

GUARANTY FEDERAL BANCSHARES INC

Form S-1/A

August 14, 2012

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on
August 14, 2012

Registration No.
333-183062

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

FORM S-1 – AMENDMENT NO. 3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

GUARANTY FEDERAL BANCSHARES, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

6022
(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code)

43-1792717
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

1341 West Battlefield
Springfield, Missouri 65807
(417) 520-4333
(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of
registrant's principal executive offices)

Shaun A. Burke, President and CEO
Guaranty Federal Bancshares, Inc.
1341 West Battlefield
Springfield, Missouri 65807
(417) 520-4333
(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including
area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:
Craig A. Adoor, Esq.
Husch Blackwell LLP
190 Carondelet Plaza, Suite 600
St. Louis, Missouri 63105
(314) 480-1500

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: from time to time after this Registration Statement becomes effective.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933 check the following box. x

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. o

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. o

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. o

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of “large accelerated filer,” “accelerated filer,” and “smaller reporting company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated Filer
 Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company
 (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

—
 CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee(1)(3)
Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, \$0.01 par value	12,000 shares	\$1,000(1)(2)	\$12,000,000	\$1,375.20
Total			\$12,000,000	\$1,375.20

(1) Estimated in accordance with Rule 457(a).

(2) Represents the liquidation preference amount per share of the preferred stock being registered for resale, which registrant sold to the United States Department of Treasury (“Treasury”) pursuant to Treasury’s Troubled Asset Relief Program Capital Purchase Program (“CPP”).

(3) Previously paid.

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The registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment that specifically states that this Registration Statement

shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until this Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is not complete and may be changed. Neither we nor the selling shareholder may sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion, Dated August 14 , 2012

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
(To Prospectus Dated , 2012)

12,000 Shares of Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A
Liquidation Preference Amount \$1,000 Per Share

GUARANTY FEDERAL BANCSHARES, INC.

This preliminary prospectus supplement relates to the offer and sale of 12,000 shares of our Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, \$0.01 par value per share (the “Preferred Shares”), liquidation preference amount \$1,000 per share, by the United States Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”). We issued the Preferred Shares to Treasury on January 30, 2009 as part of Treasury’s Troubled Asset Relief Program Capital Purchase Program (the

“CPP”) in a private placement exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”).

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of any Preferred Shares sold by Treasury.

Dividends on the Preferred Shares are payable quarterly in arrears on each February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15. The initial dividend rate is 5% per annum through February 14, 2014, and will increase to 9% per annum on and after February 15, 2014 if not otherwise redeemed earlier for cash by us. As of the date of this preliminary prospectus supplement, we have paid in full all of our quarterly dividend obligations on the Preferred Shares. We may redeem the Preferred Shares, at any time, in whole or in part, at our option, subject to prior approval by the appropriate federal banking agency, for cash, for a redemption price equal to 100% of the liquidation preference amount per Preferred Share plus any accrued and unpaid dividends to but excluding the date of redemption.

The Preferred Shares will not be listed for trading on any stock exchange or available for quotation on any national quotation system.

The public offering price and the allocation of the Preferred Shares in this offering will be determined by an auction process. We do not intend to submit any bids in the auction. Certain directors of the Company have indicated that they may submit bids in the auction up to a collective amount of \$1,250,000. There is no assurance that the directors will submit any bids (or the amount of any such bids) or that any bids submitted by the directors will be accepted. During the auction period, potential bidders will be able to place bids to purchase Preferred Shares at any price at or above the minimum bid price of \$ per share (such bid price to be in increments of \$0.01). The minimum size for any bid will be one Preferred Share. After the auction closes, if Treasury decides to sell any of the offered Preferred Shares, then the underwriters will agree to purchase such Preferred Shares in a firm commitment underwriting and the public offering price of such Preferred Shares will equal the clearing price plus accrued dividends thereon. If bids are received for 100% or more of the offered Preferred Shares, the clearing price will be equal to the highest price at which all of the offered Preferred Shares can be sold in the auction. If bids are received for 100% or more of the offered Preferred Shares, and Treasury elects to sell any Preferred Shares in the auction, Treasury must sell all of the offered Preferred Shares at the clearing price. If bids are received for at least half, but less than all, of the offered Preferred Shares, then the clearing price will be equal to the minimum bid price of \$ per share, and Treasury may (but is not required to) sell, at the public offering price, the number of Preferred Shares it chooses to sell up to the number of bids received in the auction, so long as at least half of the offered Preferred Shares are sold. In certain cases, the bids of bidders may be pro-rated. If bids are received for less than half of the offered Preferred Shares, Treasury will not sell any Preferred Shares in this offering. Even if bids are received for at least half of the offered Preferred Shares, Treasury may decide not to sell any Preferred Shares or, in the case where bids are received for at least half, but less than all, of the offered Preferred Shares, may decide to sell a portion (but not less than half) of the offered Preferred Shares in the auction process. The method for submitting bids and a more detailed description of this auction process are described in “Auction Process” beginning on page S-26 of this preliminary prospectus supplement.

Investing in the Preferred Shares involves risks. You should read the “Risk Factors” section beginning on page S-10 of this preliminary prospectus supplement and page 5 of the accompanying prospectus and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 before making a decision to invest in the Preferred Shares.

	Per Share	Total
Public offering price(1)	\$	\$
Underwriting discounts and commissions to be paid by Treasury(2)	\$	\$
Proceeds to Treasury(1)	\$	\$

(1) Plus accrued dividends from and including , 2012.

(2) Treasury has agreed to pay all underwriting discounts and commissions and transfer taxes. We have agreed to pay all transaction fees, if any, applicable to the sale of the Preferred Shares and certain fees and disbursements of counsel for Treasury incurred in connection with this offering.

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the “FDIC”), the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the “Federal Reserve”), any state or other securities commission or any other federal or state bank regulatory agency has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this preliminary prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The Preferred Shares are not savings accounts, deposits or other obligations of any bank, thrift or other depository institution and are not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any other governmental agency or instrumentality.

The underwriters expect to deliver the Preferred Shares in book-entry form through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company and its participants against payment on or about .

Joint Book-Running Managers

Co-Managers

The date of this prospectus supplement is .

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

You should read this preliminary prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the additional information described under the headings “Where You Can Find More Information” and “Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference” before you make a decision to invest in the Preferred Shares. In particular, you should review the information under the heading “Risk Factors” set forth on page S-10 of this preliminary prospectus supplement, the information set forth under the heading “Risk Factors” set forth on page 5 in the accompanying prospectus and the information under the heading “Risk Factors” included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, which is incorporated by reference herein. You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this preliminary prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any related free writing prospectus required to be filed with the SEC. Neither we nor Treasury nor the underwriters are making an offer to sell the Preferred Shares in any manner in which, or in any jurisdiction where, the offer or sale thereof is not permitted. We have not authorized any person to provide you with different or additional information. If any person provides you with different or additional information, you should not rely on it. You should assume that the information in this preliminary prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, any such free writing prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein is accurate only as of its date or the date which is specified in those documents. Our business, financial condition, capital levels, cash flows, liquidity, results of operations and prospects may have changed since any such date.

In this preliminary prospectus supplement, we frequently use the terms “we,” “our” and “us” to refer to Guaranty Federal Bancshares, Inc. (the “Company”) and its subsidiaries.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The Company may from time to time make written or oral “forward-looking statements”, including statements contained in the Company’s filings with the SEC, in its reports to stockholders and in other communications by the Company, which are made in good faith by the Company pursuant to the “safe harbor” provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. When used in this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, words such as “anticipates,” “estimates,” “believes,” “expects,” and similar expressions are intended to identify such forward-looking statements but are not the exclusive means of identifying such statements.

These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, such as statements of the Company’s plans, objectives, expectations, estimates and intentions, that are subject to change based on various important factors (some of which are beyond the Company’s control). The following factors, among others, could cause the Company’s financial performance to differ materially from the plans, objectives, expectations, estimates and intentions expressed in such forward-looking statements: the strength of the United States economy in general and the strength of the local economies in which the Company conducts operations; the effects of, and changes in, trade, monetary and fiscal policies and laws, including interest rate policies of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, inflation, interest rates, market and monetary fluctuations; the timely development of and acceptance of new products and services of the Company and the perceived overall value of these products and services by users, including the features, pricing and quality compared to competitors’ products and services; the willingness of users to substitute competitors’ products and services for the Company’s products and services; the success of the Company in gaining regulatory approval of its products and services, when required; the impact of changes in financial services’ laws and regulations (including laws concerning taxes, banking, securities and insurance); technological changes; acquisitions; changes in consumer spending and saving habits; the success of the Company at managing the risks resulting from these factors; and other factors set forth in reports and other documents filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission from time to time. For further information about these and other risks, uncertainties and factors, please review the disclosure under the heading “Risk Factors” beginning on page S-10 of this preliminary prospectus supplement, the information set forth under the heading “Risk Factors” set forth on page 5 in the

accompanying prospectus and the information under the heading “Risk Factors” included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

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The Company cautions that the listed factors are not exclusive. The Company does not undertake to update any forward-looking statement, whether written or oral, that may be made from time to time by or on behalf of the Company.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), and file with the SEC proxy statements, Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, as required of a U.S. listed company. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC’s public reference room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from the SEC’s web site at www.sec.gov or on our website at www.gbankmo.com. However, the information on, or that can be accessible through, our website does not constitute a part of, and is not incorporated by reference in, this preliminary prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Written requests for copies of the documents we file with the SEC should be directed to Lorene Thomas, Secretary, Guaranty Federal Bancshares, Inc., 1341 W. Battlefield St., Springfield, MO 65807-4181.

This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are part of a registration statement on Form S-1 filed by us with the SEC under the Securities Act. As permitted by the SEC, this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not contain all the information in the registration statement filed with the SEC. For a more complete understanding of this offering, you should refer to the complete registration statement, including exhibits, on Form S-1 that may be obtained as described above. Statements contained in this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus about the contents of any contract or other document are not necessarily complete. If we have filed any contract or other document as an exhibit to the registration statement or any other document incorporated by reference in the registration statement, you should read the exhibit for a more complete understanding of the contract or other document or matter involved. Each statement regarding a contract or other document is qualified in its entirety by reference to the actual contract or other document.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information that we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to other documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We incorporate by reference the following documents (other than information “furnished” rather than “filed” in accordance with SEC rules):

- the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011;
- the Company’s Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2012 and June 30, 2012;
- the Company’s Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 26, 2012; February 2, 2012; February 10, 2012; April 20, 2012; May 25, 2012; June 14, 2012; July 19, 2012; August 2, 2012; August 3, 2012; and August 14, 2012; and
- the Company’s Definitive Proxy Statement related to its 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, as filed with the SEC on April 23, 2012.

We will provide without charge, upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents that are incorporated by reference into this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and a copy of any or all other contracts or documents which are referred to in this preliminary prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Requests should be directed to: Lorene Thomas, Secretary, Guaranty Federal Bancshares, Inc., 1341 W. Battlefield St., Springfield, MO 65807-4181, Telephone: (417) 520-4333.

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SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information contained elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and may not contain all the information that you need to consider in making your investment decision to purchase the Preferred Shares. You should carefully read this entire preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, as well as the information incorporated by reference herein and therein, before deciding whether to invest in the Preferred Shares. You should carefully consider the sections entitled “Risk Factors” in this preliminary prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein to determine whether an investment in the Preferred Shares is appropriate for you.

The Company

Guaranty Federal Bancshares, Inc. (the “Company”) is a Delaware-chartered corporation that was formed in September 1997. The Company became a unitary savings and loan holding company for Guaranty Federal Savings Bank, a federal savings bank (the “Bank”) on December 30, 1997, in connection with a plan of conversion and reorganization involving the Bank and its then existing mutual holding company. The mutual holding company structure had been created in April 1995 at which time more than a majority of the shares of the Bank were issued to the mutual holding company and the remaining shares were sold in a public offering. In connection with the conversion and reorganization on December 30, 1997, the shares of the Bank held by the mutual holding company were extinguished along with the mutual holding company, and the shares of the Bank held by the public were exchanged for shares of the Company. All of the shares of the Bank which remained outstanding after the conversion are owned by the Company.

On June 27, 2003, the Bank converted from a federal savings bank to a state-chartered trust company with banking powers in Missouri under Sections 362.105 and 362.106, Chapter 362, RSMo, and the Company became a bank holding company. On that date, the name of the Bank was changed from Guaranty Federal Savings Bank to Guaranty Bank. The primary activity of the Company is to oversee its investment in the Bank, and the Company engages in few other activities. Thus, the Corporation’s principal source of revenue consists of dividends from the Bank. For these reasons, unless otherwise specified, references to the Company include operations of the Bank. Further, information in a chart or table based on Bank only data is identical to or immaterially different from information that would be provided on a consolidated basis. In addition to the Bank, the Company owns Guaranty Statutory Trust I and Guaranty Statutory Trust II, both Delaware statutory trusts.

The Bank’s principal business has been, and continues to be, attracting retail deposits from the general public and investing those deposits, together with funds generated from operations, in commercial real estate loans, multi-family residential mortgage loans, construction loans, permanent one-to four-family residential mortgage loans, business, consumer and other loans. The Bank also invests in mortgage-backed securities, U.S. Government and federal agency securities and other marketable securities. The Bank’s revenues are derived principally from interest on its loans and other investments and fees charged for services provided, and gains generated from sales of loans and investment securities, and the Bank’s results of operations are primarily dependent on net interest margin, which is the difference between interest income on interest-earning assets and interest expense on interest-bearing liabilities. The Bank’s primary sources of funds are: deposits; borrowings; amortization and prepayments of loan principal; and amortizations, prepayments and maturities of investment securities.

The Bank is regulated by the Missouri Division of Finance (“MDF”) and its deposits are insured by the Deposit Insurance Fund of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the “FDIC”). Lending activities and other investments

must comply with various federal statutory and regulatory requirements. The Bank is also subject to certain reserve requirements promulgated by the Federal Reserve Bank. The Bank is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines (the "FHLB"), which is one of twelve regional Federal Home Loan Banks.

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Our principal executive offices are located at 1341 West Battlefield, Springfield, Missouri 65807, and the telephone number is (417) 520-4333. Our website is www.gbankmo.com. The information on our website does not constitute a part of, and is not incorporated by reference in, this preliminary prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

The Offering

The following summary contains basic information about the Preferred Shares and the auction process and is not intended to be complete and does not contain all the information that is important to you. For a more complete understanding of the Preferred Shares and the auction process, you should read the sections of this preliminary prospectus supplement entitled “Description of Preferred Shares” and “Auction Process” and any similar sections in the accompanying prospectus.

Issuer	Guaranty Federal Bancshares, Inc.
Preferred Shares Offered by Treasury	12,000 shares of our Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, \$0.01 par value per share. The number of Preferred Shares to be sold will depend on the number of bids received in the auction described below and whether Treasury decides to sell any Preferred Shares in the auction process. See the section entitled “Auction Process” in this preliminary prospectus supplement.
Liquidation Preference	If we liquidate, dissolve or wind up (collectively, a “liquidation”), holders of the Preferred Shares will have the right to receive \$1,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends (including dividends accrued on any unpaid dividends) to, but not including, the date of payment, before any payments are made to holders of our common stock or any other capital stock that ranks, by its terms, junior as to the rights upon liquidation to the Preferred Shares.
Dividends	Dividends on the Preferred Shares are payable quarterly in arrears on each February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15. The initial dividend rate is 5% per annum through February 14, 2014, and will increase to 9% per annum on and after February 15, 2014 if not otherwise redeemed earlier for cash by us. As of the date of this preliminary prospectus supplement, we have paid in full all of our quarterly dividend obligations on the Preferred

Shares. Holders of Preferred Shares sold by Treasury in the auction, if any, that are record holders on the record date for the dividend payment date will be entitled to any declared dividends payable on such date.

Maturity

The Preferred Shares have no maturity date.

Rank

The Preferred Shares rank (i) senior to common stock or any other capital stock that ranks, by its terms, junior as to dividend rights and/or rights upon liquidation to the Preferred Shares (collectively, the “Junior Stock”), (ii) equally with any shares of our capital stock whose terms do not expressly provide that such class or series will rank senior or junior to the Preferred Shares as to dividend rights and/or rights upon liquidation (collectively, the “Parity Stock”) and (iii) junior to all of our existing and future indebtedness and any future senior securities, in each case as to dividend rights and/or rights upon liquidation.

Priority of Dividends

So long as any of the Preferred Shares remain outstanding, we may not declare or pay a dividend or other distribution on our common stock or any other shares of Junior Stock (other than dividends payable solely in common stock) or Parity Stock (other than dividends paid on a pro rata basis with the Preferred Shares), and we generally may not directly or indirectly purchase, redeem or otherwise acquire any shares of common stock, Junior Stock or Parity Stock unless all accrued and unpaid dividends on the Preferred Shares for all past dividend periods are paid in full.

Redemption

We may redeem the Preferred Shares, at any time, in whole or in part, at our option, subject to prior approval by the appropriate federal banking agency, for a redemption price equal to 100% of the liquidation preference amount per Preferred Share plus any accrued and unpaid dividends (including dividends accrued on any unpaid dividends) to but excluding the date of redemption. We have not applied for and have no present intention to redeem any of the Preferred Shares currently, but if we are able, we have a goal of redeeming prior to the scheduled dividend rate increase on February 15, 2014. Our ability to do so will depend on then present facts and circumstances and the amount of capital we hold or can raise at the holding company level. In order for us to obtain approval from our applicable regulatory authorities to redeem the Preferred Shares, we would expect that such regulatory authorities would require us to satisfy our capital commitments to them, if any, after giving effect to the redemption of the Preferred Shares so approved.

Voting Rights

Holders of the Preferred Shares generally have no voting rights. However, if we do not pay dividends on the Preferred Shares for six or more quarterly periods, whether or not consecutive, the holders of the Preferred Shares, voting as a single class with the holders of any other Parity Stock upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable, will be entitled to vote for the election of two additional directors to serve on our board of directors until all accrued and unpaid dividends

(including dividends accrued on any unpaid dividends) on the Preferred Shares for all past dividend periods are paid in full. There is no limit on the number of nominations and a plurality of eligible voters would determine the election of the two new directors.

In addition, the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 66-2/3% of the outstanding Preferred Shares is required for us to authorize, create or increase the authorized number of shares of our capital stock ranking, as to dividends or amounts payable upon liquidation, senior to the Preferred Shares, to amend, alter or repeal any provision of our charter or the Certificate of Designations for the Preferred Shares in a manner that adversely affects the rights of the holders of the Preferred Shares or to consummate a binding share exchange or reclassification of the Preferred Shares or a merger or consolidation of us with another entity unless (a) the Preferred Shares remain outstanding or are converted into or exchanged for preference shares of the surviving entity or its ultimate parent and (b) the Preferred Shares remain outstanding or such preference shares have such terms that are not materially less favorable, taken as a whole, than the rights of the Preferred Shares immediately prior to such transaction, taken as a whole.

Auction Process

The public offering price and the allocation of the Preferred Shares in this offering will be determined through an auction process conducted by _____, the joint book-running managers in this offering, in their capacity as the auction agents. The auction process will entail a modified “Dutch auction” mechanic in which bids may be submitted through the auction agents or one of the other brokers that is a member of the broker network, which are collectively referred to in this preliminary prospectus supplement as the “network brokers,” established in connection with the auction process. Each broker will make suitability determinations with respect to its own customers wishing to participate in the auction process. The auction agents will not provide bidders with any information about the bids of other bidders or auction trends, or with advice regarding bidding strategies, in connection with the auction process. We encourage you to discuss any questions regarding the bidding process and suitability determinations applicable to your bids with your broker. We do not intend to submit any bids in the auction. Certain directors of the Company have indicated that they may submit bids in the auction up to a collective amount of \$1,250,000.00. There is no assurance that the directors will submit any bids (or the amount of such bids) or that any bids submitted by the directors will be accepted.

Minimum Bid Size and Price Increments

This offering is being conducted using an auction process in which prospective purchasers are required to bid for the Preferred Shares. During the auction period, bids may be placed for Preferred Shares at any price at or above the minimum bid price of \$ _____ per share (such bid price to be in increments of \$0.01) with a minimum bid size of one Preferred Share. See “Auction Process” in this preliminary prospectus supplement.