances for credit losses in an amount deemed prudent by management for loans classified as substandard or doubtful, as well as for other problem loans. General allowances represent loss allowances which have been established to recognize the inherent losses associated with lending activities, but which, unlike specific allowances, have not been allocated to particular problem assets. When an insured institution classifies problem assets as “loss,” it is required to charge off such amounts. An institution’s determination as to the classification of its assets and the amount of its valuation allowances is subject to review by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

*Non-Performing Assets.* The table below sets forth information regarding our non-performing assets. Non-accrual loans include non-accruing troubled debt restructurings of \$402,000 as of September 30, 2023. There were no non-accruing loans modified with financial difficulty as of September 30, 2024.

	<u>At September 30,</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
(Dollars in thousands)		
Non-accrual loans:		
Real estate loans:		
One- to four-family residential	\$ 777	\$ 186
Commercial	67	402
Construction	—	—
Home equity loans and lines of credit	—	—
Commercial loans	16	—
Consumer loans:		
Automobile	14	—
Passbook	—	—
Other consumer	—	9
Total non-accrual loans	<u>\$ 874</u>	<u>\$ 597</u>
Accruing loans past due 90 days or more		
	—	—
Real estate owned:		
One- to four-family residential	\$ —	\$ 101
Commercial	—	—
Construction	—	—
Total real estate owned	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 101</u>
Total non-performing assets		
	<u>\$ 874</u>	<u>\$ 698</u>
Total non-accruing troubled debt restructured loans or loans modified with financial difficulty		
	\$ —	\$ 402
Total non-performing loans to total loans <sup>(1)</sup>	0.70 %	0.48 %
Total non-accruing loans to total loans	0.70 %	0.13 %
Total non-performing assets to total assets	0.44 %	0.34 %

(1) At September 30, 2023 there was one restructured loan from the Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent acquisition on non-accrual status.

Our classified and special mention assets at the dates indicated were as follows:

	September 30,	
	2024	2023
(In thousands)		
Substandard assets	\$ 782	\$ 700
Doubtful assets	—	—
Loss assets	—	—
Total classified assets	<u>782</u>	<u>700</u>
Special mention assets	—	—
Foreclosed real estate	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 101</u>

The Bank owned no foreclosed property at September 30, 2024 as compared to two pieces of foreclosed property at September 30, 2023.

*Delinquent Loans.* The following table sets forth our loan delinquencies, including non-accrual loans, by type and amount at the dates indicated.

	At September 30,					
	2024			2023		
	30 to 59 Days Past Due	60 to 89 Days Past Due	90 Days or More Past Due	30 to 59 Days Past Due	60 to 89 Days Past Due	90 Days or More Past Due
(In thousands)						
<b>Real estate loans:</b>						
One- to four-family residential	\$ 131	\$ 383	\$ 420	\$ 810	\$ 5	\$ 138
Commercial	—	—	67	—	—	66
Construction	—	—	—	—	—	—
Commercial loans	—	—	16	—	—	—
<b>Consumer loans:</b>						
Home equity loans and lines of credit	—	—	—	—	—	—
Automobile	—	—	—	—	—	—
Passbook	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other consumer	12	—	14	84	11	—
Total	<u>\$ 143</u>	<u>\$ 383</u>	<u>\$ 517</u>	<u>\$ 894</u>	<u>\$ 16</u>	<u>\$ 204</u>

#### ***Analysis and Determination of the Allowance for Credit Losses on Loans***

To determine the total allowance for credit losses, management estimates the reserves needed for each segment of the portfolio, including loans analyzed individually and loans analyzed on a pooled basis. The allowance for credit losses consists of amounts applicable to: (1) the commercial portfolio; (2) the real estate portfolio; and (3) the consumer portfolio.

Management monitors differences between estimated and actual credit losses. This monitoring process includes periodic assessments by senior management of loan portfolios and the models used to estimate the expected credit losses in those portfolios. Additions to the allowance for credit losses are made by changes to the provision for loan losses. Credit exposures deemed to be uncollectible are charged against the allowance for credit losses. Recoveries of previously charged off amounts are credited to the allowance for credit losses.



### *Specific Allowances for Identified Problem Loans*

We establish a specific allowance when loans are determined to not share common risk characteristics with pooled loans. Loss is measured by determining the present value of expected future cash flows or, for collateral-dependent loans, the fair value of the collateral less estimated selling expenses. Factors in identifying a specific problem loan include: (1) the strength of the customer's personal or business cash flows; (2) the availability of other sources of repayment; (3) the amount due or past due; (4) the type and value of collateral; (5) the strength of our collateral position; (6) the estimated cost to sell the collateral; and (7) the borrower's effort to cure the delinquency. In addition, for loans secured by real estate, we consider the extent of any past due and unpaid property taxes applicable to the property serving as collateral on the mortgage.

### *General Valuation Allowance on the Remainder of the Loan Portfolio*

We establish a general allowance for loans that share common risk characteristics to recognize the expected lifetime credit losses associated with lending activities, but which, unlike specific allowances, has not been allocated to particular problem assets. This general credit loss allowance is determined by segregating the loans by loan category and using historical experience, current conditions, and reasonable and supportable forecasts to estimate the expected lifetime credit losses inherent in the portfolio. The allowance may be adjusted for significant factors that, in management's judgment, affect the collectability of the portfolio as of the evaluation date. These significant factors may include changes in lending policies and procedures, changes in existing general economic and business conditions affecting our primary market area, credit quality trends, collateral value, loan volumes and concentrations, seasoning of the loan portfolio, recent loss experience in particular segments of the portfolio, duration of the current business cycle and bank regulatory examination results. The applied loss factors are re-evaluated quarterly to ensure their relevance in the current real estate environment.

Although we believe that we use the best information available to establish the allowance for credit losses, future adjustments to the allowance for credit losses may be necessary and any material increase in the allowance for credit losses may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Furthermore, while we believe we have established our allowance for credit losses in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, as an integral part of their examination process, regulators will periodically review our allowance for credit losses. The regulators may have judgments different than management's, and we may determine to increase our allowance as a result of these regulatory reviews.

Loans are placed into a non-accruing status and classified as nonperforming when the principal or interest has been in default for a period of 90 days or more unless the obligation is well secured and in the process of collection. A debt is "well secured" if it is secured by (1) pledges of real or personal property, including securities, that have a realizable value sufficient to discharge the debt (including accrued interest) in full, or (2) the guarantee of a financially responsible party. A debt is "in the process of collection" if collection on the debt is proceeding in due course either through legal action, including judgment enforcement procedure, or, in appropriate circumstances, through collection efforts not involving legal action which are reasonably expected to result in repayment of the debt or in its restoration to a current status.

Loans classified as substandard or worse are considered for impairment testing. A substandard loan shows signs of continuing negative financial trends and unprofitability, and therefore is inadequately protected by the current sound worth and paying capacity of the obligor or of the collateral pledged, if any. The borrower on such loans typically exhibits one or more of the following characteristics: financial ratios and profitability margins are well below industry average; a negative cash flow position exists; debt service capacity is insufficient to the service debt and an improvement in the cash flow position is unlikely within the next twelve months; secondary and tertiary means of debt repayment are weak. Loans classified as substandard are characterized by the probability that we will not collect amounts due according to the contractual terms or will sustain some loss if the deficiencies are not corrected.

Loss potential, while existing with respect to the aggregate amount of substandard (or worse) loans, does not have to exist in any individual assets classified as substandard. Such credits are also evaluated for nonaccrual status.

Impaired loans include loans that have been classified as substandard or worse. However, certain loans have been paying as agreed and have remained current, with some financial issues related to cash flow that have caused some concern as to the ability of the borrower to perform in accordance with the current loan terms but not to such extent as to require the loan to be put into a non-accruing status. Cash receipts on impaired loans are recorded as interest income as received, unless the loan is in a nonaccrual status.

For all classes of loans receivable, the accrual of interest is discontinued when any of the following conditions are met: (1) the contractual payment of principal or interest has become 90 days past due, unless the loan is both well-secured and in the process of collection, (2) the loan is maintained on a cash basis because of deterioration in the financial condition of the borrower, or (3) when management does not expect payment in full of principal or interest, even though the loan may be currently performing.

As an integral part of their examination process, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the New York State Department of Financial Services will periodically review our allowance for credit losses, and as a result of such reviews, we may have to adjust our allowance for credit losses. However, regulatory agencies are not directly involved in the process for establishing the allowance for credit losses as the process is our responsibility and any increase or decrease in the allowance is the responsibility of management. The following table sets forth activity in our allowance for loan losses for the periods indicated.

**As of and for the  
Year Ended September 30,**  
2024                      2023  
**(Dollars in thousands)**

Allowance at beginning of year	\$ 623	\$ 621
Provision for loan losses	74	122
Adoption of new accounting standard	436	—
Charge-offs:		
Real estate loans:		
One- to four-family residential	63	106
Commercial	—	—
Construction	—	—
Home equity loans and lines of credit	—	—
Commercial and industrial loans	—	1
Consumer loans:		
Automobile	—	—
Passbook	—	—
Other consumer	23	19
Total charge-offs	<u>\$ 86</u>	<u>\$ 126</u>
Recoveries:		
Real estate loans:		
One- to four-family residential	\$ 1	\$ 1
Commercial	—	—
Construction	—	—
Home equity loans and lines of credit	—	—
Commercial and industrial loans	—	1
Consumer loans:		
Automobile	—	—
Passbook	—	—
Other consumer	15	4
Total recoveries	<u>16</u>	<u>6</u>
Net (charge-offs) recoveries	<u>\$ 70</u>	<u>\$ 120</u>
Allowance at end of year	<u>\$ 1,063</u>	<u>\$ 623</u>
Non-performing loans to total loans outstanding at the end of the period	0.70 %	0.48 %
Allowance to non-performing loans <sup>(1)</sup>	121.61 %	104.42 %
Allowance to non-accrual loans <sup>(1)</sup>	121.61 %	384.80 %
Allowance to total loans outstanding at the end of the period	0.85 %	0.50 %
Net charge-offs to average loans outstanding during the period	0.056 %	0.096 %

(1) At September 30, 2023 there was one restructured loan from the Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent acquisition on non-accrual status.

The following table sets forth the ratio of net charge-offs to average loans outstanding by segment for the periods indicated:

	September 30,	
	2024	2023
Real estate loans:		
One- to four-family residential	0.06 %	0.10 %
Commercial	0.00 %	0.00 %
Construction	0.00 %	0.00 %
Home equity loans and lines of credit	0.00 %	0.00 %
Commercial loans		
Consumer loans:		
Automobile	0.00 %	0.00 %
Passbook	49.63 %	64.03 %
Other consumer	0.03 %	0.07 %
Total	<u>0.056 %</u>	<u>0.096 %</u>

The following table sets forth the allowance for credit losses allocated by loan category and the percent of the allowance in each category to the total allocated allowance at the dates indicated. The allowance for credit losses allocated to each category of loans is not necessarily indicative of future losses in any particular category and does not restrict the use of the allowance to absorb losses in other categories.

	September 30,					
	2024			2023		
	Allowance for Credit Losses	Percent of Allowance in Each Category to Total Allocated Allowance	Percent of Loans in Each Category to Total Loans	Allowance for Loan Losses	Percent of Allowance in Each Category to Total Allocated Allowance	Percent of Loans in Each Category to Total Loans
(Dollars in thousands)						
Real estate loans:						
One- to four-family residential	\$ 799	75.16 %	85.20 %	\$ 541	86.84 %	85.61 %
Commercial	156	14.68 %	8.94 %	55	8.83 %	7.89 %
Construction	—	—	—	—	—	—
Home equity loans and lines of credit	—	—	—	—	—	—
Commercial and industrial loans	40	3.76 %	1.47 %	6	0.96 %	1.12 %
Consumer loans:						
Automobile	—	—	—	—	—	—
Passbook	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other consumer	68	6.40 %	4.39 %	21	3.37 %	5.38 %
Total	<u>\$ 1,063</u>	—	—	<u>\$ 623</u>	—	—

We measure and record the allowance for credit losses based upon a discounted cash flow and remaining life model. Under this approach, management estimates the lifetime credit losses inherent in loans as of the balance sheet date. The discounted cash flow method calculates the expected cash flows to be received over the life of each individual loan in a pool. The remaining life methodology uses average charge-off rates and the remaining life of the loan to estimate the loan allowance for credit losses. The average annual charge-off rate is applied to the amortization adjusted remaining life of the loan to determine the unadjusted lifetime historical charge-off rate. Additionally, the allowance for credit losses

calculation includes subjective adjustments for qualitative risk factors that are likely to cause estimated credit losses to differ from historical experience. These qualitative adjustments may increase or reduce reserve levels and include adjustments for lending management experience and risk tolerance, asset quality and portfolio trends, loan review and audit results, loan portfolio growth, industry concentrations, trends in underlying collateral, external factors and economic conditions not already captured.

Loans that do not share risk characteristics are evaluated on an individual basis. When management determines that foreclosure is probable and the borrower is experiencing financial difficulty, the expected credit losses are based on the fair value of collateral at the reporting dated unadjusted for selling costs as appropriate.

Although we believe that we use the best information available to establish the allowance for credit losses, future adjustments to the allowance for credit losses may be necessary and results of operations could be adversely affected if circumstances differ substantially from the assumptions used in making the determinations. Because future events affecting borrowers and collateral cannot be predicted with certainty, the existing allowance for credit losses may not be adequate and management may determine that increases in the allowance are necessary if the quality of any portion of our loan portfolio deteriorates as a result. Furthermore, our regulators, in reviewing our loan portfolio, may require us to increase our allowance for credit losses. Any material increase in the allowance for credit losses may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. See Note 6 to the notes to our consolidated financial statements for a complete discussion of our allowance for credit losses.

#### **Allowance for Credit Losses – Unfunded Commitments**

The Company records an allowance for credit losses on off-balance sheet credit exposures, unless the commitments to extend credit are unconditionally cancelable, through a charge to provision for unfunded commitments in the Company's statements of earnings. The allowance for credit losses on off-balance sheet credit exposures is estimated by loan segment at each balance sheet date under the current expected credit loss model using the same methodologies as portfolio loans, taking into consideration the likelihood that funding will occur as well as any third-party guarantees. Upon adoption of ASU 2016-13 on October 1, 2023, the Company made an initial adjustment for the reserve of \$29,000. The allowance for credit losses for unfunded commitments of \$25,000 at September 30, 2024 is included in other liabilities on the Company's consolidated statements of financial condition.

#### **Allowance for Credit Losses – Available for Sale Securities**

For available for sale securities, management evaluates all investments in an unrealized loss position on a quarterly basis, and more frequently when economic or market conditions warrant such evaluation. If the Company has the intent to sell the security or it is more likely than not that the Company will be required to sell the security, the security is written down to fair value and the entire loss is recorded in earnings.

If either of the above criteria is not met, the Company evaluates whether the decline in fair value is the result of credit losses or other factors. In making the assessment, the Company may consider various factors including the extent to which fair value is less than amortized cost, performance on any underlying collateral, downgrades in the ratings of the security by a rating agency, the failure of the issuer to make scheduled interest or principal payments and adverse conditions specifically related to the security. If the assessment indicates that a credit loss exists, the present value of cash flows expected to be collected are compared to the amortized cost basis of the security and any excess is recorded as an allowance for credit loss, limited by the amount that the fair value is less than the amortized cost basis. Any amount of unrealized loss that has not been recorded through an allowance for credit loss is recognized in other comprehensive income.

Changes in the allowance for credit loss are recorded as provision for (benefit from) credit loss expense. Losses are charged against the allowance for credit loss when management believes an available for sale security is confirmed to be

uncollectible or when either of the criteria regarding intent or requirement to sell is met. At September 30, 2024, there was no allowance for credit loss related to the available for sale securities portfolio.

Accrued interest receivable on available for sale debt securities totaled \$246,000 at September 30, 2024 and was excluded from the estimate of credit losses.

## Interest Rate Risk Management

Interest rate risk is defined as the exposure to current and future earnings and capital that arises from adverse movements in interest rates. Depending on a bank’s asset/liability structure, adverse movements in interest rates could be either rising or falling interest rates. For example, a bank with predominantly long-term fixed-rate assets and short-term liabilities could have an adverse earnings exposure to a rising rate environment. Conversely, a short-term or variable-rate asset base funded by longer-term liabilities could be negatively affected by falling rates. This is referred to as re-pricing or maturity mismatch risk.

Interest rate risk also arises from changes in the slope of the yield curve (yield curve risk), from imperfect correlations in the adjustment of rates earned and paid on different instruments with otherwise similar re-pricing characteristics (basis risk), and from interest rate related options embedded in our assets and liabilities (option risk).

Our objective is to manage our interest rate risk by determining whether a given movement in interest rates affects our net interest income and the market value of our portfolio equity in a positive or negative way and to execute strategies to maintain interest rate risk within established limits. The results at September 30, 2024 indicate the level of risk within the parameters of our model. Management believes that the September 30, 2024 results indicate a profile that reflects interest rate risk exposures in both rising and declining rate environments for both net interest income and economic value.

Economic value of equity, or “EVE,” is an economic concept that gauges the impact of interest rate changes on fair market values of assets, liabilities, and equity. EVE captures the change in economic value of the Bank even though that change may not be reflected in our accounting books and records. EVE shows management the “capital at risk” of the Bank based on the underlying values of all components of the balance sheet. As a measure of interest rate risk it is separate and distinct from earnings at risk. EVE is a measure of long-term interest rate risk and earnings at risk is a measure of short-term interest rate risk.

The table below sets forth, as of September 30, 2024, the calculation of the estimated changes in our net interest income that would result from the designated immediate changes in the United States Treasury yield curve.

Change in Interest Rates (basis points) <sup>(1)</sup>	At September 30, 2024	
	Net Interest Income Year 1 Forecast (Dollars in thousands)	Year 1 Change from Level
+400	6,868	(318)
+300	6,927	(259)
+200	7,011	(175)
+100	7,092	(94)
Level	7,186	—
-100	7,149	(37)
-200	7,038	(148)
-300	6,938	(248)
-400	6,759	(427)

(1) Assumes an immediate uniform change in interest rates at all maturities.

The table below sets forth, as of September 30, 2024, the calculation of the estimated changes in our EVE that would result from the designated immediate changes in the United States Treasury yield curve.

At September 30, 2024					
Change in Interest Rates (basis points) <sup>(1)</sup>	Estimated EVE <sup>(2)</sup>	Estimated Increase (Decrease) in EVE		EVE as a Percentage of Present Value of Assets <sup>(3)</sup>	
		Amount	Percent	EVE Ratio <sup>(4)</sup>	Increase (Decrease) (basis points)
(Dollars in thousands)					
+400	33,593	(14,887)	(30.71)%	22.42 %	(4.34)%
+300	37,217	(11,263)	(23.23)%	23.72 %	(3.04)%
+200	40,219	(8,261)	(17.04)%	24.56 %	(2.20)%
+100	43,286	(5,194)	(10.71)%	25.29 %	(1.47)%
—	48,480	—	—	26.76 %	—
-100	52,870	4,390	9.06 %	27.58 %	0.82 %
-200	53,663	5,183	10.69 %	26.86 %	0.10 %
-300	51,349	2,869	5.92 %	24.96 %	(1.80)%
-400	48,240	(240)	(0.50)%	22.75 %	(4.01)%

- (1) Assumes an immediate uniform change in interest rates at all maturities.
- (2) EVE is the discounted present value of expected cash flows from assets, liabilities and off-balance sheet contracts.
- (3) Present value of assets represents the discounted present value of incoming cash flows on interest-earning assets.
- (4) EVE ratio represents EVE divided by the present value of assets.

## Liquidity and Capital Resources

Liquidity describes our ability to meet the financial obligations that arise in the ordinary course of business. Liquidity is primarily needed to meet the borrowing and deposit withdrawal requirements of our customers and to fund current and planned expenditures. Our primary sources of funds are deposits, principal and interest payments on loans and securities, proceeds from the sale of loans and proceeds from sales and maturities of securities. We also rely on borrowings from the Federal Home Loan Bank as supplemental sources of funds. At September 30, 2024, there were no outstanding advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank and we had the ability to borrow \$59.3 million. Additionally, at September 30, 2024, we had a line of credit with the Federal Reserve Discount Window totaling \$5.0 million and a second line of credit with Atlantic Community Banker's Bank totaling \$4.0 million. At September 30, 2024, there were no outstanding balances under any of these additional credit facilities.

While maturities and scheduled amortization of loans and securities are predictable sources of funds, deposit flows and loan prepayments are greatly influenced by general interest rates, economic conditions and competition. Our most liquid assets are cash and cash equivalents and available-for-sale investment securities. The levels of these assets are dependent on our operating, financing, lending and investing activities during any given period.

Our cash flows are comprised of three primary classifications: cash flows from operating activities; investing activities and financing activities. Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities was \$(3.0) million and \$5.7 million for the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. Net cash provided by investing activities, which consists primarily of disbursements for loan originations and purchases and the purchase of securities available-for-sale, offset by principal collections on loans, proceeds from sales, maturities and principal payments received on securities available-for-sale, was \$6.8 million and \$1.8 million for the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. Net used in financing activities, consisting primarily of activity in deposit accounts and Federal Home Loan Bank advances, was \$7.9 million and \$11.4 million for the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

We are committed to maintaining a strong liquidity position. We monitor our liquidity position on a daily basis. We anticipate that we will have sufficient funds to meet our current funding commitments. We have no material commitments for capital expenditures as of September 30, 2024. Our current strategy is to increase core deposits and utilize FHLB advances and brokered deposits to fund loan growth. We did not have any brokered deposits as of September 30, 2024 or 2023.

The Company is a separate legal entity from the Bank and must provide for its own liquidity to pay its operating expenses and other financial obligations and to fund repurchases of shares of common stock. The Company's primary source of income is dividends received from the Bank. The amount of dividends that the Bank may declare and pay to the Company is governed by applicable bank regulations. At September 30, 2024, the Company (on an unconsolidated basis) had liquid assets of \$2.4 million.

At September 30, 2024, both the Bank and GS&L Municipal Bank exceeded all of their respective regulatory capital requirements. Management is not aware of any conditions or events that would change the Bank's categorization as well-capitalized.

#### **ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

The information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference to the section captioned "*Item 7: Management's Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations and Financial Condition.*"

#### **ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The information required by this item is included herein beginning on page F-1.

#### **ITEM 9. CHANGES AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

None.

#### **ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

##### **Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, we evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this report, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective to ensure (1) that information required to be disclosed in the reports that the Company files or submits under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms; and (2) that they are alerted in a timely manner about material information relating to the Company required to be filed in its periodic Securities and Exchange Commission filings.

##### **Evaluation of Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

The Company's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. The internal control process has been designed under our supervision to provide reasonable assurance regarding



the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of the Company's financial statements for external reporting purposes in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Management conducted an assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of September 30, 2024, utilizing the framework established in the 2013 Internal Control – Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Based on this assessment, management has determined that the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of September 30, 2024 were effective.

Our internal control over financial reporting includes policies and procedures that pertain to the maintenance of records that accurately and fairly reflect, in reasonable detail, transactions and dispositions of assets; and provide reasonable assurances that: (1) transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States; (2) receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and the directors of the Company; and (3) unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the Company's assets that could have a material effect on the Company's financial statements are prevented or timely detected.

All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

This annual report does not include an attestation report of the Company's registered public accounting firm regarding internal control over financial reporting. Management's report was not subject to attestation by the Company's registered public accounting firm pursuant to rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission that permit the Company to provide only management's report in this annual report.

#### **Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

During the quarter and year ended September 30, 2024, there were no changes in the Company's internal controls over financial reporting that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal controls over financial reporting.

#### **ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION**

During the three months ended September 30, 2024, no director or officer of the Company adopted or terminated any "Rule 10b5-1 trading arrangement," or any "non-Rule 10b-5 trading arrangement," as such terms are defined in Item 408(a) of Regulation S-K.

#### **ITEM 9C. DISCLOSURE REGARDING FOREIGN JURISDICTION THAT PREVENT INSPECTIONS**

None.

## PART III

### ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

#### Directors and Executive Officers

The information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference to “Item 1: Business—Executive Officers” in this Annual Report on Form 10-K and to the sections captioned “Proposal 1—Election of Directors,” and “Corporate Governance” in our definitive proxy statement for our 2025 annual meeting of stockholders to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission no later than 120 days after the close of the fiscal year covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K (the “Proxy Statement”).

#### Compliance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

The information required by this item with respect to any delinquent reports filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is incorporated herein by referenced to the Proxy Statement.

#### Code of Ethics and Business Conduct

The Company has adopted a Code of Ethics and Business Conduct that is designed to ensure that the Company’s directors and employees meet the highest standards of ethical conduct. The Code of Ethics and Business Conduct, which applies to all employees and directors, addresses conflicts of interest, the treatment of confidential information, general employee conduct and compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations. In addition, the Code of Ethics and Business Conduct is designed to deter wrongdoing and promote honest and ethical conduct, the avoidance of conflicts of interest, full and accurate disclosure and compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations. A copy of the Code of Ethics and Business Conduct is available in the Investor Relations section of our website ([www.gouverneurbank.com](http://www.gouverneurbank.com)).

### ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference to the section captioned “Executive Compensation” in the Proxy Statement.

### ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference to the section captioned “Security Ownership” in the Proxy Statement.

### ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

The information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference to the sections captioned “Proposal 1—Election of Directors,” “Policies and Procedures for Approval of Related Persons Transactions,” “Transactions with Related Persons” and “Corporate Governance” in the Proxy Statement.

### ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

Our independent registered public accounting firm is Bonadio & Co., LLP, Syracuse, NY, Auditor Firm ID: 1884. The information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference to the section captioned “Proposal 2—Ratification of Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm” in the Proxy Statement.

## PART IV

### ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

- (1) The financial statements required in response to this item are incorporated herein by reference from Item 8 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.
- (2) All financial statement schedules are omitted because they are not required or applicable, or the required information is shown in the consolidated financial statements or the notes thereto.

(3) Exhibits

<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location</u>
3.1	Articles of Incorporation of Gouverneur Bancorp, Inc.	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-272548), initially filed on June 9, 2023
3.2	Bylaws of Gouverneur Bancorp, Inc.	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-272548), initially filed on June 9, 2023
4.0	Specimen Stock Certificate of Gouverneur Bancorp, Inc.	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.0 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-272548), initially filed on June 9, 2023
4.1	Description of Gouverneur Bancorp, Inc.'s Common Stock Registered Under Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934	Filed herewith
10.1	Gouverneur Savings and Loan Association Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan+	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-272548), initially filed on June 9, 2023
10.2	Gouverneur Savings and Loan Association Voluntary Deferred Compensation Plan+	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-272548), initially filed on June 9, 2023
10.3	Gouverneur Savings and Loan Association Directors' Retirement Plan+	Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-272548), initially filed on June 9, 2023
10.4	Change in Control Agreement by and between Gouverneur Bancorp, Inc. and Robert W. Barlow+	Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2024 (File No. 000-56605), filed on May 10, 2024.
19.0	Insider Trading Policy	Filed herewith

21.0	Subsidiaries	Filed herewith
31.1	Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Chief Executive Officer	Filed herewith
31.2	Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Chief Financial Officer	Filed herewith
32	Section 1350 Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer	Filed herewith
101.0	The following materials from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2024, formatted in inline XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language): (i) the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition, (ii) the Consolidated Statements of Income, (iii) the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income, (iv) the Consolidated Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity, (v) the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows and (vi) the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.	Filed herewith

+ Management contract or compensatory plan, contract or arrangement.

## **ITEM 16. FORM 10-K SUMMARY**

Not applicable.

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and  
Stockholders of Gouverneur Bancorp, Inc.  
Gouverneur, New York

### Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated statements of financial condition of Gouverneur Bancorp, Inc. and Subsidiary (the "Company") as of September 30, 2024 and 2023, and the related consolidated statements of earnings, comprehensive income, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the two-year period ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the "consolidated financial statements"). In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of September 30, 2024 and 2023, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the years in the two-year period ended September 30, 2024, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### Basis for Opinion

These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's consolidated financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB") and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits, we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

### Change in Accounting Principle

As discussed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company adopted Accounting Standard Update No. 2016-13, *Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments* ("ASU 2016-13") as of October 1, 2023.

We have served as the Company's auditor since 2022.

/s/ Bonadio & Co., LLP  
Pittsford, New York

December 20, 2024

[This page intentionally left blank]

**GOUVERNEUR BANCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION**  
(In thousands, except share and per share data)

	September 30, 2024	September 30, 2023
<b>Assets:</b>		
Cash and due from banks	\$ 4,302	\$ 9,306
Interest-bearing deposits in bank	2,068	1,101
Total cash and cash equivalents	6,370	10,407
Time Deposits in other financial institutions	—	484
Securities available-for-sale, at fair value	45,348	46,624
Loans receivable, net of allowance for credit losses: September 30, 2024: \$1,063 and September 30, 2023: \$623 and net of discount at September 30, 2024: \$832 and September 30, 2023: \$992 and deferred loan fees of \$437 at September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2023	124,257	125,427
Investments in restricted stock, at cost	823	1,471
Bank owned life insurance	7,137	6,984
Premises and equipment, net	2,924	3,073
Foreclosed real estate, net	—	101
Core deposit intangible, net	1,664	2,080
Goodwill	4,237	4,237
Accrued interest receivable and other assets	4,500	4,997
Total assets	<u>\$ 197,260</u>	<u>\$ 205,885</u>
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Deposits:		
Non-interest-bearing demand	\$ 17,515	\$ 25,052
NOW and money market	48,167	42,625
Savings and club	57,940	66,570
Time certificates	36,280	24,531
Total deposits	159,902	158,778
Advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank	—	13,990
Advanced payments from borrowers for taxes and insurance	483	443
Accrued interest payable and other liabilities	4,110	7,566
Total liabilities	<u>164,495</u>	<u>180,777</u>
<b>Shareholders' Equity:</b>		
Preferred stock, \$.01 par value: September 30, 2024: 25,000,000 shares authorized; none issued		
September 30, 2023: 1,000,000 shares authorized; none issued	—	—
Common stock, \$.01 par value: September 30, 2024: 75,000,000 shares authorized; 1,107,134 shares issued		
September 30, 2023: 9,000,000 shares authorized; 2,031,377 shares issued	11	24
Additional paid-in capital	6,487	5,035
Unearned common stock held by employee stock ownership plan (unallocated shares September 30, 2024: 53,989; September 30, 2023: 0)	(540)	—
Retained earnings	28,413	28,242
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(1,606)	(4,123)
Treasury Stock, at cost, (shares September 30, 2024: 0; September 30, 2023: 352,231)	—	(4,070)
Total shareholders' equity	<u>32,765</u>	<u>25,108</u>
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	<u>\$ 197,260</u>	<u>\$ 205,885</u>

**See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.**

**GOUVERNEUR BANCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EARNINGS**  
(In thousands, except per share data)

	Year Ended September 30,	
	2024	2023
<b>Interest income:</b>		
Loans, net	\$ 6,544	\$ 6,078
Net swap income on loan hedge	—	41
Securities-taxable	1,338	1,428
Securities-non-taxable	575	521
Other short-term investments	108	94
Total interest income	<u>8,565</u>	<u>8,162</u>
<b>Interest expense:</b>		
Deposits	1,243	391
Net swap income on deposit hedge	(10)	(46)
Borrowings – short term and long term	317	350
Net swap income on borrowing hedge	(132)	(125)
Total interest expense	<u>1,418</u>	<u>570</u>
Net interest income	7,147	7,592
<b>Provision for credit losses</b>		
Loans	74	122
Unfunded commitments	(4)	—
Net interest income after provision for credit losses	<u>7,077</u>	<u>7,470</u>
<b>Non-interest income:</b>		
Service charges	327	331
Realized gain (loss) on sales of securities – AFS	13	(661)
Realized gain on swaps unwound	75	654
Loss on disposal of premises and equipment, net	(14)	—
Earnings on investment in life insurance	154	142
Earnings on deferred fees plan	78	41
Unrealized loss on swap agreements	(240)	(802)
Earnings on secondary market programs	45	42
Other non-interest income	334	324
Total non-interest income, net	<u>772</u>	<u>71</u>
<b>Non-interest expenses:</b>		
Salaries and employee benefits	3,563	3,442
Directors fees	364	282
Earnings on deferred fees plan	78	41
Building, occupancy and equipment	955	999
Data processing	465	459
Postage and supplies	119	147
Professional fees	671	529
Intangibles and deposit premium amortization	416	459
Foreclosed assets, net	(7)	30
Other non-interest expense	749	920
Total non-interest expenses, net	<u>7,373</u>	<u>7,308</u>
Income before income tax benefit	476	233
Income tax benefit	(63)	(84)
Net income	<u>\$ 539</u>	<u>\$ 317</u>
Earnings per common share – basic	\$ 0.51	\$ 0.16
Earnings per common share – diluted	\$ 0.51	\$ 0.16

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements



**GOUVERNEUR BANCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

(In thousands, except per share data)

	Year Ended September 30,	
	2024	2023
<b>Net Income</b>	\$ 539	\$ 317
<b>Other comprehensive income net of tax:</b>		
Unrealized gain (loss) on securities:		
Unrealized holding gain (loss) arising during period	3,118	(900)
Deferred tax expense (benefit)	649	89
Reclassification adjustment for (gain) loss recognized in net income	(13)	661
Tax expense (benefit)	3	(139)
Unrealized holding gain (loss), net of deferred taxes	2,453	(189)
Post-retirement benefit	81	448
Deferred tax expense	17	94
Post-retirement benefit, net of deferred taxes	64	354
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>	2,517	165
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	\$ 3,056	\$ 482

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

**GOUVERNEUR BANCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY**

**Fiscal Years Ended September 30, 2024 and 2023**

(In thousands, except share and per share data)

	Common Stock	Additional Paid-in Capital	Unearned Common Stock held by ESOP	Retained Earnings	Treasury Stock	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Total Shareholder's Equity
<b>Balance at September 30, 2022</b>	\$ 24	\$ 5,035	\$ —	\$ 28,128	\$ (4,070)	\$ (4,288)	\$ 24,829
Comprehensive income:							
Net income	—	—	—	317	—	—	317
Net pension and postretirement benefit, net of taxes	—	—	—	—	—	354	354
Change in unrealized losses on securities available-for-sale, net of reclassification adjustment and tax effects	—	—	—	—	—	(189)	(189)
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>							482
Cash dividends declared, \$0.10 per share	—	—	—	(203)	—	—	(203)
<b>Balance at September 30, 2023</b>	<u>\$ 24</u>	<u>\$ 5,035</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 28,242</u>	<u>\$ (4,070)</u>	<u>\$ (4,123)</u>	<u>\$ 25,108</u>
Comprehensive income:							
Net income	—	—	—	539	—	—	539
Net pension and postretirement benefit, net of taxes	—	—	—	—	—	64	64
Change in unrealized losses on securities available-for-sale, net of reclassification adjustment and tax effects	—	—	—	—	—	2,453	2,453
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>							3,056
Net proceeds from stock offering and holding company conversion (1,107,134 shares)	—	4,932	—	—	—	—	4,932
Common stock issued in stock offering (1,107,134 shares)	11	(11)	—	—	—	—	—
Cancellation of common stock (2,031,377 shares)	(20)	20	—	—	—	—	—
Cancellation of treasury stock (352,231 shares)	(4)	(4,066)	—	—	4,070	—	—
Purchase of ESOP shares (57,845 shares)	—	578	(578)	—	—	—	—
ESOP shares committed to be released (3,856 shares)	—	(1)	38	—	—	—	37
Adoption of ASU 2016-13 Current Expected Credit Losses	—	—	—	(368)	—	—	(368)
<b>Balance at September 30, 2024</b>	<u>\$ 11</u>	<u>\$ 6,487</u>	<u>\$ (540)</u>	<u>\$ 28,413</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ (1,606)</u>	<u>\$ 32,765</u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

**GOUVERNEUR BANCORP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
(In thousands)

	Year Ended September 30,	
	2024	2023
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Net Income	\$ 539	\$ 317
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash and cash equivalents provided by operating activities:		
Provision for credit losses	70	122
Net amortization of deferred fees on loans	75	93
Net amortization of securities premiums and discounts	(632)	(699)
Depreciation	233	242
Deferred income tax	(74)	(116)
Net realized (gains) losses on securities available for sale ("AFS")	(13)	661
Net amortization of core deposits intangible	416	462
Net realized losses on disposal of premises and equipment	14	—
Loss on subsequent write-downs of foreclosed assets	—	24
Net realized gains on sale of foreclosed assets	(17)	(32)
ESOP committed to be released	37	—
Earnings on investment in bank owned life insurance	(154)	(142)
(Increase) decrease in accrued interest receivable and other assets	(98)	531
Increase (decrease) in accrued interest payable and other liabilities	(3,374)	4,206
<b>Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities</b>	<b>(2,978)</b>	<b>5,669</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Securities available for sale:		
Proceeds from sales of securities (AFS)	722	5,054
Proceeds from maturities and principal reductions of securities (AFS)	9,929	5,834
Purchases of securities (AFS)	(5,141)	(7,834)
Securities held to maturity - proceeds from maturities	—	1
(Purchases) redemptions of FHLB stock	648	(576)
Net decrease (increase) in loans receivable	684	(721)
Additions to premises and equipment	(98)	(160)
Proceeds from the sale of foreclosed assets	91	172
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>	<b>6,835</b>	<b>1,770</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>		
Net increase (decrease) in deposits	1,124	(25,173)
Net increase (decrease) in short-term borrowings	(13,990)	13,990
Advance payments by borrowers for property taxes and insurance, net	40	10
Net stock offering proceeds	4,932	—
Cash dividends paid to common stock shareholders	—	(203)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(7,894)</b>	<b>(11,376)</b>
<b>Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(4,037)</b>	<b>(3,937)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents – Beginning of Year</b>	<b>10,407</b>	<b>14,344</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents – End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 6,370</b>	<b>\$ 10,407</b>
<b>Supplemental disclosures:</b>		
Cash paid during the year for interest	\$ 1,472	\$ 525
Loans receivable transferred to foreclosed assets during the year	—	234
Write-downs on foreclosed assets through the allowance for credit losses on loans	(27)	(44)

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE 1: NATURE OF OPERATIONS

Gouverneur Bancorp, Inc. is a Maryland corporation that was incorporated in June 2023 to be the successor to Gouverneur Bancorp, Inc., a federally chartered corporation (the “Mid-Tier Holding Company”), upon completion of the second-step conversion of the Bank from the two-tier mutual holding company structure to the stock holding company structure. Cambray Mutual Holding Company (“Cambray”) was the former mutual holding company for the Mid-Tier Holding Company prior to the completion of the second-step conversion. In conjunction with the second-step conversion, each of Cambray Mutual Holding Company and the Mid-Tier Holding Company merged out of existence and now cease to exist. The second-step conversion was completed on October 31, 2023, at which time the Company sold, for gross proceeds of \$7.2 million, a total of 723,068 shares of common stock at \$10.00 per share, including 57,845 shares sold to the Bank’s employee stock ownership plan. As part of the second-step conversion, each of the existing outstanding shares of Mid-Tier Holding Company common stock owned by persons other than Cambray Mutual Holding Company was converted into 0.5334 shares of Bancorp common stock. As a result of the second-step conversion, all share information has been subsequently revised to reflect the 0.5334 exchange ratio, unless otherwise noted.

On September 16, 2022, the Bank completed its acquisition of Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent (“CBCV”), a commercial bank headquartered in Cape Vincent, New York. At the effective time of the acquisition, CBCV was merged with and into Gouverneur Savings and Loan Association and each CBCV stockholder became entitled to receive \$1,056.11 in cash for each share of CBCV common stock that they held at the effective time of the merger. In conjunction with the acquisition of CBCV in September 2022, the Bank formed the limited purpose GS&L Municipal Bank in order to continue to hold CBCV’s roughly \$24,187,000 in municipal deposits and continue to compete for such deposits in the future. GS&L Municipal Bank is a limited purpose commercial bank that is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Bank and operates under the same regulatory and operating framework as the Bank. The formation of GS&L Municipal Bank included an initial \$2.5 million contribution from the Bank. GS&L Municipal Bank is a New York chartered limited purpose commercial bank organized to solicit municipal deposits from local government entities such as towns, cities, school districts, fire districts and other municipalities. The Bank views GS&L Municipal Bank as a source of low cost and stable source of funds that will further the Bank’s commitment to the communities in which the Bank operates.

The Bank provides financial services to individuals and businesses primarily in St. Lawrence, Jefferson and Lewis Counties in New York State. The Bank is subject to regulation by the New York State Department of Financial Services (“NYDFS”) and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”). GS&L Municipal Bank’s principal business focus is to serve the deposit needs of Municipalities that are within the Bank’s three-county market area. Initially, GS&L Municipal Bank will concentrate its business development efforts on St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties in the state of New York and will focus exclusively on deposit products.

### NOTE 2: SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiary, the Bank, and the Bank’s wholly-owned subsidiary, GS&L Municipal Bank. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

At September 30, 2024 and 2023, GS&L Municipal Bank held \$24.3 and \$27.5 million, respectively, of the Bank’s \$45.3 million investment securities portfolio and \$21.4 and \$19.7 million, respectively, of the Bank’s deposits.

### **Use of Estimates in Preparation of Financial Statements**

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Material estimates that are particularly susceptible to significant change relate to the determination of the allowance for credit losses. In connection with the determination of the estimated credit losses, management obtains independent appraisals for significant properties.

The Company's loans are generally secured by specific items of collateral including real property, consumer assets, and business assets. Although the Company has a diversified portfolio, a substantial portion of its debtors' ability to honor their contracts is dependent on local economic conditions. While management uses available information to recognize losses on loans and foreclosed assets, further reductions in the carrying amounts of loans and foreclosed assets may be necessary, based on changes in local economic conditions. In addition, regulatory agencies, as an integral part of their examination process, periodically review the estimated losses on loans and foreclosed assets. Such agencies may require the Company to recognize additional losses based on their judgments about information available to them at the time of their examination. Because of these factors, it is reasonably possible that the estimated losses on loans and foreclosed assets may change materially in the near term. However, the amount of the change that is reasonably possible cannot be estimated.

### **Concentrations of Credit Risk**

At September 30, 2024 and 2023, the Company held approximately \$2.0 million and \$1.1 million, respectively, on deposit with the Federal Reserve Bank and Federal Home Loan Bank of New York which is not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The Bank operates primarily in St. Lawrence, Jefferson and Lewis Counties, New York and, accordingly, has extended credit primarily to commercial entities and individuals in this area whose ability to honor their contracts is influenced by the region's economy. These customers are also the primary depositors of the Bank. The Bank is limited in extending credit by legal lending limits to any single borrower or group of borrowers. Note 5 discusses the types of securities the Bank invests in and Note 6 discusses the types of lending in which the Bank engages.

### **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

For the purpose of reporting on the consolidated statements of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, amounts due from banks (including cash items in process of clearing) and interest-bearing deposits in banks with an original maturity of 90 days or less.

### **Time Deposits in Other Financial Institutions**

All of the Bank's time deposits matured during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024 and were maintained with major financial institutions in the United States. Interest-bearing, non-transaction account deposits with these financial institutions may exceed the amount of insurance provided on such deposits; however, these deposits typically may be redeemed upon demand and therefore, bear minimal risk. The FDIC insurance coverage is \$250,000. The Bank currently has no time deposits that exceed the FDIC insurance coverage.

## **Investment Securities**

Investment Securities classified as available-for-sale are those that the Company intends to hold for an indefinite period of time but not necessarily to maturity. Any decision to sell a security classified as available-for-sale would be based on various factors, including significant movement in interest rates, changes in the maturity mix of the Company's assets and liabilities, liquidity needs, regulatory capital considerations and other similar factors. Debt securities available-for-sale are carried at fair value. Unrealized gains and losses are reported in other comprehensive income, net of the related deferred income tax effect. Realized gains or losses, determined on the basis of the cost of the specific securities sold, are included in earnings. Premiums and discounts are recognized in interest income to the call date or to date of maturity. Each method approximates the interest over the terms of the securities.

The Company did not hold any equity securities at September 30, 2024 and 2023.

Debt securities classified as held-to-maturity are those the Company has both the intent and ability to hold to maturity regardless of changes in market conditions, liquidity needs or changes in general economic conditions. These securities are carried at cost adjusted for the amortization of premium and accretion of discount, computed by the interest method over the terms of the securities. The Company did not hold any held-to-maturity securities at September 30, 2024 or 2023.

Subsequent to the adoption of ASC 326 on October 1, 2023, management measures expected credit losses on held-to-maturity and available for sale debt securities on a collective basis by major security type. Prior to the adoption of ASC 326, declines in the fair value of held-to-maturity and available-for-sale securities below their cost, that are deemed to be other than temporary, are reflected in earnings as realized losses. In estimating other than temporary impairment losses, management considered (1) the length of time and the extent to which the fair value has been less than cost, (2) the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer, (3) that the Company does not intend to sell these securities, and (4) it is more likely than not that the Company will not be required to sell before a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in fair value.

Management determines the appropriate classification of investment securities at the time of purchase and re-evaluates such designation as of each balance sheet date.

## **Investments in Restricted Stock**

The stock from the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York ("FHLBNY") and Atlantic Central Bankers Bank ("ACBB") is restricted as to its marketability. Because no ready market exists for these investments and they have no quoted market value, the Company's investment in this stock is carried at cost. Each member of the FHLBNY is required to maintain a minimum level of membership stock for as long as it remains a member. The amount of required membership stock is, generally speaking, equal to a specified percentage of "mortgage-related assets" held by the member. Members are also required to purchase activity-based stock in an amount, generally speaking, equal to a specific percentage of the outstanding principal balance of advances extended to the member.

## **Loans Held for Sale**

Mortgage loans originated and intended for sale in the secondary market are carried at the lower of aggregate cost or fair value, as determined by outstanding commitments from investors. Net unrealized losses, if any, are recorded as a valuation allowance and charged to earnings. There were no loans held for sale at September 30, 2024 or 2023.

## **Loans Receivable**

Loans are carried at the amount of unpaid principal, adjusted for deferred loan fees and origination costs. Interest on loans is accrued based on the principal amounts outstanding. Nonrefundable loan fees and related direct costs are deferred, and

the net amount is amortized to income as a yield adjustment over the life of the loan using the interest method. When principal or interest is delinquent for ninety days or more, the Company places the loan on nonaccrual status.

After a loan is placed on nonaccrual status, all interest previously accrued but not collected is reversed against current period interest income. Subsequent collections of interest payments on nonaccrual loans are recognized as interest income unless ultimate collectability of the loan is in doubt. Cash collections on loans where ultimate collectability remains in doubt are applied as reductions of the loan principal balance and no interest income is recognized until the principal balance has been collected.

## **Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

### **“ASU 2016-13”**

On October 1, 2023, the Company adopted ASU 2016-13 *Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments (ASC 326)*. This standard replaced the incurred loss methodology with an expected loss methodology that is referred to as the current expected credit loss (“CECL”) methodology. CECL required an estimate of credit losses for the remaining estimated life of the financial asset using historical experience, current conditions, and reasonable and supportable forecasts and generally applies to financial assets measured at amortized cost, including loan receivables and held-to-maturity debt securities, and some off-balance sheet credit exposures such as unfunded commitments to extend credit. Financial assets measured at amortized cost will be presented at the net amount expected to be collected by using an allowance for credit losses.

In addition, CECL made changes to the accounting for available for sale debt securities. One such change is to require that credit losses be presented as an allowance rather than as a write-down on available for sale debt securities if management does not intend to sell and does not believe that it is more likely than not that the Company will be required to sell.

The Company adopted ASC 326 and all related subsequent amendments thereto effective October 1, 2023 using the modified retrospective approach for all financial assets measured at amortized cost and off-balance sheet credit exposures. The transition adjustment of the adoption of CECL included an increase in the allowance for credit losses on loans of \$436,000, which is presented as a reduction to net loans outstanding, and an increase in the allowance for credit losses on unfunded loan commitments of \$29,000, which is recorded within Other Liabilities on the accompanying consolidated statements of financial condition. The Company recorded a net decrease to retained earnings of \$368,000 as of October 1, 2023 for the cumulative effect of adopting CECL, which reflects the transition adjustments noted above, net of the applicable deferred tax assets recorded. Results for reporting periods beginning after October 1, 2023 are presented under CECL while prior period amounts continue to be reported in accordance with previously applicable accounting standards (“Incurred Loss”).

The Company adopted ASC 326 using the prospective transition approach for purchased credit deteriorated (“PCD”) assets that were previously classified as PCI under ASC 310-30. The Company did not have any PCD assets that were previously classified as purchased credit impaired. Therefore, upon adoption of ASC 326, the Company determined that an allowance for credit losses on PCD assets was not deemed material.

The Company adopted ASC 326 using the prospective transition approach for debt securities for which other-than-temporary impairment had been recognized prior to October 1, 2023. As of September 30, 2023, the Company did not have any other-than-temporarily impaired investment securities. Therefore, upon adoption of ASC 326, the Company determined that an allowance for credit losses on available for sale securities was not deemed material.

#### **“ASU 2019-12”**

On October 1, 2023, the Company adopted ASU 2019-12, Income Taxes Topic 740. This update simplifies and improves accounting for income taxes by eliminating certain exceptions to the general rules and clarifying or amending other current guidance. The scope of FASB ASC Subtopic 740-10, Income Taxes -Overall, has been amended to require that, if a franchise (or similar tax) is partially based on income, (1) deferred tax assets and liabilities should be recognized and accounted for pursuant to FASB ASC 740, as should the amount of current tax expense that is based on income, and (2) any incremental amount incurred should be recorded as a non-income-based tax. Note that under the amended guidance, the effect of potentially paying a non-income-based tax in future years need not be considered in evaluating the realizability of deferred tax assets. The amendments in this ASU were effective for the Company for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023 and there was no impact to the consolidated financial statements.

#### **“ASU 2020-04”**

In March 2020, the FASB issued ASU 2020-04, Reference Rate Reform (Topic 848). The amendments in this update provide optional expedients and exceptions for applying GAAP to contracts, hedging relationships, and other transactions affected by reference rate reform if certain criteria are met. The amendments in this update apply only to contracts, hedging relationships, and other transactions that reference LIBOR or another reference rate expected to be discontinued because of reference rate reform. The amendments (1) apply to contract modifications that replace a reference rate affected by reference rate reform, (2) provide exceptions to existing guidance related to changes to the critical terms of a hedging relationship due to reference rate reform, (3) provide optional expedients for fair value hedging relationships, cash flow hedging relationships, and net investment hedging relationships, and (4) provide a onetime election to sell, transfer, or both sell and transfer, debt securities classified as held to maturity that reference a rate affected by reference rate reform and that are classified as held to maturity before January 1, 2020. The amendments in this ASU are effective for all entities as of March 12, 2020 through December 31, 2022. The amendments for contract modifications can be elected to be applied as of any date from the beginning of an interim period that includes or is subsequent to March 12, 2020, or prospectively from a date within an interim period that includes or is subsequent to March 12, 2020. The amendments for existing hedging relationships can be elected to be applied as of the beginning of the interim period that includes March 12, 2020 and to new eligible hedging relationships entered into after the beginning of the interim period that includes March 12, 2020. In January 2021, the FASB issued ASU 2021-01, Reference Rate Reform to clarify that all derivative instruments affected by changes to the interest rates used for discounting, margining or contract price alignment are in scope of Topic 848. ASU 2021-01 expands the scope of ASU 2020-04 by allowing an entity to apply the optional expedients, by stating that a change to the interest rate used for margining, discounting or contract price alignment for a derivative is not considered to be a change to the critical terms of the hedging relationship that requires dedesignation. The Company has signed an amended agreement with Federal Home Loan Bank of New York for the transition to SOFR which began July 1, 2023.



The following table illustrates the impact on the allowance for credit losses from adoption of ASC 326 on October 1, 2023:

(dollars in thousands)	October 1, 2023 As Reported Under ASC 326	September 30, 2023 Pre-ASC 326 Adoption September	Impact of ASC 326 Adoption
<b>Assets:</b>			
Held to maturity securities, at amortized cost	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Allowance for credit losses on held to maturity securities:			
Mortgaged-backed securities	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Loans, at amortized cost			
Allowance for credit losses on loans:			
Residential mortgages	\$ 779	\$ 527	\$ 252
Secondary market mortgages	14	14	—
Commercial mortgages	160	55	105
Commercial loans - secured	31	4	27
Commercial loans - unsecured	—	2	(2)
Consumer loans	75	21	54
Allowance for credit losses on loans	\$ 1,059	\$ 623	\$ 436
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Allowance for credit losses for unfunded commitments	\$ 29	\$ —	\$ 29

#### Allowance for Credit Losses – Available for Sale Securities

For available for sale securities, management evaluates all investments in an unrealized loss position on a quarterly basis, and more frequently when economic or market conditions warrant such evaluation. If the Company has the intent to sell the security or it is more likely than not that the Company will be required to sell the security, the security is written down to fair value and the entire loss is recorded in earnings.

If either of the above criteria is not met, the Company evaluates whether the decline in fair value is the result of credit losses or other factors. In making the assessment, the Company may consider various factors including the extent to which fair value is less than amortized cost, performance on any underlying collateral, downgrades in the ratings of the security by a rating agency, the failure of the issuer to make scheduled interest or principal payments and adverse conditions specifically related to the security. If the assessment indicates that a credit loss exists, the present value of cash flows expected to be collected are compared to the amortized cost basis of the security and any excess is recorded as an allowance for credit loss, limited by the amount that the fair value is less than the amortized cost basis. Any amount of unrealized loss that has not been recorded through an allowance for credit loss is recognized in other comprehensive income.

Changes in the allowance for credit loss are recorded as provision for (benefit from) credit loss expense. Losses are charged against the allowance for credit loss when management believes an available for sale security is confirmed to be uncollectible or when either of the criteria regarding intent or requirement to sell is met. At September 30, 2024, there was no allowance for credit loss related to the available for sale securities portfolio.

Accrued interest receivable on available for sale debt securities totaled \$246,000 at September 30, 2024 and was excluded from the estimate of credit losses.

## **Allowance for Credit Losses – Loans**

The allowance for credit losses on loans is a valuation account that is deducted from the loans' amortized cost basis to present the net amount expected to be collected on the loans. Loans are charged off against the allowance when management believes the uncollectibility of a loan balance is confirmed. Expected recoveries do not exceed the aggregate of amounts previously charged-off and expected to be charged-off.

The allowance for credit losses on loans represents management's estimate of lifetime credit losses inherent in loans as of the balance sheet date. The allowance for credit losses on loans is estimated by management using relevant available information, from both internal and external sources, relating to past events, current conditions, and reasonable and supportable forecasts.

The Company measures expected credit losses for loans on a pooled basis when similar risk characteristics exist. The Company has identified the following portfolio segments and calculates the allowance for credit losses for each using a discounted cash flow and remaining life methodology. The segments using a discounted cash flow methodology are as follows:

### **Real Estate Residential**

- 1-4 family residential construction loans
- Other construction loans and all land development and other land loans
- Revolving, open-end loans secured by 1-4 family residential properties and extended under lines of credit
- Secured by first liens
- Secured by junior liens

### **Real Estate Commercial**

- Commercial and industrial loans – commercial mortgage
- Loans secured by owner-occupied, nonfarm nonresidential properties
- Loans secured by other nonfarm nonresidential properties
- Loans secured by multifamily (5 or more) properties

### **Commercial Secured**

- Loans to finance agricultural production and other loans to farmers
- Commercial and industrial loans
- Obligations (other than securities and leases) of states and political subdivisions in the US

### **Commercial Unsecured**

- Commercial and industrial loans – unsecured
- Unsecured other loans

### **Consumer**

- Other revolving credit plans
- Automobile loans
- Other consumer loans

The discounted cash flow method calculates the expected cash flows to be received over the life of each individual loan in a pool.

The segments using a remaining life methodology are as follows:

#### Commercial Unsecured

- Other loans (commercial overdraft loans)

#### Consumer

- Other loans (consumer overdraft loans)

The remaining life methodology uses average annual charge-off rates and the remaining life of the loan to estimate the allowance for credit losses. The average annual charge-off rate is applied to the amortization adjusted remaining life of the loan to determine the unadjusted lifetime historical charge-off rate.

Additionally, the allowance for credit losses calculation includes subjective adjustments for qualitative risk factors that are likely to cause estimated credit losses to differ from historical experience. These qualitative adjustments may increase or reduce reserve levels and include adjustments for lending management experience and risk tolerance, asset quality and portfolio trends, loan review and audit results, loan portfolio growth, industry concentrations, trends in underlying collateral, external factors and economic conditions not already captured.

Loans that do not share risk characteristics are evaluated on an individual basis. When management determines that foreclosure is probable and the borrower is experiencing financial difficulty, the expected credit losses are based on the fair value of collateral at the reporting dated unadjusted for selling costs as appropriate.

#### **Allowance for Credit Losses – Unfunded Commitments**

Financial instruments include off-balance sheet credit instruments, such as commitments to make loans and commercial letters of credit issued to meet customer financing needs. The Company's exposure to credit loss in the event of nonperformance by the other party to the financial instrument for off—balance sheet loan commitments is represented by the contractual amount of those instruments. Such financial instruments are recorded when they are funded.

The Company records an allowance for credit losses on off-balance sheet credit exposures, unless the commitments to extend credit are unconditionally cancelable, through a charge to provision for unfunded commitments in the Company's statements of earnings. The allowance for credit losses on off-balance sheet credit exposures is estimated by loan segment at each balance sheet date under the current expected credit loss model using the same methodologies as portfolio loans, taking into consideration the likelihood that funding will occur as well as any third-party guarantees. The allowance for unfunded commitments is included in other liabilities on the Company's consolidated statements of financial condition.

#### **Premises and Equipment**

Land is carried at cost. Premises and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Costs of significant property improvements are capitalized. Maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred, while major additions and

improvements are capitalized. Gains and losses on dispositions are included in current earnings. Depreciation expense is calculated principally on the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives of the related assets:

	<u>Years</u>
Buildings and Improvements	5 - 39.5
Furniture and Equipment	3 - 7

### **Foreclosed Assets**

Foreclosed assets include both formally foreclosed property and in-substance foreclosed property. In-substance foreclosed properties are those properties for which the institution has taken physical possession, regardless of whether formal foreclosure proceedings have taken place.

At the time of foreclosure, foreclosed assets are recorded at the fair value less cost to sell, which becomes the property's new basis. Any write-downs based on the asset's fair value at date of acquisition are charged to the allowance for loan losses. After foreclosure, management performs periodic valuations and property held for sale is carried at the lower of the new cost basis or fair value less cost to sell. Gains and losses realized on the sale, and any adjustments resulting from periodic re-evaluation of the property are included in noninterest income or expense, as appropriate. Net costs of maintaining and operating the properties are expensed as incurred. Improvements, which extend the life or improve the value of the property, are capitalized as incurred.

### **Transfers of Financial Assets**

Transfers of financial assets are accounted for as sales when control over the assets has been surrendered. Control over transferred assets is deemed to be surrendered when (1) the assets have been isolated from the Company, (2) the transferee obtains the right (free from conditions that constrain it from taking advantage of that right) to pledge or exchange the transferred assets, and (3) the Company does not maintain effective control over the transferred assets through an agreement to repurchase them before maturity.

### **Investment in Life Insurance**

The Company purchased single-premium life insurance on certain employees and executives of the Company and is carried at its cash surrender value. Appreciation in value of the life insurance policies and gain on death proceeds are classified as noninterest income. The cash surrender value received from death proceeds is recorded as a reduction to the carrying value.

### **Income Taxes**

The Company files a consolidated federal income tax return. Provisions for income taxes are based on taxes payable or refundable for the current year and deferred taxes on temporary differences between the amount of taxable income and pretax financial income. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the consolidated financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax basis. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled.

Under Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standard Codification ("FASB ASC"), "Accounting for Income Taxes," the Company recognizes potential liabilities associated with anticipated tax audit issues that may arise during an examination. Interest and penalties that are anticipated to be due upon examination are recognized as accrued interest and other liabilities with an offset to interest and other expense.

## **Advertising Costs**

The Company follows the policy of charging the costs of advertising to expense as incurred. Advertising expense, included in other non-interest expenses, was approximately \$91,000 and \$103,000 at September 2024 and 2023, respectively.

## **Fair Value Measurements**

The Company follows the guidance of FASB ASC 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures. This guidance permits entities to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value. The objective is to improve financial reporting by providing entities with the opportunity to mitigate volatility in reported earnings caused by measuring related assets and liabilities differently without having to apply complex hedge accounting provisions. This guidance clarifies that fair value is an exit price, representing the amount that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants. Under this guidance, fair value measurements are not adjusted for transaction costs. The guidance establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements).

## **Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities**

All derivative financial instruments are reported at their fair value either as assets or liabilities. The Company reports net derivatives in a gain position, or derivative assets in the consolidated statements of financial condition as a component of other assets. The Company reports net derivatives in a loss position, or derivative liabilities, in the consolidated statements of financial position as a component of other liabilities.

## **Revenue Recognition**

The majority of the Company's revenue stream is generated from interest income on loans and deposits which are outside the scope of "*Revenue from Contracts with Customers*" (Topic 606).

The Company's sources of income that fall within the scope of Topic 606 include service charges on deposits, interchange fees and gains and losses on sales of other real estate, all of which are presented as components of noninterest income. Below is a summary of the revenue streams that fall within the scope of Topic 606.

*Service charges on deposits, ATM, and interchange fees* – Fees from these services are either transaction-based, for which the performance obligations are satisfied when the individual transaction is processed, or set periodic service charges, for which the performance obligations are satisfied over the period the service is provided. Transaction-based fees are recognized at the time the transaction is processed, and periodic service charges are recognized over the service period.

*Gains and losses on sales of other real estate* – The Company records a gain or loss from the sale of OREO when control of the property transfers to the buyer, which generally occurs at the time of the executed deed. When the Company finances the sale of OREO to the buyer, the Company assesses whether the buyer is committed to perform their obligations under the contract and whether collectability of the transaction price is probable. Once these criteria are met, the OREO asset is derecognized and the gain or loss on sale is recorded upon the transfer of control of the property to the buyer.

## **Valuation of Long-Lived Assets**

The Company accounts for the valuation of long-lived assets under FASB ASC 360, Property, Plant and Equipment. This guidance requires that long-lived assets and certain identifiable intangible assets be reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability of the long-lived asset is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of the asset to future undiscounted net cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If such assets are considered to be impaired, the impairment to be recognized

is measured by the amount by which the carrying amount of the assets exceeds the estimated fair value of the assets. Assets to be disposed of are reportable at the lower of the carrying amount or fair value, less costs to sell.

### Off-Balance Sheet Credit Related Financial Instruments

In the ordinary course of business, the Company has entered into commitments to extend credit, including commitments under commercial and home equity lines of credit. Such financial instruments are recorded when they are funded.

### Reclassification

Certain accounts in the prior-year consolidated financial statements have been reclassified for comparative purposes to conform with the presentation in the current-year consolidated financial statements.

### Core Deposit Intangible (CDI)

The core deposit intangible resulted from the 2022 acquisition of Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent (“CBCV”). The CDI for CBCV is amortized based on cash flow streams based upon the selected attrition rates and run off assumptions calculated to represent the result of acquiring like-costing deposits versus the cost of alternative funding vehicles over a 10-year period. The life of the core deposit intangible is 10 years.

### Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess cost of the acquisition of CBCV over the fair value of assets acquired. Goodwill is not amortized, but evaluated annually for impairment.

### NOTE 3: EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE

Basic earnings per common share represent income available to common shareholders divided by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share reflect additional common shares that would have been outstanding if dilutive potential common shares had been issued, as well as any adjustment to income that would result from the assumed issuance. Unallocated common shares held by the ESOP are not included in the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding for purposes of calculating basic earnings per common share until they are committed to be released.

The table below sets forth the computation of basic and diluted earnings per common share for the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023 (In thousands, except per share data).

	Year Ended September 30,	
	2024	2023
<b>Basic earnings per share:</b>		
Net income	\$ 539	\$ 317
Weighted average common shares outstanding used to calculate basic and diluted earnings per common share	1,053	2,031
Basic and diluted earnings per common share	\$ 0.51	\$ 0.16

There were no dilutive or antidilutive shares at September 30, 2024 or 2023.

At September 30, 2023 the Company had 352,231 shares of treasury stock. These shares were cancelled with the stock offering and holding company conversion completed on October 31, 2023. The Company has no treasury stock as of September 30, 2024.

#### NOTE 4: COMPREHENSIVE LOSS

Accounting principles generally require that recognized revenue, expenses, gains and losses be included in net earnings. Although certain changes in assets and liabilities, such as unrealized gains and losses on available-for-sale securities, and the changes in the funded status of pension and post-retirement benefits, are reported as a separate component of the equity section of the consolidated statements of financial condition, such items, along with net earnings, are components of comprehensive loss.

Accumulated other comprehensive loss represents the sum of these items, with the exception of net earnings, as of September 30, represented in the table below:

	<u>September 30,</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>September 30,</u> <u>2023</u>
(In thousands)		
<b>Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss by Component</b>		
Unrealized Loss for Other Postretirement Obligations	\$ (245)	\$ (326)
Tax Effect	52	69
Net Unrealized Loss for Other Postretirement Obligations	<u>(193)</u>	<u>(257)</u>
Unrealized Loss on Available-for-Sale Securities, net	(1,788)	(4,890)
Tax Effect	375	1,024
Net Unrealized Loss on Available-for-Sale Securities	<u>(1,413)</u>	<u>(3,866)</u>
Total Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	<u>\$ (1,606)</u>	<u>\$ (4,123)</u>

#### NOTE 5: INVESTMENT SECURITIES

The amortized cost of debt securities and their approximate fair value at September 30, 2024 is represented in the table on the table below:

	<u>Amortized</u> <u>Cost</u>	<u>Gross</u> <u>Unrealized</u> <u>Gains</u>	<u>Gross</u> <u>Unrealized</u> <u>Losses</u>	<u>Allowance</u> <u>for Credit</u> <u>Losses</u>	<u>Fair</u> <u>Value</u>
<b>AVAILABLE FOR SALE</b>					
U.S. Government Treasuries	\$ 2,346	\$ 3	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2,349
U.S. Government Agencies	8,479	57	(1)	—	8,535
Mortgaged-Backed Securities	11,337	74	(240)	—	11,171
Municipal Securities	22,974	158	(1,847)	—	21,285
SBA Securities	2,000	19	(11)	—	2,008
	<u>\$ 47,136</u>	<u>\$ 311</u>	<u>\$ (2,099)</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 45,348</u>

The amortized cost of debt securities and their approximate fair value at September 30, 2023 is represented in the table below.

	Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
<b>AVAILABLE FOR SALE</b>				
U.S. Government Treasuries	\$ 3,766	\$ —	\$ (86)	\$ 3,680
U.S. Government Agencies	12,025	—	(363)	11,662
Mortgaged-Backed Securities	8,726	1	(812)	7,915
Municipal Securities	24,571	2	(3,578)	20,995
SBA Securities	2,426	—	(54)	2,372
	<u>\$ 51,514</u>	<u>\$ 3</u>	<u>\$ (4,893)</u>	<u>\$ 46,624</u>

The amortized cost and fair value of debt securities, by contractual maturity, at September 30, 2024 is as shown below. Expected maturities will differ from contractual maturities call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties.

	Debt Securities Available-for-Sale	
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
	(In Thousands)	
Due Within One Year	\$ 2,381	\$ 2,382
Due After One Year Through Five Years	11,180	11,265
Due After Five Years Through Ten Years	6,640	6,487
Due After Ten Years	13,598	12,035
	<u>33,799</u>	<u>32,169</u>
Mortgage-Backed & SBA Securities with no set maturity	13,337	13,179
	<u>\$ 47,136</u>	<u>\$ 45,348</u>

The amortized cost and fair value of debt securities, by contractual maturity, at September 30, 2023 is as shown below.

	Debt Securities Available-for-Sale	
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
	(In Thousands)	
Due Within One Year	\$ 6,585	\$ 6,548
Due After One Year Through Five Years	13,789	13,474
Due After Five Years Through Ten Years	4,437	4,127
Due After Ten Years	15,551	12,188
	<u>40,362</u>	<u>36,337</u>
Mortgage-Backed & SBA Securities with no set maturity	11,152	10,287
	<u>\$ 51,514</u>	<u>\$ 46,624</u>



The realized gains and losses from the sale of available-for-sale investments for the years ending September 30, 2024 and 2023 is as shown on the table below:

	Year Ended September 30,	
	2024	2023
Proceeds	\$ 722	\$ 5,054
Cost	(709)	(5,715)
Net Realized Gains (Losses)	<u>\$ 13</u>	<u>\$ (661)</u>
Gross Realized Gains	\$ 13	\$ —
Gross Realized Losses	—	(661)
Net Realized Gains (Losses)	<u>\$ 13</u>	<u>\$ (661)</u>

Information pertaining to securities with gross unrealized losses at September 30, 2024, aggregated by investment category and length of time that individual securities have been in a continuous unrealized loss position are as follows:

	Less than Twelve months		Over Twelve Months		Total	
	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
(In Thousands)						
<b>September 30, 2024</b>						
<b>Securities Available-for-Sale:</b>						
US Treasuries & Agencies	\$ —	\$ 961	\$ 1	\$ 990	\$ 1	\$ 1,951
Mortgage-backed & SBA Securities	11	1,335	240	2,570	251	3,905
Municipal Securities	12	763	1,835	8,842	1,847	9,605
	<u>\$ 23</u>	<u>\$ 3,059</u>	<u>\$ 2,076</u>	<u>\$ 12,402</u>	<u>\$ 2,099</u>	<u>\$ 15,461</u>

Information pertaining to securities with gross unrealized losses at September 30, 2023 aggregated by investment category and length of time that individual securities have been in a continuous unrealized loss position are as follows:

	Less than Twelve months		Over Twelve Months		Total	
	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
(In Thousands)						
<b>September 30, 2023</b>						
<b>Securities Available-for-Sale:</b>						
US Treasuries & Agencies	\$ 368	\$ 9,143	\$ 81	\$ 6,199	\$ 449	\$ 15,342
Mortgage-backed & SBA Securities	852	9,899	14	340	866	10,239
Municipal Securities	480	11,357	3,098	8,061	3,578	19,418
	<u>\$ 1,700</u>	<u>\$ 30,399</u>	<u>\$ 3,193</u>	<u>\$ 14,600</u>	<u>\$ 4,893</u>	<u>\$ 44,999</u>

In management's opinion, the unrealized losses primarily reflect changes in interest rates subsequent to the acquisition of specific securities. The Company had 9 and 106 securities in an unrealized loss position of less than twelve months at September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2023, respectively, and 69 and 76 securities in an unrealized loss position of 12 months or more at September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2023, respectively. The Company has the intent and the ability to hold such securities until maturity or market price recovery. Management believes that the unrealized losses do not represent other-than-temporary impairment of the securities.

## NOTE 6: LOANS RECEIVABLE AND ALLOWANCE FOR CREDIT LOSSES

The components of loans receivable, net, at September 30, 2024 are as shown on the table below:

	<u>As of September 30,</u> <u>2024</u>
	<u>Total Loans</u> <u>(In Thousands)</u>
<b>Real Estate Mortgages</b>	
Residential	\$ 103,521
Commercial	11,239
Construction	1,945
Home Equity	1,643
<b>Other Loans:</b>	
Commercial Non-Mortgage	1,843
Automobile	2,528
Passbook	437
Consumer	2,559
<b>Total Loans</b>	<u>125,715</u>
Net Deferred Loan Costs	437
Net Discounts on Acquired Loans	(832)
Allowance for Credit Losses	(1,063)
<b>Loans Receivable, Net</b>	<u>\$ 124,257</u>

The components of loans receivable, net, at September 30, 2023 are as shown on the table below:

	<u>As of September 30,</u> <u>2023</u>		
	<u>Originated</u>	<u>Acquired</u>	<u>Total Loans</u>
	<u>(In Thousands)</u>		
<b>Real Estate Mortgages:</b>			
Residential	\$ 74,918	\$ 27,333	\$ 102,251
Commercial	7,647	3,843	11,490
Construction	2,265	—	2,265
Home Equity	2,552	411	2,963
<b>Other Loans:</b>			
Commercial Non-Mortgage	1,046	455	1,501
Automobile	2,793	234	3,027
Passbook	43	224	267
Consumer	2,175	666	2,841
<b>Total Loans</b>	<u>93,439</u>	<u>33,166</u>	<u>126,605</u>
Net Deferred Loan Costs	437	—	437
Net Discounts on Acquired Loans	—	(992)	(992)
Allowance for Loan Losses	(623)	—	(623)
<b>Loans Receivable, Net</b>	<u>\$ 93,253</u>	<u>\$ 32,174</u>	<u>\$ 125,427</u>

The outstanding principal balance and the related carrying amount of the Company's loans acquired in the Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent acquisition were as shown on the table below at September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2023:

	<u>September 30, 2024</u>	<u>September 30, 2023</u>
	(in thousands)	
<b>Acquired Credit Impaired Loans</b>		
Outstanding Principal Balance	\$ —	\$ —
Carrying Amount	\$ —	\$ —
<b>Acquired Non-Credit Impaired Loans</b>		
Outstanding Principal Balance	\$ 28,996	\$ 33,166
Carrying Amount	\$ 28,164	\$ 32,174
<b>Total Acquired Loans</b>		
Outstanding Principal Balance	\$ 28,996	\$ 33,166
Carrying Amount	\$ 28,164	\$ 32,174

The Company had not acquired any loans with deteriorated credit quality as of September 30, 2024 and 2023. The Company did acquire a commercial secured performing loan which has been classified as substandard to ensure proper oversight and monitoring of the credit. The credit has performed in accordance with its modified terms for over two years. This loan was restructured in the fiscal 4th quarter of 2023 and was considered a troubled debt restructuring as of September 30, 2023. Proceeds from the restructuring paid off current principal and interest due in the amount of \$505,000. The borrower retained the same interest rate of 6.00% and received a 5-year callable note with 25-year amortization in exchange for additional real estate collateral. A \$108,000 second position, commercial mortgage was placed on the guarantor's primary residence behind the Bank's first position residential mortgage. The restructuring enhanced the Bank's loan-to-value position while providing the borrower with a lower payment than the original contractual terms. The capitalization of interest, interest rate below market terms, and extension of the maturity date were concessions made to the borrower in exchange for additional collateral. Interest income on a restructured loan is accrued once the borrower demonstrates the ability to pay under the restructured terms for sustained period of repayment performance, which is generally six consecutive months. The loan was removed from non-accrual status during the third quarter of fiscal year 2024. This loan has a fair value mark as a result of purchase price accounting of \$71,000 at September 30, 2024.

The Company sells first mortgage loans to third parties in the ordinary course of business, principally to FHLB, a large purchaser of loans. These serviced loans are not included in the balances of the accompanying consolidated statements of financial condition, but the Company continues to collect the principal and interest payments for a servicing fee. At September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2023, the total outstanding principal balance on serviced loans was \$11.8 million, and \$12.4 million, respectively.

#### **Allowance for Credit Losses on Loans**

The allowance for credit losses on loans is a valuation account that is deducted from the loans' amortized cost basis to present the net amount expected to be collected on the loans. Loans are charged off against the allowance when management believes the uncollectibility of a loan balance is confirmed. Expected recoveries do not exceed the aggregate of amounts previously charged-off and expected to be charged-off.

The allowance for credit losses on loans represents management's estimate of lifetime credit losses inherent in loans as of the balance sheet date. The allowance for credit losses on loans is estimated by management using relevant available information, from both internal and external sources, relating to past events, current conditions, and reasonable and supportable forecasts.

The Company measures expected credit losses for loans on a pooled basis when similar risk characteristics exist. The Company has identified the following portfolio segments and calculates the allowance for credit losses for each using a discounted cash flow and remaining life methodology. The segments using a discounted cash flow methodology are as follows:

#### Real Estate Residential

- 1-4 family residential construction loans
- Other construction loans and all land development and other land loans
- Revolving, open-end loans secured by 1-4 family residential properties and extended under lines of credit
- Secured by first liens
- Secured by junior liens

#### Real Estate Commercial

- Commercial and industrial loans – commercial mortgage
- Loans secured by owner-occupied, nonfarm nonresidential properties
- Loans secured by other nonfarm nonresidential properties
- Loans secured by multifamily (5 or more) properties

#### Commercial Secured

- Loans to finance agricultural production and other loans to farmers
- Commercial and industrial loans
- Obligations (other than securities and leases) of states and political subdivisions in the US

#### Commercial Unsecured

- Commercial and industrial loans – unsecured
- Unsecured other loans

#### Consumer

- Other revolving credit plans
- Automobile loans
- Other consumer loans

The discounted cash flow method calculates the expected cash flows to be received over the life of each individual loan in a pool.

The segments using a remaining life methodology are as follows:

#### Commercial Unsecured

- Other loans (commercial overdraft loans)

#### Consumer

- Other loans (consumer overdraft loans)

The remaining life methodology uses average annual charge-off rates and the remaining life of the loan to estimate the allowance for credit losses on loans. The average annual charge-off rate is applied to the amortization adjusted remaining life of the loan to determine the unadjusted lifetime historical charge-off rate.

Additionally, the allowance for credit losses calculation includes subjective adjustments for qualitative risk factors that are likely to cause estimated credit losses to differ from historical experience. These qualitative adjustments may increase or reduce reserve levels and include adjustments for lending management experience and risk tolerance, asset quality and portfolio trends, loan review and audit results, loan portfolio growth, industry concentrations, trends in underlying collateral, external factors and economic conditions not already captured.

Loans that do not share risk characteristics are evaluated on an individual basis. When management determines that foreclosure is probable and the borrower is experiencing financial difficulty, the expected credit losses are based on the fair value of collateral at the reporting dated unadjusted for selling costs as appropriate.

### **The Company's Estimation Process**

The Company estimates loan losses under multiple economic scenarios to establish a range of potential outcomes for each criterion the Company applies to the allowance calculation. Management applies judgment to develop its own view of loss probability within that range, using external and internal parameters with the objective of establishing an allowance for the expected lifetime losses inherent within these portfolios as of the reporting date.

Reflected in the portions of the allowance previously described is the amount which incorporates the range of probable outcomes inherent in estimates used for the allowance, which may change from period to period. This amount is the result of management's judgment of risks inherent in the portfolios, economic uncertainties, historical loss experience and other factors, including industry trends, calculated to reflect the Company's view of risk in each loan portfolio. No single statistic or measurement determines the adequacy of the allowance for credit loss. Changes in the allowance for credit losses and the related provision expense can materially affect net earnings.

The total allowance reflects management's estimate of expected lifetime loan losses inherent in the loan portfolio at the balance sheet date. The Company considers the allowance for credit losses of \$1.1 million adequate to cover loan losses inherent in the loan portfolio at September 30, 2024. The following table presents, by portfolio segment, the changes in the allowance for credit losses and the recorded investment in loans.

Allowance for credit losses and recorded investment in loans as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024 was as follows:

	<u>Real Estate Residential</u>	<u>Real Estate Commercial</u>	<u>Commercial Secured</u>	<u>Commercial Unsecured</u>	<u>Consumer</u>	<u>Total</u>
	(In Thousands)					
<b>Allowance for Credit Losses:</b>						
Beginning Balance	\$ 541	\$ 55	\$ 4	\$ 2	\$ 21	\$ 623
Charge-offs	(63)	—	—	—	(23)	(86)
Recoveries	1	—	—	—	15	16
Transfer	(6)	(4)	9	—	1	—
Provisions	74	—	—	—	—	74
Adoption of new accounting standard	252	105	27	(2)	54	436
Ending Balance	<u>\$ 799</u>	<u>\$ 156</u>	<u>\$ 40</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 68</u>	<u>\$ 1,063</u>
Ending Balance: Individually Evaluated	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Ending Balance: Collectively Evaluated	<u>\$ 799</u>	<u>\$ 156</u>	<u>\$ 40</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 68</u>	<u>\$ 1,063</u>
<b>Loans Receivable:</b>						
Ending Balance	<u>\$ 107,109</u>	<u>\$ 11,239</u>	<u>\$ 1,832</u>	<u>\$ 11</u>	<u>\$ 5,524</u>	<u>\$ 125,715</u>
Ending Balance: Individually Evaluated	\$ —	\$ 782	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 782
Ending Balance: Collectively Evaluated	<u>\$ 107,109</u>	<u>\$ 10,457</u>	<u>\$ 1,832</u>	<u>\$ 11</u>	<u>\$ 5,524</u>	<u>\$ 124,933</u>

Allowance for loan losses and recorded investment in loans as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023 was as follows:

	<u>Real Estate Residential</u>	<u>Real Estate Commercial</u>	<u>Commercial Secured</u>	<u>Commercial Unsecured</u>	<u>Consumer</u>	<u>Total</u>
	(In Thousands)					
<b>Allowance for Loan Losses:</b>						
Beginning Balance	\$ 548	\$ 55	\$ 4	\$ 1	\$ 13	\$ 621
Charge-offs	(106)	—	—	(1)	(19)	(126)
Recoveries	1	—	—	—	5	6
Transfer	(24)	—	—	2	22	—
Provisions	122	—	—	—	—	122
Ending Balance	<u>\$ 541</u>	<u>\$ 55</u>	<u>\$ 4</u>	<u>\$ 2</u>	<u>\$ 21</u>	<u>\$ 623</u>
Ending Balance: Individually Evaluated	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Ending Balance: Collectively Evaluated	<u>\$ 541</u>	<u>\$ 55</u>	<u>\$ 4</u>	<u>\$ 2</u>	<u>\$ 21</u>	<u>\$ 623</u>
<b>Loans Receivable:</b>						
Ending Balance	<u>\$ 107,479</u>	<u>\$ 11,490</u>	<u>\$ 1,501</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 6,135</u>	<u>\$ 126,605</u>
Less: Acquired Loans	<u>27,744</u>	<u>3,843</u>	<u>455</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,124</u>	<u>33,166</u>
Ending Balance: Individually Evaluated for Impairment	\$ —	\$ 298	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 298
Ending Balance: Collectively Evaluated for Impairment	<u>\$ 79,735</u>	<u>\$ 7,349</u>	<u>\$ 1,046</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 5,011</u>	<u>\$ 93,141</u>

The following table presents performing and nonperforming real estate loans based on payment activity for the years ended September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2023, respectively. Real estate loans include residential and commercial mortgages, construction loans and home equity loans. Payment activity is reviewed by management on a quarterly basis to determine how loans are performing. Loans are considered to be nonperforming when the number of days delinquent is greater than 89 days. The loan may only be returned to performing status after considering the borrower’s sustained repayment performance for a reasonable period, generally twelve consecutive months of current payments with no past due occurrences.

As of September 30, 2024, nonperforming loans also include loan modifications with borrowers experiencing financial difficulty and as of September 30, 2024 nonperforming loans also include certain loans that have been modified in troubled debt restructuring (“TDR”) where economic concessions have been granted to borrowers who have experienced or are expected to experience financial difficulties. These concessions typically result from the Company’s loss mitigation and could include reductions in the interest rate, payment extensions, forgiveness of principal, forbearance or other actions. Certain TDRs are classified as nonperforming at the time of restructure and may only be returned to performing status after considering the borrower’s sustained repayment performance for a reasonable period, generally six consecutive months. Performing and nonperforming real estate loans as of September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2023 were as follows:

	<u>As of September 30,</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>As of September 30,</u> <u>2023</u>
	(In Thousands)	
Performing	\$ 117,504	\$ 118,269
Nonperforming	844	700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 118,348</b>	<b>\$ 118,969</b>

Credit quality indicators as of September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2023 are as follows:

Internally assigned grade as a subsection of the “Pass” (ratings 1 – 4) credit risk profile:

### **1 — Good**

Loans in this category are to an individual or a well-established business in excellent financial condition with strong liquidity and a history of consistently high levels of earnings and cash flow and debt service capacity. Supported by high quality financial statements (including recent statements and sufficient historical fiscal statements), borrower has excellent repayment history and possesses a documented source of repayment. Industry conditions are favorable and business borrower’s management is well qualified with sufficient debt. Borrower and/or key personnel exhibit unquestionable character. Good loans may be characterized by high quality liquid collateral and very strong personal guarantors.

### **2 — Satisfactory**

Loans in this category are to borrowers with many of the same qualities as a good loan, however, certain characteristics are not as strong (i.e. cyclical nature of earnings, lower quality financial statements, less liquid collateral, less favorable industry trends, etc.). Borrower still has good credit, will exhibit financial strength, excellent repayment history, and good present and future earnings potential. The primary source of repayment is readily apparent with strong secondary sources of repayment available. Management is capable, with sufficient depth, and character of borrower is well established.

### **3 — Acceptable**

Loans in this category are to borrowers of average strength with acceptable financial condition (businesses fall within acceptable tolerances of other similar companies represented in the RMA annual statement studies), with satisfactory record of earnings and sufficient historical and projected cash flow to service the debt. Business borrower’s management

is capable and reliable. Borrower has satisfactory repayment history, and primary and secondary sources of repayment can be clearly identified. Acceptable loans may exhibit some deficiency or vulnerability to changing economic or industry conditions.

#### **4 — Watch**

Loans in this category have a chance of resulting in a loss. Characteristics of this level of assets include, but are not limited to; the borrower has only a fair credit rating with minimal recent credit problems, cash flow is currently adequate to meet the required debt repayments, but will not be sufficient in the event of significant adverse developments, borrower has limited access to alternative sources of financing, possibly at unfavorable terms, some management weaknesses exist, collateral, generally required, is sufficient to make likely the recovery of the value of the loan in the event of default, but liquidating the collateral may be difficult or expensive. In addition, the guarantor would achieve this credit rating if it borrowed individually from the Bank.

#### **5 — Special Mention**

Loans in this category are usually made to well-established businesses with local operations. Special Mention loans have potential weaknesses that deserve management's close attention. If left uncorrected, these potential weaknesses may result in deterioration of the repayment prospects for the loan or in the institution's credit position at some future date. Special Mention loans are not adversely classified and do not expose an institution to sufficient risk to warrant adverse classification. The special mention category is not to be used as a means of avoiding a clear decision to classify a loan or pass it without criticism. Neither should it include loans listed merely "for the record" when uncertainties and complexities, perhaps coupled with large size, create some reservations about the loan. If weaknesses or evidence of imprudent handling cannot be identified, inclusion of such loans in Special Mention is not justified. Special mention loans have characteristics which corrective management action would remedy. Loans in this category should remain for a relatively short period of time.

#### **6 — Substandard**

Loans classified as substandard are inadequately protected by the current sound net worth or paying capacity of the borrower or the collateral pledged, if any. Loans in this category have well-defined weaknesses that jeopardize the repayment. Loans which might be included in the category have potential for problems due to weakening economic or market conditions. They are characterized by the distinct possibility that the Bank will sustain some loss if the deficiencies are not corrected. Substandard loans may include loans which are likely to require liquidation of collateral to effect repayment, and other loans where the character or ability to repay has become suspect. Loss potential, while existing in the aggregate amount of the substandard assets, does not have to exist in individual assets classified as substandard.

#### **7 — Doubtful**

Loans classified as doubtful have all the weaknesses in those classified as substandard with the added characteristics that the weaknesses make collection or liquidation in full on the basis of current existing facts, conditions, and value highly questionable and improbable. Although possibility of loss is extremely high, classification of these loans as loss has been deferred to specific pending factors or events, which may strengthen the loan value (i.e., possibility of additional collateral, injection of capital, collateral liquidation, debt structure, economic recovery, etc.).

#### **8 — Loss**

Loans classified as loss are considered uncollectible and of such little value that their continuance as bankable assets is not warranted. This classification does not mean that the asset has absolutely no recovery or salvage value, but rather it is



not practical or desirable to defer writing off this basically worthless asset even though partial recovery may be affected in the future.

The information for each of the credit quality indicators is updated on a quarterly basis in conjunction with the determination of the adequacy of the allowance for credit losses.

Credit risk profile for loans held in portfolio by internally assigned grade as of September 30, 2024:

	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Special Mention</u>	<u>Substandard</u>	<u>Doubtful</u>	<u>Total</u>
	(In Thousands)				
<b>Mortgage Loans on Real Estate</b>					
Residential, One to Four Family	\$ 105,466	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 105,466
Home Equity	1,643	—	—	—	1,643
Commercial	10,457	—	782	—	11,239
Total Mortgage Loans on Real Estate	117,566	—	782	—	118,348
Commercial	1,843	—	—	—	1,843
Consumer	5,524	—	—	—	5,524
<b>Total Loans</b>	<b>\$ 124,933</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ 782</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ 125,715</b>

Credit risk profile for originated loans held in portfolio, by internally assigned grade as of September 30, 2023:

	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Special Mention</u>	<u>Substandard</u>	<u>Doubtful</u>	<u>Total</u>
	(In Thousands)				
<b>Mortgage Loans on Real Estate</b>					
Residential, One to Four Family	\$ 77,183	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 77,183
Home Equity	2,552	—	—	—	2,552
Commercial	7,349	—	298	—	7,647
Total Mortgage Loans on Real Estate	87,084	—	298	—	87,382
Commercial	1,046	—	—	—	1,046
Consumer	5,011	—	—	—	5,011
<b>Total Loans</b>	<b>\$ 93,141</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ 298</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ 93,439</b>

Credit risk profile for acquired loans by internally assigned grade as of September 30, 2023:

	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Special Mention</u>	<u>Substandard</u>	<u>Doubtful</u>	<u>Total</u>
	(In Thousands)				
<b>Mortgage Loans on Real Estate</b>					
Residential, One to Four Family	\$ 27,333	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 27,333
Home Equity	411	—	—	—	411
Commercial	3,231	210	402	—	3,843
Total Mortgage Loans on Real Estate	30,975	210	402	—	31,587
Commercial	423	32	—	—	455
Consumer	1,124	—	—	—	1,124
<b>Total Loans</b>	<b>\$ 32,522</b>	<b>\$ 242</b>	<b>\$ 402</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ 33,166</b>

#### **Aging Analysis of Past Due Financing Receivables by Class**

Following are tables which include an aging analysis of the recorded investment of past due financing receivables as of September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2023. Also included are loans that are greater than 89 days past due as to interest

and principal still accruing, because they are (1) well secured and in the process of collection or (2) real estate loans or loans exempt under regulatory rules from being classified as nonaccruals.

An aged analysis of past due financing receivables by class of financing receivable for loans held in portfolio as of September 30, 2024 are as follows:

	30 – 59 Days Past Due	60 – 89 Days Past Due	90 Days or Greater Past Due	Total Past Due	Current	Total Financing Receivable	90 Days or Greater and Still accruing
	(In Thousands)						
Residential Mortgage	\$ 131	\$ 383	\$ 420	\$ 934	\$ 106,175	\$ 107,109	\$ —
Commercial Mortgage	—	—	67	67	11,172	11,239	—
Commercial	—	—	16	16	1,827	1,843	—
Consumer	12	—	14	26	5,498	5,524	—
<b>Total Loans</b>	<u>\$ 143</u>	<u>\$ 383</u>	<u>\$ 517</u>	<u>\$ 1,043</u>	<u>\$ 124,672</u>	<u>\$ 125,715</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

An aged analysis of past due financing receivables by class of financing receivable for originated loans held in portfolio as of September 30, 2023, are as follows:

	30 – 59 Days Past Due	60 – 89 Days Past Due	Greater 90 Days or Past Due	Total Past Due	Current	Total Financing Receivable	90 Days or Greater and Still accruing
	(In Thousands)						
Residential Mortgage	\$ 810	\$ 5	\$ 138	\$ 953	\$ 78,782	\$ 79,735	\$ —
Commercial Mortgage	—	—	66	66	7,581	7,647	—
Commercial	—	—	—	—	1,046	1,046	—
Consumer	84	11	—	95	4,916	5,011	—
<b>Total Originated Loans</b>	<u>\$ 894</u>	<u>\$ 16</u>	<u>\$ 204</u>	<u>\$ 1,114</u>	<u>\$ 92,325</u>	<u>\$ 93,439</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

An aged analysis of past due financing receivables by class of financing receivable for acquired loans as of September 30, 2023, are as follows:

	30 – 59 Days Past Due	60 – 89 Days Past Due	Greater 90 Days or Past Due	Total Past Due	Current	Total Financing Receivable	90 Days or Greater and Still accruing
	(In Thousands)						
Residential Mortgage	\$ 33	\$ —	\$ 62	\$ 95	\$ 27,649	\$ 27,744	\$ —
Commercial Mortgage	—	—	—	—	3,843	3,843	—
Commercial	—	—	—	—	455	455	—
Consumer	—	—	—	—	1,124	1,124	—
<b>Total Acquired Loans</b>	<u>\$ 33</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 62</u>	<u>\$ 95</u>	<u>\$ 33,071</u>	<u>\$ 33,166</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

#### Modifications Made to Borrowers Experiencing Financial Difficulty and Troubled Debt Restructurings (“TDR”)

Upon adoption of ASC 326 on October 1, 2023, the recognition of troubled debt restructurings was eliminated and the Company now evaluates loans with modifications to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty. The allowance for credit losses incorporates an estimate of lifetime expected credit losses and is recorded on each asset upon asset origination or acquisition. The starting point for the estimate of the allowance for credit losses is historical loss information, which includes losses from modifications of receivables to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty. The Company uses a probability of default/loss given default model to determine the allowance for credit losses. An assessment of whether a

borrower is experiencing financial difficulty is made on the date of a modification. Loan modifications generally include either an extension of the maturity date, a favorable change in interest rate, a change in scheduled payment amount, or forgiveness of the principal balance. Modifications to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty may be different from those previously disclosed in TDR disclosures. Modifications to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty may be different from those previously disclosed in TDR disclosures.

Because the effect of most modifications made to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty is already included in the allowance for credit losses because of the measurement methodologies used to estimate the allowance, a change to the allowance for credit losses is generally not recorded upon modification.

There were no loans made to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty during the year ended September 30, 2024.

### **Troubled Debt Restructurings (“TDR”)**

Prior to the adoption of ASC 326 on October 1, 2023, a loan modification when a borrower was experiencing financial difficulty was considered a troubled debt restructuring (“TDR”). There were two new loans modified as TDR during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023. The Company acquired a commercial secured performing loan which has been classified as substandard to ensure proper oversight and monitoring of the credit. The credit has performed in accordance with its modified terms for over two years. This loan was restructured in the fiscal 4th quarter of 2023. Proceeds paid off current principal and interest due in the amount of \$505,000. The borrower retained the same interest rate of 6.00% and received a 5-year callable note with 25-year amortization in exchange for extra real estate collateral. A \$108,000 second position, commercial mortgage was placed on the guarantor’s primary residence behind the Bank’s first position residential mortgage. The other loan modified as a TDR during fiscal year 2023 was a one-to-four-family adjustable-rate residential loan with a pre-modified balance of \$11,000 and a 7.25% interest rate. Proceeds paid off current principal, taxes and closing costs when this loan modified into a fixed-rate one-to-four-family residential loan with a balance of \$16,000 and a 6.50% interest rate. The maturity date of September 2023 was extended to October 2028 under the new terms. There were no TDR’s in payment default that were previously classified as a TDR in the previous twelve months. At September 30, 2023 there were no commitments to lend additional funds to any borrower whose loan terms had been modified in a troubled debt restructuring.

### **Impaired Loans**

The Company considers a loan to be impaired when, based on current information and events, the Company determines that it will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the loan contract, including scheduled interest payments. Determination of impairment is treated the same across all classes of loans. When the Company identifies a loan as impaired, the Company measures the impairment based on the present value of expected future cash flows, discounted at the loan’s effective interest rate, except when the sole (remaining) source of repayment for the loan is the operation or liquidation of the collateral. In these cases, the Company uses the current fair value of the collateral, less selling costs when foreclosure is probable, instead of discounted cash flows. If the Company determines that the value of the impaired loan is less than the recorded investment in the loan (net of previous charge-offs, deferred loan fees or costs and unamortized premium or discount), the value of impairment will be based on (1) a 90-day default period and (2) all loans classified as TDRs.

Also presented is the average recorded investment of the impaired loans and the related amount of interest recognized during the time within the period that the impaired loans were impaired. When the ultimate collectability of the total principal of an impaired loan is in doubt and the loan is on nonaccrual status, all payments are applied to principal under the cost recovery method.

When the ultimate collectability of the total principal of an impaired loan is not in doubt and the loan is on nonaccrual status, contractual interest is credited to interest income when received, under the cash basis method. The average balances are calculated based on the month-end balances of the financing receivables of the period reported.

The Company determines the specific allowance for impaired financing receivables based on the present value of expected future cash flows, discounted at the loan's effective interest rate, except when the remaining source of repayment for the loan was the operation or liquidation of the collateral. In those cases, the current fair value of the collateral less selling costs was used to determine the specific allowance recorded. There were no recorded investment balances for impaired financing receivables at September 30, 2024 or 2023. There were no loans recorded for impaired financing receivables with an associated specific allowance reserve at September 30, 2024 or 2023.

### **Vintage Analysis**

The following table presents the Company's recorded investment in loans by credit quality indicators by year of origination as of September 30, 2024:

(in thousands)	Term Loans by Fiscal Year of Origination							Total
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	Prior	Revolving	
<b>Real Estate - Residential</b>								
Pass	\$ 8,992	\$ 11,287	\$ 15,169	\$ 17,239	\$ 9,191	\$ 43,588	\$ 1,643	\$ 107,109
Special Mention	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Substandard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Doubtful	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Real Estate - Residential</b>	<b>\$ 8,992</b>	<b>\$ 11,287</b>	<b>\$ 15,169</b>	<b>\$ 17,239</b>	<b>\$ 9,191</b>	<b>\$ 43,588</b>	<b>\$ 1,643</b>	<b>\$ 107,109</b>
Current period gross write-offs	\$ 63	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 63
<b>Real Estate - Commercial</b>								
Pass	\$ 1,264	\$ 1,978	\$ 743	\$ 2,274	\$ 1,596	\$ 2,602	\$ —	\$ 10,457
Special Mention	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Substandard	—	526	—	189	67	—	—	782
Doubtful	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Real Estate - Commercial</b>	<b>\$ 1,264</b>	<b>\$ 2,504</b>	<b>\$ 743</b>	<b>\$ 2,463</b>	<b>\$ 1,663</b>	<b>\$ 2,602</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ 11,239</b>
Current period gross write-offs	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
<b>Commercial - Secured</b>								
Pass	\$ 619	\$ 399	\$ 68	\$ 172	\$ 305	\$ 269	\$ —	\$ 1,832
Special Mention	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Substandard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Doubtful	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Commercial - Secured</b>	<b>\$ 619</b>	<b>\$ 399</b>	<b>\$ 68</b>	<b>\$ 172</b>	<b>\$ 305</b>	<b>\$ 269</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ 1,832</b>
Current period gross write-offs	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
<b>Commercial - Unsecured</b>								
Pass	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 11	\$ —	\$ 11
Special Mention	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Substandard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Doubtful	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Commercial - Unsecured</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ 11</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ 11</b>
Current period gross write-offs	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
<b>Consumer</b>								
Pass	\$ 1,834	\$ 1,762	\$ 913	\$ 510	\$ 246	\$ 259	\$ —	\$ 5,524
Special Mention	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Substandard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Doubtful	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Consumer</b>	<b>\$ 1,834</b>	<b>\$ 1,762</b>	<b>\$ 913</b>	<b>\$ 510</b>	<b>\$ 246</b>	<b>\$ 259</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ 5,524</b>
Current period gross write-offs	\$ 23	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 23

## Non-Accrual Loans

The Company generally places loans on nonaccrual status when the loans reach 90 days past due or the full and timely collection of interest or principal balance has been charged off and no restructuring has occurred.

When the Company places a loan on nonaccrual status, the Company reverses the accrued unpaid interest receivable against interest income and accounts for the loan on the cash or cost recovery method until it qualifies for return to accrual status. Generally, the Company returns a loan to accrual status when (1) all delinquent interest and principal become current under the terms of the loan agreement and the Company expects repayment of the remaining contractual obligation or (2) the loan is well-secured, the borrower has made three consecutive payments, and collectability is no longer doubtful.

The Company has determined that the entire balance of a loan is contractually delinquent for all classes if the minimum payment is not received by the specified due date on the customer's statement. Interest and fees continue to accrue on past due loans until the date the loan goes into nonaccrual status, if applicable.

The following table is a summary of the Company's nonaccrual loans by major categories for the periods indicated:

(in thousands)	CECL			Incurred Loss
	September 30, 2024			September 30, 2023
	Nonaccrual loans with No Allowance	Nonaccrual loans with an Allowance	Total Nonaccrual Loans	Nonaccrual Loans
Real Estate - Residential	\$ —	\$ 777	\$ 777	\$ 186
Real Estate - Commercial	—	67	67	402
Commercial - Secured	—	16	16	—
Commercial - Unsecured	—	—	—	—
Consumer	—	14	14	9
Total Loans	\$ —	\$ 874	\$ 874	\$ 597

The Company recognized no interest income on nonaccrual loans during the years ended September 30, 2024 or 2023.

The following table represents the accrued interest receivable written off by reversing interest income during the year ended September 30, 2024:

	For the Year Ended September 30, 2024 (in thousands)
Real Estate - Residential	\$ 28
Real Estate - Commercial	4
Commercial - Secured	1
Consumer	1
Total Loans	\$ 34

## Non-Performing Assets

The table below sets forth information regarding the Company's non-performing assets. Non-accrual loans include non-accruing loans with modifications to borrowers experiencing financial difficulty of \$0 as of September 30, 2024 and troubled debt restructurings of \$538,000 as of September 30, 2023.

	September 30,	
	2024	2023
	(Dollars in thousands)	
Non-accrual loans:		
Real estate loans:		
One- to four-family residential	\$ 777	\$ 186
Commercial	67	402
Commercial loans	16	—
Consumer loans:		
Automobile	14	—
Other consumer	—	9
Total non-accrual loans	<u>\$ 874</u>	<u>\$ 597</u>

## NOTE 7: PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT

A summary of premises and equipment, net, at September 30 is as follows:

	2024	2023
	(In Thousands)	
Land	\$ 846	\$ 846
Buildings and Improvements	3,474	3,403
Furniture and Equipment	1,066	1,354
	5,386	5,603
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(2,462)	(2,530)
Total Premises and Equipment, Net	<u>\$ 2,924</u>	<u>\$ 3,073</u>

Depreciation expense was approximately \$233,000 and \$242,000 in fiscal 2024 and 2023, respectively.

## NOTE 8: FORECLOSED ASSETS

During fiscal 2024 and 2023 there were approximately \$0- and \$234,000 transferred to foreclosed assets, respectively, and \$91,000 and \$172,000 in foreclosed assets sales, respectively. At September 30, 2024 and 2023, the Company held foreclosed assets for sale of approximately \$0- and \$101,000, respectively. During fiscal 2024 and 2023, there were \$17,000 and \$32,000, respectively, in gains on sales of foreclosed assets was recognized in non-interest expense. During fiscal 2024 and 2023, there were losses on initial write-downs of foreclosed assets of \$27,000 and \$44,000, respectively, that were charged off to the allowance for credit losses and there were losses on subsequent write-downs of foreclosed assets of approximately \$0- and \$24,000, respectively, that were charged off to noninterest expense.

At September 30, 2024 and 2023 the recorded investment of mortgage loans secured by residential real estate properties for which formal foreclosure proceedings are in process totals approximately \$268,000 and \$108,000, respectively.

**NOTE 9: GOODWILL AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS**

The goodwill and intangible assets arising from the 2022 acquisition of Citizens Bank of Cape Vincent is accounted for in accordance with the accounting guidance in FASB *ASC Topic 350 for Intangibles — Goodwill and Other*. The Company recorded goodwill of \$4.2 million and core deposit intangibles of \$2.5 million in connection with the acquisition. As of September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2023, intangible assets consisted of \$1.7 and \$2.1 million, respectively, of core deposit intangibles, which are amortized over an estimated useful life of ten years.

The Company performed its annual impairment evaluation on September 30 and will perform more frequently if events and circumstances indicate that the fair value is less than its carrying value.

Goodwill and core deposit intangibles at September 30, 2024 and 2023 are summarized as follows:

	As of September 30, 2024			As of September 30, 2023		
	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Carrying Amount	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Carrying Amount
	(In Thousands)					
Goodwill	\$ 4,237	\$ —	\$ 4,237	\$ 4,237	\$ —	\$ 4,237
Core Deposit Intangible	2,542	878	1,664	2,542	462	2,080
	<u>\$ 6,779</u>	<u>\$ 878</u>	<u>\$ 5,901</u>	<u>\$ 6,779</u>	<u>\$ 462</u>	<u>\$ 6,317</u>

No impairments of goodwill were recognized for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2024 or 2023. Amortization expense for other intangible assets was \$416,000 and \$462,000 for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The estimated aggregate amortization expense for each of the five succeeding fiscal years and thereafter is summarized below:

	Fiscal Year Ended September 30, (in thousands)
2025	\$ 370
2026	323
2027	277
2028	231
2029	185
Thereafter	278
	<u>\$ 1,664</u>

**NOTE 10: DEPOSITS**

Certificates of deposit and other time deposits issued in denominations that meet or exceed the FDIC insurance limit of \$250,000 or more totaled approximately \$6.3 million and \$2.5 million at September 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively, and are included in time deposits in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition.



At September 30, 2024, the scheduled maturities of certificates of deposit are as follows (in thousands):

2025	\$ 34,110
2026	911
2027	1,083
2028	176
	<u>\$ 36,280</u>

A summary of interest expense on deposits for the years ended September 30 is as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	(In Thousands)	
Savings Deposits	\$ 79	\$ 93
Now and Money Market Deposits	80	37
Time Deposits	1,084	261
	<u>\$ 1,243</u>	<u>\$ 391</u>

The Company had deposits of approximately \$1,546,000 and \$1,487,000 at September 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively, due to related parties.

The Company had pledged securities of approximately \$23.4 million and \$22.6 million at September 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively, that were fully collateralizing municipal deposits.

#### **NOTE 11: BORROWED MONEY**

There were no advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York (“FHLBNY”) as of September 30, 2024 and \$14.0 million in borrowings as of September 30, 2023.

The Company utilizes advance programs offered by the FHLBNY including an unused line of credit of approximately \$59.3 million at September 30, 2024. Under terms of a blanket collateral agreement with the FHLBNY, outstanding advances are secured by certain qualifying assets not otherwise pledged. This line of credit was secured by approximately \$59.8 million of residential loans at September 30, 2024. The advances from the FHLBNY have fixed interest rates. In addition, the Company has an available line of credit with the Federal Reserve Board in the amount of \$5.0 million. This line is secured by approximately \$5.9 million of municipal bonds. The outstanding balance at both September 30, 2024 and 2023 was \$-0-. The Company has a second line of credit with Atlantic Community Banker’s Bank (“ACBB”) totaling \$4.0 million. This line is secured with a \$135,000 investment in ACBB stock. The outstanding balance at September 30, 2024 and 2023 was \$-0-.

#### **NOTE 12: EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS**

##### **401 (K) Plan**

The Company has a defined contribution 401(k) Retirement Plan (“Plan”) for all eligible employees. The Company contributes 3% of each eligible employee’s salary. Additional Company contributions to the Plan are determined annually by the Board of Directors. For the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023, the expense for the Plan was approximately \$122,000 and \$141,000, respectively, and is included in salaries and employee benefits in the Consolidated Statements of Earnings.

### **Deferred Compensation Plan**

The Company has a nonqualified deferred compensation plan for directors, under which directors, including the President, may elect to defer all or part of their director's fees. At September 30, 2024 and 2023, deferred compensation included in other liabilities aggregated approximately \$406,000 and \$266,000, respectively. Deferred compensation expense for the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023 was approximately \$31,000 and \$22,000, respectively, and is included in directors' fees in the Consolidated Statements of Earnings.

During 2009, CBCV entered into a nonqualified deferred compensation plan for three key employees, which provides for an annual fixed benefit in the aggregate of \$20,000 for a five-year period. The plan provided for additional grants of benefits at the discretion of CBCV's Board of Directors. During the calendar year ending December 31, 2018, one employee was paid out their benefit obligation. The plan transferred over to the Company at the legal acquisition date of September 16, 2022. At September 30, 2024 and 2023, CBCV deferred compensation included in other liabilities was approximately \$101,000 and \$113,000, respectively.

### **Supplemental Retirement Plans**

The Company has supplemental retirement and life insurance plans for the benefit of certain officers and directors. At September 30, 2024 and 2023, other liabilities include accruals of approximately \$1,672,000 and \$1,774,000, respectively, under these plans. Expenses for the plans were approximately \$242,000 and \$425,000 for 2024 and 2023, respectively, and are included in non-interest expense in the Consolidated Statements of Earnings.

To fund the benefits under these plans, the Company is the owner of single premium life insurance policies on participants in the non-qualified retirement plans. At September 30, 2024 and 2023, the cash value of the policies was approximately \$7,137,000 and \$6,983,000, respectively. Appreciation in value of the insurance policies is classified as noninterest income.

The table below is a summary of the Plan as of September 30.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<b>(In Thousands)</b>	
<b>Change in Benefit Obligation</b>		
Benefit Obligation, Beginning of Year	\$ 1,774	\$ 2,016
Service Cost	155	155
Interest Cost	52	50
(Gain) Loss	(46)	(228)
Prior Service Cost	—	—
Benefits Paid	<u>(263)</u>	<u>(219)</u>
<b>Benefit Obligation, End of Year</b>	<u>\$ 1,672</u>	<u>\$ 1,774</u>
<b>Unfunded Status</b>	<u>\$ (1,672)</u>	<u>\$ (1,774)</u>
<b>Accumulated Benefit Obligation</b>	<u>\$ 1,587</u>	<u>\$ 1,689</u>
<b>Net Periodic Pension Cost</b>		
Service Cost	\$ 155	\$ 155
Interest Cost	52	50
(Gain) Loss Recognized	(60)	124
Prior Service Cost Recognized	<u>95</u>	<u>96</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$ 242</u>	<u>\$ 425</u>
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<b>(In Thousands)</b>	
<b>Amounts Recognized (Removed) from Other Comprehensive Income</b>		
(Gain) Loss	\$ 14	\$ (352)
Prior Service Cost	<u>(95)</u>	<u>(96)</u>
	<u>\$ (81)</u>	<u>\$ (448)</u>
<b>Cumulative Amounts in Other Comprehensive Income at End of Period</b>		
Loss	\$ 203	\$ 190
Prior Service Cost	<u>41</u>	<u>136</u>
	<u>\$ 244</u>	<u>\$ 326</u>
<b>Estimated Amounts that will be Recognized Over the Next Accounting Period</b>		
(Gain) Loss	\$ (60)	\$ 124
Prior Service Cost	<u>95</u>	<u>96</u>
	<u>\$ 35</u>	<u>\$ 220</u>

<b>Benefits Expected to be Paid</b>		
First Year	\$ 229	\$ 276
Second Year	138	233
Third Year	121	143
Fourth Year	121	125
Fifth Year	141	125
Sixth - Tenth Year	<u>716</u>	<u>714</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,466</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,616</u></b>

Assumptions used in the accounting were as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Discount Rate	3.00 %	3.00 %
Salary Inflation Rate	1.50-4.00 %	1.50-4.00 %

**NOTE 13: ACCRUED INTEREST RECEIVABLE**

Accrued interest receivable at September 30, 2024 and 2023 consists of the following:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	(In Thousands)	
Investments	\$ 247	\$ 265
Loans	<u>355</u>	<u>365</u>
	<u>\$ 602</u>	<u>\$ 630</u>

**NOTE 14: INCOME TAXES**

The Company files a consolidated tax return with its subsidiary corporation. The consolidated provision for income taxes for the years ended September 30, is summarized as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	(In Thousands)	
<b>Current Expense (Benefit)</b>		
Federal	\$ 11	\$ 32
State	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	<u>11</u>	<u>32</u>
<b>Deferred Expense</b>		
Federal	<u>(74)</u>	<u>(116)</u>
	<u>(74)</u>	<u>(116)</u>
<b>Total Provision for Income Tax Benefit</b>	<b><u>\$ (63)</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (84)</u></b>

At September 30, 2024 and 2023, the Company has prepaid income taxes of approximately \$193,000 and \$434,000, respectively, included in other assets in the consolidated statements of financial condition.

The provision for federal income taxes, which differs from that computed by applying federal statutory rates to income before federal income tax expense, is summarized as follows for the years ended September 30:

	2024		2023	
	Amount	% of Pretax Income	Amount	% of Pretax Income
	(In Thousands)			
Federal Tax at Statutory Rates	\$ 100	21.0 %	\$ 49	21.0 %
Earnings on Investment in Life Insurance	(32)	(6.7)%	(29)	(12.4)%
Tax-Exempt Interest Income	(123)	(25.8)%	(131)	(56.2)%
Other	(8)	(1.7)%	27	11.6 %
Total Federal Tax	<u>\$ (63)</u>	<u>(13.2)%</u>	<u>\$ (84)</u>	<u>(36.0)%</u>

The net deferred tax asset included in accrued interest receivable and other assets in the accompanying consolidated statements of financial condition includes the following amounts of deferred tax assets and liabilities:

	2024		2023	
	(In Thousands)			
<b>Deferred Tax Assets:</b>				
Net Operating Loss Carryforward	\$	928	\$	821
Allowance for Credit Losses		223		131
Retirement Benefits		352		373
Deferred Compensation		165		134
Net Unrealized Loss on Securities		686		1,566
Fair Value Marks on Acquired Loans		175		208
Other		24		24
Total Deferred Tax Assets		<u>2,553</u>		<u>3,257</u>
<b>Deferred Tax Liabilities</b>				
Interest Rate Swap Derivative Liability		2		52
Premises and Equipment		64		144
Net Deferred Loan Costs		103		92
Core Deposit Intangible		349		437
Total Deferred Tax Liabilities		<u>518</u>		<u>725</u>
Net Deferred Tax Asset	<u>\$</u>	<u>2,035</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>2,532</u>

At September 30, 2024, the Company had \$4,420,000 of federal net operating losses, which can be carried forward indefinitely. Utilization of \$1,044,000 of these net operating losses is subject to an annual limitation under tax rules applicable to ownership changes.

Realization of deferred tax assets is dependent upon the generation of future taxable income. A valuation allowance is provided when it is more likely than not that at least some portion of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. In assessing the need for a valuation allowance, management considers the scheduled reversal of the deferred tax liabilities, the level of historical taxable income and the projected future level of taxable income over the periods in which the temporary differences comprising the deferred tax assets will be deductible. The judgement about the level of future taxable income is inherently subjective and is reviewed on a continual basis and as regulatory and business factors change. At September 30, 2024 and 2023, management determined that a valuation allowance was not deemed necessary.

At September 30, 2024 and 2023, the Company had an unrecaptured pre-1988 federal bad debt reserve of approximately \$1.3 million for which no federal income tax provision has been made. A deferred tax liability has not been provided on this amount, as management does not intend to redeem stock, make distributions or take other actions that would result in recapture of the reserve.

The Company files consolidated federal and combined New York State income tax returns. Based on provisions in New York State tax law, the Company does not generate New York taxable income, resulting in a tax liability that is based on taxable capital. Accordingly, this tax liability is recorded in other non-interest expenses.

The Company accounts for uncertain tax positions if it is more likely than not, based on technical merits, that the tax position will be realized or sustained upon examination. The term more likely than not means a likelihood of more than 50 percent; the terms examined and upon examination also include resolution of the related appeals or litigation processes, if any. A tax position that meets the more-likely-than-not recognition threshold is initially and subsequently measured as the largest amount of tax benefit that has a greater than 50 percent likelihood of being realized upon settlement with a taxing authority that has full knowledge of all relevant information. The determination of whether or not a tax position has met the more-likely-than-not recognition threshold considers the facts, circumstances, and information available at the reporting date and is subject to management's judgements.

As of September 30, 2024 and 2023, the Company did not have any uncertain tax positions. The Company does not expect to have any changes in unrecognized tax benefits as a result of settlements with taxing authorities during the next twelve months. As of September 30, 2024, tax years ended September 30, 2021 through September 30, 2023, remain open and are subject to Federal and New York State taxing authority examination.

#### **NOTE 15: TRANSACTIONS WITH EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

Certain directors and executive officers of the Company, their families and their affiliates are customers of the Bank. Any transactions with such parties, including loans and commitments, were in the ordinary course of business at normal terms, including interest rates and collateralization prevailing at the time, and did not represent more than normal risks. At September 30, 2024 and 2023, such loans amounted to approximately \$360,000 and \$623,000, respectively.

During fiscal years 2024 and 2023, new originated loans to such related parties and loans associated with newly appointed directors and officers totaled \$58,000 and \$130,000, respectively, and repayments aggregated approximately \$24,000 and \$78,000, respectively.

#### **NOTE 16: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS WITH OFF-BALANCE-SHEET CREDIT RISK**

The Bank is a party to financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk in the normal course of business to meet the financing needs of its customers. These financial instruments include commitments to extend credit and to sell loans. Those instruments involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit and interest rate risk in excess of the amount recognized in the consolidated statements of financial condition.

The Bank's exposure to credit loss in the event of nonperformance by the other party to the financial instrument for commitments to extend credit is represented by the contractual amount of those instruments. The Bank uses the same credit policies in making commitments and conditional obligations as it does for on- balance sheet instruments.

A summary of financial instrument commitments at September 30, 2024 and 2023 is shown below.

	<u>September 30,</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>September 30,</u> <u>2023</u>
	(in thousands)	
Commitments to Grant Loans	\$ 2,386	\$ 1,089
Unfunded Commitments Under Lines of Credit	\$ 4,566	\$ 6,022

Commitments to extend credit are agreements to lend to a customer as long as there is no violation of any condition established in the contract. Commitments generally have fixed expiration dates or other termination clauses and may require payment of a fee. Since some of the commitments are expected to expire without being drawn upon, the total commitment amount does not necessarily represent future cash requirements.

The Bank evaluates each customer's credit worthiness on a case-by-case basis. The amount of collateral obtained, if deemed necessary by the Bank upon extension of credit, is based on management's credit evaluation of the customer and generally consists of real estate.

### **Commitments and Contingencies**

Outstanding letters of credit written are conditional commitments issued by the Company to guarantee the performance by a customer to a third party. The Company's exposure to credit loss in the event of nonperformance by the other party to the financial instrument for standby letters of credit is represented by the contractual amount of those instruments. The Bank uses the same credit policies in making conditional obligations as it does for on-balance sheet instruments. The Company had four standby letters of credit totaling \$176,000 as of September 30, 2024 and 2023.

The credit risk involved in issuing letters of credit is essentially the same as that involved in extending other loan commitments. The Company requires collateral and personal guarantees supporting these letters of credit as deemed necessary. Management believes that the proceeds obtained through a liquidation of such collateral in the event of a default, and the enforcement of personal guarantees would be sufficient to cover the maximum potential amount of future payments required under the corresponding guarantees.

### **Unfunded Commitments**

The Company maintains an allowance for credit losses for off-balance sheet credit exposures such as unfunded balances for existing lines of credit, commitments to extend future credit, as well as both standby and commercial letters of credit when there is a contractual obligation to extend credit and when this extension of credit is not unconditionally cancellable (i.e. commitment cannot be canceled at any time). The allowance for off-balance sheet credit exposures is adjusted as a provision for credit loss expense. The estimate includes consideration of the likelihood that funding will occur, which is based on a historical funding study derived from internal information, and an estimate of expected credit losses on commitments expected to be funded over its estimated life, which are the same loss rates that are used in computing the allowance for credit losses on loans, and are discussed within this note. The allowance for credit losses for unfunded loan commitments of \$25,000 at September 30, 2024 is separately classified on the accompanying consolidated statements of financial condition within Other Liabilities.

The following table presents the balance and activity in the allowance for credit losses for unfunded loan commitments as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024.

(in thousands)	<u>Total Allowance for Credit Losses - Unfunded Commitments</u>
Balance, September 30, 2023	\$ —
Adjustment to allowance for unfunded commitments for adoption of ASU 2016-13	29
Provision for unfunded commitments	(4)
Balance, September 30, 2024	<u>\$ 25</u>

#### NOTE 17: REGULATORY CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS

The Bank is subject to regulatory capital requirements administered by banking regulators. Failure to meet minimum capital requirements can trigger certain mandatory — and possibly additional discretionary — actions by regulators that, if undertaken, could have a direct material effect on the Company’s consolidated financial statements. Under capital adequacy guidelines and the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action, the Bank must meet specific capital guidelines that involve quantitative measures of the Bank’s assets, liabilities, and certain off-balance sheet items as calculated under regulatory accounting practices. The Bank’s capital amounts and classification are also subject to qualitative judgments by the regulators about components, risk weightings, and other factors.

##### U.S. Basel III Capital Rules

In July 2013, the Federal Reserve Board approved final rules (the “U.S. Basel III Capital Rules”) establishing a new comprehensive capital framework for U.S. banking organizations and implementing the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision’s December 2010 framework for strengthening international capital standards. The U.S. Basel III Capital Rules substantially revised the risk-based capital requirements applicable to bank holding companies and depository institutions.

The minimum regulatory capital requirements established by the U.S. Basel III Capital Rules became effective for the Bank on January 1, 2016 and become fully phased in on January 1, 2019. The U.S. Basel III Capital Rules require the Bank to:

- Meet a minimum Common Equity Tier 1 Capital ratio of 4.50% of risk-weighted assets and a minimum Tier 1 Capital of 6.00% of risk-weighted assets;
- Continue to require a minimum Total Capital ratio of 8.00% of risk-weighted assets and a minimum Tier 1 Leverage Capital ratio of 4.00% of average assets;
- Maintain a “capital conservation buffer” of 2.50% above the minimum risk-based capital requirements, which must be maintained to avoid restrictions on capital distributions and certain discretionary bonus payments; and
- Comply with a revised definition of capital to improve the ability of regulatory capital instruments to absorb losses. Certain non-qualifying capital instruments, including cumulative preferred stock and TruPS, will be excluded as a component of Tier 1 capital for institutions of the Company’s size.

The U.S. Basel III Capital Rules use a standardized approach for risk weightings that expand the risk- weightings for assets and off-balance sheet exposures from the previous 0%, 20%, 50% and 100% categories to a much larger and more risk-



sensitive number of categories, depending on the nature of the assets and off- balance sheet exposures, resulting in higher risk weights for a variety of asset categories.

The capital conservation buffer at September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2023 is 2.50%. The Bank exceeded these “well-capitalized” and “capital conservation buffer” ratios for all periods presented.

As of September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2023, the Bank’s capital levels meet the fully phased-in minimum capital requirements, including the new capital conservation buffers, as prescribed in the U.S. Basel III Capital Rules.

As of September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2023, the most recent notification from Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”) categorized the Bank as well capitalized under the regulatory framework for prompt corrective action. There are no conditions or events since the most recent notification that management believes have changed the Bank’s prompt corrective action category.

There are no comparable minimum capital requirements that apply to the Company as a savings and loan holding company. The Bank’s actual and required capital amounts and ratios are presented in the table below:

	<u>Actual</u>		<u>Minimum Capital Requirement</u>		<u>Minimum to be Well Capitalized Under Prompt Corrective Action Provisions</u>	
	<u>Amount (\$)</u>	<u>Ratio (%)</u>	<u>Amount (\$)</u>	<u>Ratio (%)</u>	<u>Amount (\$)</u>	<u>Ratio (%)</u>
<b>(In Thousands)</b>						
<b>As of September 30, 2024</b>						
Total Capital (to Risk-Weighted Assets)	\$ 26,800	24.3 ≥	\$ 8,837 ≥	8.0 ≥	\$ 11,046 ≥	10.0
Tier 1 Capital (to Risk-Weighted Assets)	25,713	23.3 ≥	6,628 ≥	6.0 ≥	8,837 ≥	8.0
Tier 1 Common Equity (to Risk-Weighted Assets)	25,713	23.3 ≥	4,971 ≥	4.5 ≥	7,180 ≥	6.5
Tier 1 Leverage Ratio (to Adjusted Total Assets)	25,713	13.3 ≥	7,748 ≥	4.0 ≥	9,685 ≥	5.0
Capital Conservation Buffer on Tier 1 Common Equity	26,800	16.3 ≥	7,732 ≥	7.0 ≥	N/A ≥	N/A
<b>As of September 30, 2023</b>						
Total Capital (to Risk-Weighted Assets)	\$ 21,906	19.4 ≥	\$ 9,020 ≥	8.0 ≥	\$ 11,275 ≥	10.0
Tier 1 Capital (to Risk-Weighted Assets)	21,283	18.9 ≥	6,765 ≥	6.0 ≥	9,019 ≥	8.0
Tier 1 Common Equity (to Risk-Weighted Assets)	21,283	18.9 ≥	5,074 ≥	4.5 ≥	7,329 ≥	6.5
Tier 1 Leverage Ratio (to Adjusted Total Assets)	21,283	10.6 ≥	8,022 ≥	4.0 ≥	10,027 ≥	5.0
Capital Conservation Buffer on Tier 1 Common Equity	21,906	11.4 ≥	7,892 ≥	7.0 ≥	N/A ≥	N/A

GS&L Municipal Bank’s actual and required capital amounts and ratios are as follows:

	Actual		Minimum Capital Requirement		Minimum to be Well Capitalized Under Prompt Corrective Action Provisions	
	Amount (\$)	Ratio (%)	Amount (\$)	Ratio (%)	Amount (\$)	Ratio (%)
<b>(In Thousands)</b>						
<b>As of September 30, 2024</b>						
Total Capital (to Risk-Weighted Assets)	\$ 13,842	97.5 ≥	\$ 1,136 ≥	8.0 ≥	\$ 1,420 ≥	10.0
Tier 1 Capital (to Risk-Weighted Assets)	13,842	97.5 ≥	852 ≥	6.0 ≥	1,136 ≥	8.0
Tier 1 Common Equity (to Risk-Weighted Assets)	13,842	97.5 ≥	639 ≥	4.5 ≥	923 ≥	6.5
Tier 1 Leverage Ratio (to Adjusted Total Assets)	13,842	40.2 ≥	1,376 ≥	4.0 ≥	1,721 ≥	5.0
Capital Conservation Buffer on Tier 1 Common Equity	13,842	89.5 ≥	994 ≥	7.0 ≥	N/A ≥	N/A
<b>As of September 30, 2023</b>						
Total Capital (to Risk-Weighted Assets)	\$ 13,053	245.8 ≥	\$ 425 ≥	8.0 ≥	\$ 531 ≥	10.0
Tier 1 Capital (to Risk-Weighted Assets)	13,053	245.8 ≥	319 ≥	6.0 ≥	425 ≥	8.0
Tier 1 Common Equity (to Risk-Weighted Assets)	13,053	245.8 ≥	239 ≥	4.5 ≥	345 ≥	6.5
Tier 1 Leverage Ratio (to Adjusted Total Assets)	13,053	37.4 ≥	1,394 ≥	4.0 ≥	1,743 ≥	5.0
Capital Conservation Buffer on Tier 1 Common Equity	13,053	237.8 ≥	372 ≥	7.0 ≥	N/A ≥	N/A

#### NOTE 18: RETAINED EARNINGS

Cambray Mutual Holding Company (“Cambray”) received full dividends paid by the Company on shares owned in fiscal year 2023. The total cumulative dividends waived by Cambray in prior years was \$6,384,000 as of September 30, 2023. The dividends waived by Cambray are considered a restriction on the retained earnings of the Company.

There were no dividends declared during 2024. The Company declared dividends of \$0.10 per share totaling \$203,000 in 2023.

#### NOTE 19: INTEREST RATE DERIVATIVES

Derivative instruments are entered into primarily as a risk management tool of the Company. It has entered into several interest rate swap agreements whereby it pays a fixed rate and receives a variable rate on a notional amount. It did so to hedge the cost of certain borrowings and to increase the interest rate sensitivity of certain assets. Financial derivatives are recorded at fair value as other assets or liabilities. The accounting for changes in the fair value of a derivative depends on whether it has been designated and qualifies as a part of a hedging relationship. For a fair value hedge, changes in the fair value of the derivative instrument and changes in the fair value of the hedged asset or liability are currently recognized in current year earnings. Amounts recognized in earnings as noninterest loss for the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023 were \$240,000 and \$802,000, respectively. The loss is the result of the swaps market value fluctuations with long-term bond rates and projected short-term rates. See Note 20 for further discussion on the fair value of the interest rate derivative.

On December 9, 2022, the Company unwound two off-balance sheet swaps, \$6.0 million in notional value, for a realized gain of approximately \$343,000. On December 14, 2022, the Company sold four investments totaling \$2.0 million for a total loss of approximately \$342,000, which closely matches the realized gain on the unwound swaps. \$2.0 million was reinvested into two new securities.

On February 14, 2023, the Company unwound two off-balance sheet swaps, \$5.0 million in notional value, for a realized gain of approximately \$310,000. On February 14, 2023, the Company sold ten underperforming investments totaling \$3.65 million for a total loss of approximately \$318,000, which closely matched the realized gain on the unwound swaps. \$3.09 million was reinvested into three new securities.

On December 29, 2023, the Company unwound two off-balance sheet swaps, with \$2.5 million in notional value, for a realized gain of approximately \$75,000.

Information about interest rate swap agreements at September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2023 is as shown on the following table:

	Notional Amount (In Thousands)	Weighted Average Rate Contract Pay Rate	Weighted Average Rate Received Rate	Estimated Fair Value (Liability) Asset (In Thousands)
<b>September 30, 2024</b>				
Interest Rate Swaps on FHLB Borrowings and Bank Deposits	\$ 3,000	1.56 %	5.22 %	\$ 9
<b>September 30, 2023</b>				
Interest Rate Swaps on FHLB Borrowings and Bank Deposits	\$ 5,500	2.04 %	5.35 %	\$ 250

The following table is a summary of the fair value of outstanding derivatives and their presentation in the consolidated statements of financial condition as of September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2023:

	As of September 30, 2024	As of September 30, 2023
	(In Thousands)	
Fair Value Hedge – Interest Rate Swap		
Accrued Interest Receivable and Other Assets	\$ 9	\$ 250

The notional amount of interest rate swap agreements entered into, that were outstanding at September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2023, mature as follows for the years ended September 30:

	September 30, 2024	September 30, 2023
	(In Thousands)	
2024	\$ —	\$ —
2025	3,000	4,500
2026	—	1,000
	<u>\$ 3,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,500</u>

## NOTE 20: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

### Determination of Fair Value

The Company uses fair value measurements to record fair value adjustments to certain assets and liabilities and to determine fair value disclosures. In accordance with the *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* topic of FASB ASC 820, the fair value of a financial instrument is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value is best determined based upon quoted market prices. However, in many instances, there are no quoted market prices for the Company's various financial instruments. In cases where quoted market prices are not available, fair values are based on estimates using present value

or other valuation techniques. Those techniques are significantly affected by the assumptions used, including the discount rate and estimates of future cash flows. Accordingly, the fair value estimates may not be realized in an immediate settlement of the instrument.

Recent fair value guidance provides a consistent definition of fair value, which focuses on exit price in an orderly transaction (that is, not a forced liquidation or distressed sale) between market participants at the measurement date under current market conditions. If there has been a significant decrease in the volume and level of activity for the asset or liability, a change in valuation technique or the use of multiple valuation techniques may be appropriate. In such instances, determining the price at which willing market participants would transact at the measurement date under current market conditions depends on the facts and circumstances and requires the use of significant judgment. The fair value, a reasonable point within the range, is most representative of fair value under current market conditions.

### **Fair Value Hierarchy**

In accordance with this guidance, the Company groups its financial assets and financial liabilities generally measured at fair value in three levels, based on the markets in which the assets and liabilities are traded and the reliability of the assumptions used to determine fair value.

- Level 1 — Valuation is based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Company has the ability to access at the measurement date. Level 1 assets and liabilities generally include debt and equity securities that are traded in an active exchange market. Valuations are obtained from readily available pricing sources for market transactions involving identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2 — Valuation is based on inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. The valuation may be based on quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.
- Level 3 — Valuation is based on unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities. Level 3 assets and liabilities include financial instruments whose value is determined using pricing models, discounted cash flow methodologies, or similar techniques, as well as instruments for which determination of fair value requires significant management judgment or estimation.

The types of instruments valued based on quoted market prices in active markets include most U.S. government and agency securities, liquid mortgage products, active listed equities and most money market securities. Such instruments are generally classified within Level 1 or Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy. As required by this guidance, the Company does not adjust the quoted price for such instruments.

The types of instruments valued based on quoted prices in markets that are not active, broker or dealer quotations, or alternative pricing sources with reasonable levels of price transparency include most investment- grade and high-yield corporate bonds, less liquid mortgage products, less liquid equities, state, municipal and provincial obligations, and certain physical commodities. Such instruments are generally classified within Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

The Company utilizes interest rate swap agreements based on the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR). The Company generally determines the fair value of its interest rate swap agreements using externally developed pricing models based on market observable inputs and therefore classifies such valuations as Level 2.

Level 3 is for positions that are not traded in active markets or are subject to transfer restrictions. Valuations are adjusted to reflect illiquidity and/or non-transferability, and such adjustments are generally based on available market evidence. In the absence of such evidence, management's best estimate is used.

Individually evaluated loans are evaluated and valued at the time the loan is identified as not having risk characteristics common with other loans within its pool. In these instances, impairment is measured on a case-by-case basis. The fair value of the loan is determined using either present value of the expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate or, for collateral dependent loans, the fair value of the collateral less the selling, administrative costs, and other expenses necessary to liquidate the collateral. Collateral may be real estate and/or business assets including equipment, inventory and/or accounts receivable. Market value is measured based on the value of the collateral securing these loans and is classified at a Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy. The value of business equipment, inventory and accounts receivable collateral is based on the net book value on the business' financial statements and, if necessary, discounted based on management's review and analysis. Appraised and reported values may be discounted based on management's historical knowledge, changes in market conditions from the time of valuation and/or management's expertise and knowledge of the client's business. Individually evaluated loans are reviewed and evaluated on at least a quarterly basis for additional impairment and adjusted accordingly, based on the same factors identified previously.

Foreclosed properties are adjusted to fair value upon transfer of the loans to foreclosed properties. Subsequently, foreclosed properties are carried at the lower of carrying value or fair value. The estimated fair value for foreclosed properties included in Level 3 is determined by independent market-based appraisals and other available market information, less costs to sell, that may be reduced further based on market expectations or an executed sales agreement. If fair value of the collateral deteriorates subsequent to initial recognition, the Company records the foreclosed properties as a nonrecurring Level 3 adjustment. Valuation techniques are consistent with those techniques applied in prior periods.

The following table present the assets required to be measured and reported on a recurring basis on the Company's Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition at their fair value as of September 30, 2024 and 2023 by level within the fair value hierarchy. Financial assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

	<u>Total Fair Value</u>	<u>Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets/Liabilities (Level 1)</u>	<u>Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)</u>	<u>Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)</u>
	(In Thousands)			
<b>September 30, 2024</b>				
U.S. Government Treasuries	\$ 2,349	\$ —	\$ 2,349	\$ —
U.S. Government Agencies	8,535	—	8,535	—
Mortgaged-Backed Securities	11,171	—	11,171	—
Municipal Securities	21,285	—	21,285	—
SBA Securities	2,008	—	2,008	—
<b>Available-for-Sale Securities</b>	<u>\$ 45,348</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 45,348</u>	<u>\$ —</u>
<b>Interest Rate Swap Derivative</b>	<u>\$ 9</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 9</u>	<u>\$ —</u>
<b>September 30, 2023</b>				
U.S. Government Treasuries	\$ 3,680	\$ —	\$ 3,680	\$ —
U.S. Government Agencies	11,662	—	11,662	—
Mortgaged-Backed Securities	7,915	—	7,915	—
Municipal Securities	20,995	—	20,995	—
SBA Securities	2,372	—	2,372	—
<b>Available-for-Sale Securities</b>	<u>\$ 46,624</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 46,624</u>	<u>\$ —</u>
<b>Interest Rate Swap Derivative</b>	<u>\$ 250</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 250</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

Certain assets and liabilities may be required to be measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis in periods subsequent to their initial recognition. Generally, nonrecurring valuation is the result of the application of other accounting pronouncements which require assets and liabilities to be assessed for impairment or recorded at the lower of cost or fair value.

Fair values of assets and liabilities measured on a nonrecurring basis at September 30, 2024 and 2023 are shown on the following table:

	<u>Total Fair Value</u>	<u>Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets/Liabilities (Level 1)</u>	<u>Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)</u>	<u>Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)</u>
	(In Thousands)			
<b>September 30, 2024</b>				
Foreclosed Real Estate, Net	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
<b>September 30, 2023</b>				
Foreclosed Real Estate, Net	<u>\$ 101</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 101</u>

The table below presents additional quantitative information about assets measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis and for which Level 3 inputs were used to determine fair value at September 30, 2024 and 2023.

	<u>Valuation Techniques</u>	<u>Unobservable Inputs</u>	<u>Weighted Average Range</u>
Impaired Loans	Appraisal of Collateral	Appraisal Adjustments	25% - 25% (25%)
	(Sales Approach)	Costs to Sell	6% - 10% (8%)
	Discounted Cash Flow		
Foreclosed Assets	Appraisal of Collateral	Appraisal Adjustments	25% - 25% (25%)
	(Sales Approach)	Costs to Sell	6% - 10% (8%)

Accounting guidance requires disclosures of the estimated fair value of certain financial instruments and the methods and significant assumptions used to estimate their fair values. Certain financial instruments and all non-financial instruments are excluded from the scope of the guidance.

The estimated fair values of financial instruments at September 30, 2024 and 2023 are as follows:

	<u>September 30, 2024</u>		<u>September 30, 2023</u>	
	<u>Carrying Value</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Carrying Value</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>
	<u>(In Thousands)</u>			
<b>Financial Assets</b>				
Cash and due from banks	\$ 4,302	\$ 4,302	\$ 9,306	\$ 9,306
Interest bearing deposits with banks	2,068	2,068	1,101	1,101
Time deposits in other financial institutions	—	—	484	484
Available for sale debt securities	45,348	45,348	46,624	46,624
Acquired loans	—	—	32,174	32,174
Portfolio loans, net of deferred fees and allowance for credit losses	124,257	108,188	93,253	69,608
Investments in restricted stock	823	823	1,471	1,471
Accrued interest receivable	602	602	630	630
Interest rate swap derivative	9	9	250	250
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>				
Deposits	\$ 159,902	\$ 128,120	\$ 158,778	\$ 119,212
Accrued interest payable	2	2	67	67

The methods and assumptions that were used to estimate the fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities that are measured at fair value on a recurring and non-recurring basis have been previously disclosed. A description of the valuation methodologies used for instruments measured at fair value, as well as the general classification of such instruments pursuant to the valuation hierarchy, is set forth below:

**Cash and due from banks** — Due to their short -term nature, the carrying amount of cash and due from banks approximates fair value and is categorized in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

**Interest bearing deposits with banks** — Due to their short -term nature, the carrying amount of interest- bearing deposits in other financial institutions approximates fair value and is categorized in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

**Time deposits in other financial institutions** — Fair values are calculated based on market prices of similar securities and, therefore, are classified as Level 2 within the valuation hierarchy.

**Available for sale debt securities** — For those available for sale debt securities where quoted prices are unavailable, fair values are calculated based on market prices of similar securities and, therefore, are classified as Level 2 within the valuation hierarchy.

**Loans receivable** — The fair value loans is estimated by discounting future cash flows using current rates at which similar loans would be made to borrowers with similar credit ratings and is categorized in Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy. Acquired loans (impaired and non-impaired) are initially recorded at their acquisition-date fair values using Level 3 inputs. Fair values are based on a discounted cash flow methodology that involves assumptions and judgments as to credit risk, expected life time losses, environmental factors, collateral values, discount rates, expected payments and expected prepayments.

**Investments in restricted stock** — No secondary market exists for FHLB or Atlantic Community Bankers Bank stock. The stock is bought and sold at par and management believes the carrying amount approximates fair value and is categorized in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

**Accrued interest receivable** — Due to their short-term nature, the carrying amount approximates fair value and is categorized in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

**Interest Rate Swap Derivative** — Fair values are calculated based on market prices of similar securities and, therefore, are classified as Level 2 within the valuation hierarchy.

**Deposits** — Fair value of deposits with no stated maturity, such as demand deposits, savings, and money market accounts, is estimated using discounted cash flows applying short-term interest rates currently offered on FHLB advances. Fair value of fixed rate time deposits is estimated using discounted cash flows applying interest rates currently offered on similar time deposits. Deposits are categorized in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

**Accrued interest payable** — Due to their short-term nature, the carrying amount approximates fair value and is categorized in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

#### **NOTE 21: LEASES**

A lease is defined as a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to control the use of identified property, plant or equipment for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

The leases in which the Company is the lessee include real estate property for a branch office facility under a noncancelable operating lease arrangement, whose current maturity date is November 2026 at which point, it automatically renews for a three-year term. The Bank also leases a postage machine which will expire in June 2025 and a copier which will expire in June 2026 both of which are under the terms of operating lease agreements.

Topic 842 requires the Company to recognize a right-of-use (“ROU”) asset and corresponding lease liability included in other assets and other liabilities, respectively, on the Company’s consolidated statements of financial condition.



The Company's real estate lease agreements include an option to renew at the Company's discretion, which is not included in the maturity schedule below as management is not reasonably certain to exercise the renewal options. Future maturities of operating lease liabilities with initial or remaining terms of one year or more as of September 30, 2024 are as follows:

	(unaudited)	
2025	\$	22
2026		20
2027		2
	\$	<u>44</u>

Lease expense for the branch office amounted to \$15,000 and \$13,000 for the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. Lease expense for the equipment was approximately \$7,000 and \$11,000 for the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The following tables present information about the Company's leases and of and for the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023:

	2024	2023
	(In Thousands)	
Operating lease right of use assets	\$ 44	\$ 19
Operating lease liability	44	19
Weighted average remaining lease term, in years:	1.98 years	2.52 years
Lease expense:		
Operating lease expense:	\$ 21	\$ 23
Short-term lease expense:	1	1
Total lease expense:	<u>\$ 22</u>	<u>\$ 24</u>
Cash paid for amounts included in measurement of lease liabilities:	\$ 22	\$ 24

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

**GOUVERNEUR BANCORP, INC.**

Dated: December 20, 2024

By: /s/ Robert W. Barlow

Robert W. Barlow

President and Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ Robert W. Barlow</u> Robert W. Barlow	President and Chief Executive Officer and Director (principal executive officer)	December 20, 2024
<u>/s/ James D. Campanaro</u> James D. Campanaro	Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (principal financial and accounting officer)	December 20, 2024
<u>/s/ David C. McClure</u> David C. McClure	Chairman of the Board of Directors	December 20, 2024
<u>/s/ Clara P. Cummings</u> Clara P. Cummings	Director	December 20, 2024
<u>/s/ Henry J. Leader</u> Henry J. Leader	Director	December 20, 2024
<u>/s/ John N. Mason</u> John N. Mason	Director	December 20, 2024
<u>/s/ Timothy J. Monroe</u> Timothy J. Monroe	Director	December 20, 2024
<u>/s/ Amy M. Rapholz</u> Amy M. Rapholz	Director	December 20, 2024
<u>/s/ Chad B. Soper</u> Chad B. Soper	Director	December 20, 2024
<u>/s/ Charles C. Van Vleet, Jr.</u> Charles C. Van Vleet, Jr.	Director	December 20, 2024



Gouverneur Bancorp, Inc.  
42 Church Street  
Gouverneur, NY 13642