

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

**SCHEDULE 14A**

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
(Amendment No. )

Filed by the Registrant  Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement  
 **Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**  
 Definitive Proxy Statement  
 Definitive Additional Materials  
 Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

**Bassett Furniture Industries, Inc.**

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(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.  
 Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which the transaction applies:

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(2) Aggregate number of securities to which the transaction applies:

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(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of the transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

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(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of the transaction:

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(5) Total fee paid:

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- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.  
 Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

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(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

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(3) Filing Party:

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(4) Date Filed:

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**BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED**

**Bassett, Virginia**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**TO BE HELD MARCH 8, 2017**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated (the "Company"), will be held at the Company's headquarters in Bassett, Virginia, on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., local time, for the purpose of considering and acting upon the following:

1. The election of eight Directors.
2. A proposal to approve the Company's 2017 Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
3. A proposal to ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as its independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending November 25, 2017.
4. To consider and act on an advisory vote regarding the approval of compensation paid to certain executive officers.
5. Any and all other matters that may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on January 20, 2017 as the record date for determining the stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof, and only holders of Common Stock of the Company of record at such date will be entitled to notice of or to vote at the meeting.

**YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE ACT PROMPTLY TO VOTE YOUR SHARES BY RETURNING THE ENCLOSED PROXY, DATED AND SIGNED. THE PROXY MAY BE REVOKED BY YOU AT ANY TIME BEFORE IT IS EXERCISED AND WILL NOT BE EXERCISED IF YOU ATTEND THE MEETING AND VOTE IN PERSON.**

By Order of the Board of Directors



Robert H. Spilman, Jr.  
*Chairman and Chief Executive Officer*

Bassett, Virginia

February 6, 2017

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR  
THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD MARCH 8, 2017**

The Company's Proxy Statement for the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and the Annual Report for the fiscal year ended November 26, 2016 are available at <http://investors.bassettfurniture.com/>.

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**BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED**

**3525 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett, Virginia 24055**

**PROXY STATEMENT**

**General**

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors of proxies to be used at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated (the "Company" or "Bassett") to be held at the Company's headquarters in Bassett, Virginia, at 10:00 a.m., local time, on Wednesday, March 8, 2017. This Proxy Statement and accompanying proxy are being sent to the stockholders of the Company on or about February 6, 2017.

The Company's directors, officers and employees may solicit proxies in person or by telephone, e-mail, or other means for no additional compensation. Brokers, dealers, banks or voting trustees, or their nominees, who hold stock in their names for others or hold stock for others who have the right to give voting instructions, will be asked to forward proxy materials to their principals and request authority for the execution of the proxy. The Company will reimburse such institutions for their reasonable expenses in so doing. The total cost of soliciting proxies will be borne by the Company.

Any shareholder of record may revoke his or her proxy before it is exercised by (1) sending written notice to Jay R. Hervey, Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel, Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated, Post Office Box 626, Bassett, Virginia 24055, (2) timely delivering a valid, later-dated proxy or (3) by attending the meeting and electing to vote in person. Any beneficial owner of common stock may revoke his or her proxy before it is exercised by contacting his or her bank, broker or other shareholder of record and submitting revised voting instructions. Proxies received by the Company that are in proper form will be voted as set forth on the proxy at the meeting or any adjournment of the meeting. If your shares are held in street name with your broker or by a nominee and you wish to vote in person at the meeting you will need to obtain a legal proxy from the institution that holds your shares and provide that legal proxy at the meeting.

The only matters to be considered at the meeting, so far as known to the Board of Directors, are the matters set forth in the Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders, and routine matters incidental to the conduct of the meeting. However, if any other matters should come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof, it is the intention of the persons named in the accompanying form of proxy, or their substitutes, to vote said proxy in accordance with their judgment on such matters.

Stockholders present or represented and entitled to vote on a matter at the meeting or any adjournment thereof will be entitled to one vote on such matter for each share of Common Stock, par value \$5.00 per share, of the Company (the "common stock") held by them of record at the close of business on January 20, 2017, which is the record date for determining the stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at such meeting or any adjournment thereof. The number of shares of common stock of the Company outstanding on January 20, 2017, was 10,725,012. Voting on all matters, including the election of Directors, may be by written ballot, voice vote or show of hands.

Presence in person or by proxy of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote at the meeting will constitute a quorum. If a quorum is present, Directors will be elected by a plurality of the votes cast. Action on Proposals 2, 3 and 4 will be approved if the votes cast in favor of the action exceed the votes cast opposing the action. Shares for which the holder has elected to abstain or to withhold the proxies' authority to vote (including broker non-votes) on a matter will count toward a quorum but will have no effect on the action taken with respect to such matter.

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## Principal Stockholders and Holdings of Management

The table below presents certain information as to the only persons known to the Company to be the beneficial owners of more than 5% of the common stock of the Company as of January 20, 2017. Except as otherwise noted, each of the beneficial owners listed below has sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares listed.

<u>Name and address of beneficial owner</u>	<u>Amount and nature of beneficial ownership</u>	<u>Percent of common stock outstanding</u>
GAMCO Asset Management Inc., et.al. One Corporate Center Rye, NY 10580	1,001,977 <sup>(1)</sup>	9.3%
Royce & Associates, LP 745 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10151	980,000 <sup>(2)</sup>	9.1%
Dimensional Fund Advisors LP Palisades West, Building One 6300 Bee Cave Road Austin, TX 78746	927,742 <sup>(3)</sup>	8.7%
BlackRock Inc. 55 East 52 <sup>nd</sup> Street New York, New York 10055	710,220 <sup>(4)</sup>	6.6%
Renaissance Technologies LLC, et. al. 800 Third Avenue New York, New York 10022	563,300 <sup>(5)</sup>	5.3%

(1) As reported in a Schedule 13D/A dated April 28, 2014, Gabelli Funds, LLC has sole voting and dispositive power with respect to 210,050 of these shares; GAMCO Asset Management Inc. has sole voting power with respect to 611,957 of these shares and sole dispositive power with respect to 648,557 of these shares; Teton Advisors, Inc. has sole voting and dispositive power with respect to 140,070 of these shares; Gabelli Securities, Inc. has sole voting and dispositive power with respect to 3,300 of these share; and Mario Gabelli is deemed to have beneficial ownership of the shares held by each of the foregoing persons. See the Schedule 13D/A for certain disclaimers of beneficial ownership and interests of related entities in these shares.

(2) Royce & Associates, LP, a registered investment adviser, has sole voting and dispositive power with respect to these shares. The information provided is based upon a Schedule 13G/A dated January 3, 2017.

(3) Dimensional Fund Advisors LP (“Dimensional”), a registered investment adviser, may be deemed to have beneficial ownership of these shares which are held by certain investment companies, trusts and accounts for which Dimensional serves as investment manager, adviser or sub-adviser. Dimensional has sole dispositive power with respect to all of these shares and sole voting power with respect to 915,478 of these shares. Dimensional disclaims beneficial ownership of all such shares. The information provided is based upon a Schedule 13G/A dated February 9, 2016 by Dimensional.

(4) BlackRock, Inc., as a parent holding company of certain investment advisory and management subsidiaries, has sole voting power with respect to 697,972 of these shares and sole dispositive power with respect to all of these shares. The information provided is based upon a Schedule 13G/A dated January 18, 2017.

(5) Renaissance Technologies LLC (“RT”) and Renaissance Technologies Holding Corporation, majority owner of RT (“RT Holding”), have sole voting and dispositive power with respect to these shares. The information provided is based upon a Schedule 13G dated February 11, 2016 by RT and RT Holding.

The following information with respect to beneficial ownership, as of January 20, 2017, of shares of common stock is furnished with respect to (i) each nominee for Director of the Company, (ii) each executive officer named in the Summary Compensation Table appearing later in this Proxy Statement and (iii) all current Directors and executive officers as a group:

Name of beneficial owner	Amount and nature of beneficial ownership	Percent of common stock outstanding
John R. Belk	15,000	*
Kristina Cashman	8,430	*
Paul Fulton	62,590	*
George W. Henderson, III	21,052	*
J. Walter McDowell	6,376	*
Robert H. Spilman, Jr.	216,227 <sup>1</sup>	2.0%
William C. Wampler, Jr.	11,670	*
William C. Warden, Jr.	26,052	*
Bruce R. Cohenour	32,284	*
John E. Bassett III	47,053 <sup>2, 3</sup>	*
J. Michael Daniel	43,138	*
Jack L. Hawn, Jr.	110,744 <sup>4</sup>	1.0%
Mark S. Jordan	35,180 <sup>2</sup>	*
Directors and executive officers as a group (15 persons)	689,786 <sup>1,3,4,5</sup>	6.4%

\* Less than 1% of the outstanding common stock.

(1) Includes 17,217 shares held by Mr. Spilman's wife, and 13,947 shares held in trust of which Mr. Spilman is beneficiary.

(2) Includes shares subject to options that are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days as follows: Mr. Bassett: 6,000; and Mr. Jordan: 8,000.

(3) Includes 500 shares held by Mr. Bassett's wife.

(4) Includes 89,485 shares held by Zenith Transportation, Inc., which is wholly-owned by Mr. Hawn and his wife.

(5) Includes 34,250 shares subject to options held by executive officers that are currently exercisable or that are exercisable within 60 days.

## PROPOSAL NO. 1

### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

At the meeting, eight Directors will be elected to serve, subject to the provisions of the Bylaws, until the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. It is the intention of the persons named in the accompanying proxy to vote all proxies solicited by the Board of Directors FOR the eight nominees listed below unless authority to vote for the nominees or any individual nominee is withheld by a stockholder in such stockholder's proxy. If for any reason any nominee shall not become a candidate for election as a Director at the meeting, an event not now anticipated, the proxies will be voted for the eight nominees including such substitutes as shall be designated by the Board of Directors.

The eight nominees for election as Directors are listed below. All of the nominees are currently members of the Board of Directors and, except for Mr. Belk, were elected to their current terms, which expire in 2017, at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders held on March 9, 2016. Mr. Belk was elected by the Board of Directors on July 13, 2016 to serve until the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The information set forth below includes, with respect to each nominee for election as Director, his or her age, principal occupation and employment during the past five years, the year in which he or she first became a Director of the Company, directorships held by each at other public companies during the past five years and the specific experience, qualifications, attributes and skills that led the Board to conclude that he or she should serve as a Director. In addition, our Board believes that each individual below has demonstrated outstanding achievement in his or her professional career; broad experience; wisdom, personal and professional integrity; ability to make independent, analytical inquiries; experience with and understanding of the business environment; and willingness and ability to devote adequate time to Board duties.

<u>Name and director since</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation during past five years, directorships and qualifications</u>
John R. Belk 2016	58	<p>Private Investor. President and Chief Operating Officer of Belk, Inc., from 2004 to 2016. Director, Harris Teeter Supermarkets, Inc. (1997 – 2014).</p> <p>As president of a major department store chain and a director of other public companies over the last twenty years, Mr. Belk's knowledge of retail, real estate, emerging technologies, merchandising and marketing will be of great value to the Company, especially in the areas of retail and enhancing the consumer's connection with our brand.</p>
Kristina Cashman 2007	50	<p>Chief Financial Officer, Hopdoddy Burger Bar, Inc. from 2014 to present; former President of Guy and Larry Restaurants, Inc. from 2011 to 2016; Chief Financial Officer of Eddie V's Restaurants, Inc. from 2006 through 2011; Chief Financial Officer and Secretary of P.F. Chang's China Bistro, Inc. from 2001 to 2006; Controller of P.F. Chang's China Bistro, Inc. from 1996 to 2001.</p> <p>As president of one restaurant chain and chief financial officer of three restaurant chains over the last 15 years, one of which being a public company, and as an audit manager with Ernst &amp; Young LLP prior to her employment at P.F. Chang's, Ms. Cashman brings development, management, financial and accounting experience to the Board and its Audit Committee.</p>
Paul Fulton 1993	82	<p>Chairman Emeritus since 2016 and Chairman of the Board of the Company from 1997 to 2016; Chief Executive Officer of the Company from 1997 to 2000; Dean of the Kenan-Flagler Business School of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 1994 to 1997; President of Sara Lee Corporation from 1988 to 1993. Director, Carter's, Inc.</p> <p>Mr. Fulton is well qualified to serve as a member of the Board of Directors due to his leadership experience with the Company and other public companies and his extensive knowledge of the home furnishings and other industries.</p>
George W. Henderson, III 2004	68	<p>Private Investor, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Burlington Industries, Inc. (manufacturer of textile products) from 1995 to 2003. Director, Lincoln National Corporation.</p> <p>Mr. Henderson's experience as the chief executive officer of a major textile manufacturer provides the Board with both leadership skills and an in depth understanding of an industry that has experienced similar challenges as the furniture industry due to increasing foreign competition and outsourcing of manufacturing operations.</p>
J. Walter McDowell 2011	66	<p>Private Investor; Business Consultant. Chief Executive Officer, Carolinas/Virginia Banking – Wachovia Corporation from 2005 to 2007.</p> <p>Mr. McDowell's more than 35 years of experience at Wachovia and later in financial and business consulting provides valuable perspectives into the protection and deployment of the Company's balance sheet and into its banking relationships.</p>

Name and director since	Age	Occupation during past five years, directorship and qualifications
Robert H. Spilman, Jr. 1997	60	Chairman since 2016 and President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company since 2000; President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company from 1997 to 2000. Director, Harris Teeter Supermarkets, Inc. (2002 – 2014) and Dominion Resources, Inc.  Mr. Spilman’s 31 year career at the Company, including 16 years as Chief Executive Officer, gives him an in-depth knowledge of the Company and the furniture industry.
William C. Wampler, Jr. 2004	57	Former Executive Director, New College Institute from 2012 to 2015; former member of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Virginia from 1988 to 2012; Retired Colonel, U.S. Army Reserve; Managing Member of Wampler Consulting Group, LLC since 1995.  As a former member of the Senate of Virginia and being the former ranking member of the Finance Committee for his party, Mr. Wampler brings to the Board over 24 years of experience in leadership, developing consensus and balancing budgets.
William C. Warden, Jr. 2004	64	Private Investor. Executive Vice President, Lowe’s Companies, Inc. from 1996 to 2003. Director, Harris Teeter Supermarkets, Inc. (2008 – 2014)  Through his senior management experience at a national retail chain, Mr. Warden brings to the Board expertise in real estate, legal and administrative matters that are particularly relevant to the Company’s growing retail operations.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

### Board and Board Committee Information

Our Board of Directors currently consists of nine directors. The Board of Directors has determined that each of Ms. Cashman, the Hon. Sen. Wampler and Messrs. Belk, Henderson, McDowell, Pond and Warden are independent, as defined by The NASDAQ Stock Market (“NASDAQ”).

The Board of Directors met five times during the 2016 fiscal year. Each Director attended at least 80% of the meetings of the Board of Directors and committees on which such Director served. It is the policy of the Company that Directors nominated for election should attend annual meetings of stockholders. A regular meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled in conjunction with the annual meeting, and all ten Directors who were then serving on and nominated for election to the Board attended last year’s annual meeting.

The Board of Directors currently has two standing committees: an Audit Committee and an Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee. The charters for each of these committees are available on the Company’s website at [www.bassettfurniture.com](http://www.bassettfurniture.com).

**Audit Committee:** The Audit Committee is composed of Ms. Cashman and Messrs. Henderson and McDowell. Among other things, the Audit Committee engages or dismisses independent auditors; approves all audit, audit-related and other auditor fees and services; reviews, evaluates and monitors the performance of audit activities; reviews periodic financial filings; and reviews internal audit activities. The Board of Directors has determined that each member of the Audit Committee meets the current independence and experience requirements contained in the listing standards of NASDAQ. The Board of Directors has also determined that Mr. Henderson is an “audit committee financial expert” as defined in the regulations promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. The Audit Committee met seven times during the 2016 fiscal year.

**Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee:** The Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee is composed of Messrs. Belk and Warden and the Hon. Sen. Wampler. The Committee reviews and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors with respect to executive compensation; establishes, reviews and recommends changes to the organizational structure of the Company so as to utilize the management resources to best respond to the changing demands of the marketplace; reviews the individual performance of each Director in terms of overall contribution to the betterment of the Company, including meeting attendance and participation; reviews the composition of the Board; and recommends a slate of Directors for nomination to the Board. The Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee met four times during the 2016 fiscal year.

Board Leadership Structure and Board's Role in Risk Oversight. Our former Chairman of the Board, Paul Fulton, retired as our Chief Executive Officer in 2000 and as Chairman of the Board in 2016, when he was named Chairman Emeritus. As a former business school dean, former CEO and COO of other companies, and former CEO and Chairman of the Company, Mr. Fulton brings extensive experience in business, generally, and the Company's business in particular. We believe this background enhances the role of Chairman Emeritus in the development of long-term strategic plans and serving as counsel to senior management, especially to the Chairman and CEO, in the implementation of such plans. Mr. Warden, who has served on the Board for more than twelve years, during several of which he also served as Audit Committee chairman, was named Lead Independent Director in 2016. He worked as an executive for Lowe's Companies for more than two decades, handling real estate, legal and administrative matters, retiring in 2003 as Executive Vice President – Administration. He also has other public company board experience. As Lead Independent Director, Mr. Warden is involved in the board meeting agenda, consults with Board committee chairs, serves as liaison between the Chairman and the rest of the Board, presides during meetings of the Board in executive session and in the Chairman's absence, and consults with the Chairman on shareholder and board matters. Mr. Spilman, after more than 30 years with the Company, including the last sixteen years as President and CEO, was named Chairman of the Board in 2016. Given Mr. Spilman's in-depth knowledge of the Company and the furniture industry, and also for the reasons given above, we believe the current leadership structure of the Board is appropriate for our Company.

Our Board of Directors believes that full and open communication between management and the Board of Directors is essential for effective risk management and oversight. Our Board meets with our Chief Executive Officer and other senior management at regular Board meetings to discuss strategy and risks facing the Company. Periodically, senior management delivers presentations to our Board or a Board committee regarding strategic matters and matters involving material risk.

While our Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for risk oversight, our Board committees assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities in certain areas of risk. The Audit Committee assists our Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to risk management in the areas of internal control over financial reporting, disclosure controls and procedures and legal and regulatory compliance. The Audit Committee discusses with management and the independent auditor significant business, financial and legal risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposure. The Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee assists our Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to the management of risks arising from our compensation policies and programs, board organization, membership and structure, corporate governance and succession planning for our Directors and senior management. While Board committees are responsible for assisting the Board in evaluating certain risks and overseeing the management of such risks, our entire Board of Directors is regularly informed through management and committee reports about such risks and steps taken to manage and mitigate them.

## **Director Compensation**

The Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee is responsible for recommending director compensation to the Board of Directors. The following compensation arrangements have been recommended by the Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

Prior to fiscal 2017, Directors who are not employees of the Company received an annual retainer fee of \$20,000 and a fee of \$1,000 per committee and \$2,000 per board meeting attended. Chairpersons of the Board of Directors' standing committees received an additional fee of \$1,000 per regular Board meeting. Going forward, the annual retainer has been increased to \$45,000, and meeting fees will no longer be paid. The Lead Independent Director receives an additional annual retainer fee of \$15,000, the chairperson of the Audit Committee receives an additional annual retainer fee of \$10,000 and the chairperson of the Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee receives an additional annual retainer fee of \$5,000. Under the 2010 Stock Incentive Plan, each non-employee director received an annual grant of restricted stock on the first business day of the month following the Annual Meeting of Stockholders equal to \$20,000 divided by the fair market value of the common stock. This will be increased to a \$25,000 annual grant beginning with the grant following the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Mr. Paul Fulton typically receives a restricted stock grant in the same amount as the award to non-employee Directors as part of his compensation for serving as Chairman Emeritus. Directors who are also employees of the Company receive no additional compensation for serving as Directors.

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## DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

Name	Fees earned or paid in cash (1) (\$)	Stock awards (2) (\$)	Total (\$)
John R. Belk	12,000	—	12,000
Peter W. Brown, M.D.	21,000	20,000	41,000
Paul Fulton	—	20,000	20,000
Howard H. Haworth	37,000	20,000	57,000
George W. Henderson, III	37,000	20,000	57,000
Kristina Cashman	49,000	20,000	69,000
J. Walter McDowell	37,000	20,000	57,000
Dale C. Pond	31,000	20,000	51,000
William C. Wampler, Jr.	43,000	20,000	63,000
William C. Warden, Jr.	53,000	20,000	73,000

(1) Includes annual retainer fee, committee chairperson fees and Board/committee meeting fees.

(2) Under the 2010 Stock Incentive Plan, each of the Company's outside Directors received an award of 646 shares of restricted stock on April 1, 2016. These shares had a grant date fair value of \$30.95 per share and will vest on April 1, 2017.

### *Stock Ownership Guidelines*

In fiscal 2015, the Board established stock ownership guidelines for non-employee Directors receiving restricted stock. Recipients should not sell common stock of the Company until the following stock ownership guidelines are met:

Each non-employee Director should accumulate and hold common stock of the Company with a minimum value equivalent to 5 times the Director's annual retainer and meeting fees for the previous year.

### **Policies and Procedures Governing Director Nominations**

The Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee evaluates candidates taking into account their individual skills and characteristics relative to the skills and characteristics of the current Board as a whole. Factors considered include diversity, age and such skills (e.g., an understanding of appropriate technologies, work experience relevant to the Company's businesses, and decision-making ability) as are suited to the Company's and the Board's needs at the time. Although the Company has no diversity policy, the Board believes that diversity with respect to factors such as background, experience, skills, race, gender and national origin is an important consideration in board composition.

Two members of the Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee are selected each year to identify, screen, interview and submit Director candidates to the Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee. Prospective candidates are typically identified by current non-management or former members of the Board. This process begins after an annual assessment and report by the Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee to the full Board.

The Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee will consider Director candidates recommended by stockholders. A stockholder requesting that a recommendation be reviewed by the Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee should submit such information as the stockholder deems pertinent for service on the Board, such as age, experience and skills, and any other information required to be disclosed in a proxy statement regarding the prospect. This information must be accompanied by the prospective candidate's written consent to serve on the Board of Directors if nominated and elected. This information should be received by the Secretary of the Company at P.O. Box 626, Bassett, Virginia 24055, by December 1, 2017 for nominations to be made at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

### **Interested Party Communications with the Board of Directors**

Interested parties, including security holders, may send communications to the Board of Directors by mailing the same addressed to the Board of Directors (or addressed to a specific individual Director), Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated, P.O. Box 626, Bassett, Virginia 24055. The Board of Directors, including a majority of the independent directors, has adopted a procedure for receiving and addressing such communications.

## Code of Business Conduct

Bassett maintains a Code of Business Conduct (the “Code”), which is administered by the Audit Committee and is applicable to all of the Company’s employees, officers and Directors. The purpose of the Code is to convey the Company’s policies and practices for conducting business in accordance with its commitment to applying high ethical standards to its business practice. Any waiver of the Code for executive officers or Directors will be made only by the Board of Directors or its Audit Committee and will be promptly disclosed. In support of the Code, the Company has provided employees with a number of avenues for the reporting of ethics violations or similar concerns, including a process for making such reports anonymously.

The Code was adopted by the Board of Directors and is reviewed periodically by the Board of Directors. The Code is available for review on the Company’s website, [www.bassettfurniture.com](http://www.bassettfurniture.com), and the Company will post any amendments to, or waivers for executive officers from, the Code on that website. A copy of the Code may be obtained, without charge, upon written request to Jay R. Hervey, Secretary, Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated, P.O. Box 626, Bassett, Virginia 24055.

## Other Transactions

The Company recognizes that transactions between Bassett and related persons present a potential for actual or perceived conflicts of interest. The Company’s general policies with respect to such transactions are included in its Code. As a supplement to the Code, the Audit Committee has adopted a written policy setting out the procedures and standards to be followed for the identification and evaluation of “related party transactions.” For purposes of the policy, a related party transaction is any transaction or series of related transactions in excess of \$120,000 in which the Company is a party and in which a “related person” has a material interest. Related persons include Directors, Director nominees, executive officers, 5% beneficial owners and members of their immediate families. The Audit Committee has determined that certain transactions are deemed to be pre-approved under this policy. These include (i) transactions with another company in which the related person’s only interest is as a director or a beneficial owner of less than 10% of that company’s outstanding stock or limited partnership interests, or both, and (ii) certain compensation arrangements that have either been disclosed in our proxy statement or approved by our Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee.

The Company collects information about potential related party transactions in its annual questionnaires completed by Directors and officers. Potential related party transactions are first reviewed and assessed by our General Counsel to consider the materiality of the transactions and then reported to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee reviews and considers all relevant information available to it about each related party transaction. A related party transaction is approved or ratified only if the Audit Committee determines that it is in, or is not inconsistent with, the best interests of the Company and its stockholders and in compliance with the Code. During 2015, the Company consummated the purchase of the remaining 51% in Zenith Freight Lines, LLC from Zenith Transportation, Inc. (owned by Jack Hawn and his wife, Debbie Hawn), with the purchase price of \$19,111,000 being paid with 89,485 shares of Company stock, \$9 million cash at closing, and a \$9 million note payable in three annual principal installments of \$3 million each, together with interest thereon at an annual rate equal to the one-year LIBOR. All members of the Audit Committee and the full Board approved the transaction. Pursuant to the transaction, Jack Hawn, as President of Zenith Freight Lines, LLC, became an executive officer of the Company. Mr. Hawn was not a “related person” prior to the closing of the transaction.

Mr. Hawn’s spouse, also an employee of Zenith, was paid \$162,164 in salary, bonus and benefits in 2016. Mr. Cohenour’s spouse, whom he married during 2016 and who is an employee of the Company, was paid \$172,797 in salary, bonus and benefits in 2016. Both of these employment arrangements were reported to the Audit Committee, which approved them in accordance with the above policy.

## Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”) requires the Company’s Directors and executive officers and persons who own more than 10% of the common stock to file with the SEC initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership of the common stock and other equity securities. Executive officers, Directors and greater than 10% stockholders are required to furnish the Company with copies of all such reports they file. To the Company’s knowledge, based solely on a review of the copies of such reports furnished to the Company and written representations from the Company’s Directors and executive officers that no other reports were required, during the fiscal year ended November 26, 2016, all Section 16(a) filing requirements applicable to its Directors, executive officers and greater than 10% beneficial stockholders were complied with, except that each of Sen. Wampler and Ms. Cashman filed a Form 4 report relating to the sale of stock one day late due to inadvertence.

## Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors (the “Audit Committee”) is composed of three Directors and operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors and annually reassessed and updated, as needed, in accordance with applicable rules of the SEC and NASDAQ. Each of the members of the Audit Committee is independent, as defined by NASDAQ.

Management is responsible for the Company’s internal controls and the financial reporting process. The independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for performing an independent audit of the Company’s financial statements and internal control over financial reporting and issuing their report thereon. The Audit Committee’s primary responsibility is to monitor and oversee these processes. The Audit Committee also selects the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm.

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In this context, the Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the Company's financial statements with both management and the independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee also discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm matters required of auditors to be discussed by auditing standards generally accepted in the United States, including the matters required to be discussed by Auditing Standards No. 61 (Codification of Statements on Auditing Standards, AU §380) as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3200T. The Company's independent registered public accounting firm also provided to the Audit Committee the written disclosures and the letter required pursuant to Rule 3526 of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, *Communication with Audit Committees Concerning Independence*, and the Audit Committee discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm their independence.

Based on the foregoing, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended November 26, 2016 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on or about January 19, 2017. The Audit Committee also recommends that the shareholders ratify the retention of Ernst & Young LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending November 25, 2017.

Audit Committee:

Kristina Cashman, Chairperson  
George W. Henderson, III  
J. Walter McDowell

### **Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee Report**

As detailed in its charter, the Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee of the Board oversees the Company's executive compensation program on behalf of the Board. In the performance of this function, the Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee, among other things, reviewed and discussed with management the Compensation Discussion and Analysis set forth below in this proxy statement. Based on this review and discussion, the Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee recommended to the Company's Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended November 26, 2016 and this proxy statement.

Organization, Compensation and  
Nominating Committee:

William C. Wampler, Jr., Chairman  
William C. Warden, Jr.  
John R. Belk

## **COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

### **Introduction**

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis (CD&A) describes the material elements of compensation paid to our executive officers as well as the objectives and material factors underlying our compensation policies and decisions. The information in this CD&A provides context for the compensation disclosures in the tables and related discussions that follow in this proxy statement. The Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee of the Board, which oversees our executive compensation program, is referred to as the "Committee" in this CD&A. The terms "we" and "our" refer to Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated. When we refer to the "named executives" we are referring to the six individuals listed in the Summary Compensation Table appearing later in this proxy statement.

The Committee has assisted the Company in developing and implementing compensation policies and programs which seek to improve the profitability of the Company and to maximize stockholder value over time. To accomplish this, the Directors who comprise the Committee have developed executive compensation policies that are consistent with, and directly linked to, the Company's business objectives. These business objectives represent a composite of factors that are considered important for the future success of the Company. These factors attempt to balance long and short-term performance, including the continued maintenance of a strong balance sheet, growth of pre-tax profitability and earnings per share, control of costs, market growth and diversification and other criteria which may be introduced over time as a result of changes in the home furnishings environment.

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## Compensation Philosophy and Objectives

The primary goal of our executive compensation program is the same as our goal for operating the company – to maximize corporate performance and thereby create value for our shareholders. To achieve this goal we have designed our executive compensation program to achieve the following objectives:

- Attract and retain talented and experienced executives in our industry;
- Motivate and reward executives whose knowledge, skills and performance are critical to our success;
- Align the interests of our executives and stockholders, by encouraging executives to increase stockholder value and rewarding executives when stockholder value increases; and
- Motivate our executives to manage our business to meet our short-term and long-term corporate goals and business objectives, and reward them for meeting these objectives.

We use a mix of short-term compensation in the form of base salaries and cash incentive bonuses and long-term compensation in the form of equity incentives to provide a total compensation structure that is designed to encourage our executives to achieve these objectives. All of our executive employees are employed at-will, other than Mr. Hawn.

## Determining Executive Compensation

The Committee is responsible for developing, administering and interpreting the compensation program for executive officers and other key employees. The Committee was appointed by our Board of Directors, and consists entirely of Directors who are “outside directors” for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, and “non-employee directors” for purposes of Rule 16b-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The Committee may delegate some or all of its responsibilities to one or more subcommittees whenever necessary to comply with any statutory or regulatory requirements or otherwise deemed appropriate by the Committee. The Committee has the authority to retain consultants and other advisors to assist with its duties and has sole authority to approve the fees and other retention terms of such consultants and advisors.

Our chief executive officer makes recommendations to the Committee regarding the salaries, bonus arrangements and equity grants, if any, for key employees, including all executive officers, except him. In the case of discretionary bonuses for executive officers, which are based on individual performance, the chief executive officer’s evaluation of such performance is provided to and reviewed by the Committee. Based on the foregoing, the Committee uses its judgment in making compensation decisions that will best carry out our philosophy and objectives for executive compensation. The decisions are reviewed by the full Board, with the exception of decisions on stock or option awards which are made by the Committee to satisfy tax law requirements.

Within the context of the overall objectives of our compensation programs, we determined the specific amounts of compensation to be paid to each of our executives in fiscal 2016 based on a number of factors including:

- The roles and responsibilities of our executives;
- The individual experience and skills of our executives;
- The amounts of compensation being paid to our other executives;
- Our executives’ historical compensation at our company; and
- Our understanding of the amount of compensation generally paid by similarly situated companies to their executives with similar roles and responsibilities.

In evaluating the compensation generally paid by similarly situated companies, we have historically taken into account available data relating to the compensation practices of other companies within and outside our industry. During 2015, Hay Group conducted analyses of our fiscal 2014 executive compensation relative to a peer group approved by the Committee and relative to the 2014 Retail Executive Total Remuneration Survey consisting of 143 companies. The peer group consists of American Woodmark, Culp, The Dixie Group, Ethan Allen Interiors, Flexsteel Industries, Haverty Furniture, Hooker Furniture, Kirkland’s, La-Z-Boy and Stanley Furniture. The analysis relative to the peer group found that total direct compensation (i.e., salary, annual bonus and equity incentives combined) was at the 45<sup>th</sup> percentile for our CEO and between the 30<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> percentiles for our other executives. The analysis relative to the retail market found that total direct compensation (defined in the same manner) was at the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile for our CEO and between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> percentiles for our other executives.

At the 2015 and 2016 Annual Meetings of Stockholders, we received substantial support for the compensation of our named executives, with approximately 97% and 99%, respectively, of the votes cast on the “say on pay” proposal approving such compensation. The outcome of the advisory votes on executive compensation at the 2015 and 2016 Annual Meetings did not affect the Company’s executive compensation decisions and policies.

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## Elements of our Executive Compensation Program

Our executive compensation primarily consists of base salary, the potential for cash bonuses, equity-based incentives and benefit programs. We discuss each of the primary elements of our executive compensation in detail below. While we have identified particular compensation objectives that each element of executive compensation serves, our compensation programs are designed to complement each other and collectively serve all of our executive compensation objectives described above.

### Base Salary

Base salaries are intended to provide a level of compensation sufficient to attract and retain an effective management team when considered in combination with other components of our compensation program. The base salary of each executive officer is reviewed annually to determine if it is equitably aligned with our other executive officers and at a sufficient level to attract and retain top talent. Base salaries for the executive officers were unchanged for fiscal 2014, were increased by 4% to 5% for fiscal 2015, and were increased by 2% to 5% for fiscal 2016. Our CEO's base salary was increased by 3% for fiscal 2016.

### Discretionary Bonuses

Historically, cash bonuses for executives have been primarily earned through performance-based incentive bonus awards and, to a lesser extent, discretionary bonus awards. In fiscal 2015, our named executives received discretionary bonuses of 14% to 26% of base salary in recognition of the improvement in profitability achieved by the Company. No discretionary bonuses were paid to named executives for fiscal 2014 or fiscal 2016.

### Performance-based Bonus Awards

The primary objectives of our performance-based bonus awards are to provide incentive for superior work, to motivate our executives toward higher achievement and business results, to tie our executives' goals and interests to ours and our stockholders' and to enable us to attract and retain highly qualified individuals. Annual incentives are established for each executive based on our attainment of performance goals set by the Committee at threshold, target and maximum levels. When applicable, the bonus earned is calculated ratably from the threshold to the target and from the target to the maximum. No bonus is earned unless and until performance exceeds the threshold performance level. Company operating income has been the single performance measure for the last four fiscal years, except in the case of Mr. Hawn, whose performance measure was Zenith's operating income in fiscal 2016. Having a single performance measure for most of our executive officers is intended to align our executives' focus on the Company's overall improved profitability and sales growth. The performance levels required to earn the target level of bonus are based on the internal financial goals set in connection with our Board of Directors' consideration and approval of our annual operating plan. Consistent with our emphasis on tying compensation to performance, maximum bonus opportunities for executives are set at a significant percentage of base salary, with the maximum performance goal set at a level that we believe will make it difficult for the executives to earn bonuses at the maximum levels.

For fiscal 2016, the threshold, target and maximum performance goals under the bonus program were set at \$25.7 million, \$29.865 million and \$33.115 million, respectively, of Company operating income before bonus expense for the named executives other than Mr. Hawn. The threshold, target and maximum performance goals under Mr. Hawn's bonus program were set at \$3.823 million, \$4.443 million and \$4.927 million, respectively, of Zenith operating income before bonus expense. The bonus opportunities for the named executives expressed as a percentage of salary are shown in the table below. The dollar equivalents of these bonus opportunities are shown in the Grants of Plan-Based Awards table on page 15 of this proxy statement.

### Bonus Opportunity as a Percentage of Base Salary

(rounded to the nearest percent)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Threshold</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Robert H. Spilman, Jr.	36%	88%	156%
Bruce R. Cohenour	19%	47%	83%
Jack L. Hawn, Jr.	12%	29%	51%
John E. Bassett III	24%	59%	104%
Mark S. Jordan	24%	59%	104%
J. Michael Daniel	24%	59%	104%

The actual performance achieved in fiscal 2016 was \$30.036 million of Company operating income before bonus expense, which was between the target and the maximum performance goals. As a result, the executives, with the exception of Mr. Hawn, earned performance bonuses for fiscal 2016 that were slightly greater than target. For example, Mr. Spilman's base salary for fiscal 2016 was \$398,333 and his target and maximum bonus opportunities as a percentage of salary were approximately 88% and 156%. His bonus was calculated ratably between the target and maximum amounts, resulting in an actual bonus for fiscal 2016 of \$366,154 or 92% of his salary. For Mr. Hawn, the actual performance achieved in fiscal 2016 was \$3.841 million of Zenith operating income before bonus expense, which was between the threshold and the target performance goals. As a result, Mr. Hawn earned a ratably performance bonus that was slightly greater than the threshold.

## *Equity Incentive Compensation*

We periodically grant equity incentive awards in the form of stock options and restricted stock to align the interests of our executives with our stockholders by providing our executives with strong incentives to increase stockholder value. In fiscal 2014 and in fiscal 2015, each of our named executives received an award of performance shares to be issued in one year subject to the Company achieving a performance goal based on cash flow from operations for fiscal 2014 and fiscal 2015, respectively. The cash flow from operations measure is intended to focus attention on the Company's goal to generate sufficient cash from operations to fund the growth of the business. Under the terms of the awards, if the performance goal was met, the executive would receive restricted shares that are subject to a two year vesting condition. If the performance goal was not met, no shares would be issued. Subsequent to the end of each of the fiscal years 2014 and 2015, the Committee determined that the performance goal for these awards was met and thus the restricted shares were issued in January 2015 and January 2016 and vest two years from the respective issue or measurement dates. No equity incentive awards were granted to the executive officers in fiscal 2016. Early in fiscal 2017, each of our named executives, other than Mr. Hawn, received an award of performance shares to be issued in one year if a performance measure threshold of Company operating cash flow is met. Additional performance shares would be issued ratably up to the Company operating cash flow target. Under the terms of the awards, if the performance threshold is met, the executive would receive restricted shares that are subject to a two-year vesting condition. If the performance threshold is not met, no shares would be issued.

The chief executive officer recommends to the Committee the recipients and sizes of equity awards. In evaluating these recommendations, the Committee considers a number of factors including the Committee's subjective evaluation of the executive officer's potential contribution to the Company's future success and the level of incentive already provided by the number and terms of the executive officer's existing stock incentive holdings. The grant date of any such equity award is the same date the Board of Directors or the Committee approves the award. The exercise price of the stock options is the fair market value of the common stock on the date the award is approved by the Board of Directors or the Committee. Fair market value is calculated according to the closing price of our common stock on NASDAQ on that date.

We do not have any program, plan or practice to time stock option grants in coordination with the release of material non-public information.

## *Retirement and Deferred Compensation Plans*

Our chief executive officer participates in the Company's Supplemental Retirement Income Plan and Executive Officer Deferred Compensation Plan, which were established in 1984 for certain key executives employed at that time. The plans were intended to promote the long term service of, and to provide benefits upon the retirement, death or disability of, the participants, of whom our chief executive officer is the only remaining employee.

## *Change in Control Arrangements*

The 1997 Employee Stock Plan under which options were awarded to executives prior to fiscal 2010 provides that the vesting of all options granted under the plan will accelerate upon a "change in control," as defined in the plan. The award agreements for options and restricted stock granted prior to fiscal 2016 under the 2010 Stock Incentive Plan similarly provide for accelerated vesting of such equity awards upon a "change in control," as defined in that plan. For options and restricted stock granted under the 2010 Stock Incentive Plan in fiscal 2016 or later, the 2010 Stock Incentive Plan includes a "double trigger" feature that provides that such awards will vest only upon a recipient's qualifying termination of employment that occurs on or within two years after the date of a "change in control," as defined in that plan, unless the award is not assumed by the acquiring or surviving company in such change in control. For this purpose, "qualifying termination of employment" means the recipient's termination by the company without cause or termination by the recipient for good reason. In addition, the Company has entered into employment continuity agreements with certain executive officers, including each of the named executives, with the exception of Mr. Hawn. The terms of the agreements, which are described in greater detail elsewhere in this proxy statement, generally provide for certain lump sum payments and continued benefits in the event that an executive is terminated without cause or resigns with good reason within specified periods following a change in control. The Committee believes that the foregoing arrangements will help the Company retain continuity of management during the uncertain period leading up to an actual or potential change in control by giving the executives certain assurances of financial security. Such assurances should result in the executives being less distracted by personal risks and better able to devote their full time and best efforts to the performance of their duties.

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## Severance Arrangements

In January 2009, the Committee recommended, and the Board of Directors adopted, the Severance Program for Officers and Management Employees. This program, which is described in greater detail elsewhere in this proxy statement, is designed to provide management with some assurances of financial security during difficult economic times. The Committee believes that these assurances will result in management being less distracted by the personal risks of being laid off and more focused on carrying out their duties to the best of their ability.

## Clawback Policy

Effective February 1, 2016, the Board of Directors adopted a clawback policy that provides that we will seek to recover any erroneously awarded incentive-based compensation received by a “covered officer” (which term includes any current or former executive officer of the Company) during the three-year period preceding any date on which we are required to prepare an accounting restatement due to our material noncompliance with any financial reporting requirement under the federal securities laws. A copy of the clawback policy is available on our website, [www.bassettfurniture.com](http://www.bassettfurniture.com).

## Stock Ownership Guidelines

In fiscal 2013, the Committee established stock ownership guidelines for members of management who are recipients of long term incentive stock awards; i.e., restricted stock or options. Recipients should not sell common stock of the Company until the following stock ownership guidelines are met:

	<u>Management Level</u>	<u>Value as a Multiple of Base Annual Salary</u>
CEO		4x
Senior Vice President		2x
Other		1x

Unvested stock options and/or restricted shares are not considered toward ownership levels. The Committee may approve exceptions or waivers from these guidelines for recipients for charitable gifts, estate planning transactions, educational expenses, purchase of a primary residence, court ordered transactions or other instances in which the required ownership would result in a severe hardship with respect to the recipient.

## Other Components of Executive Compensation

Most benefits offered to executive officers are similar to those offered to all employees. These programs are designed to provide protection against financial catastrophe that can result from illness, disability or death. In addition, the Company provides a limited number of perquisites to its executive officers. The Committee believes that its perquisites are reasonable and consistent with the overall executive compensation program. These perquisites may include such personal benefits as executive physicals and long-term disability insurance coverage.

## Effect of Accounting and Tax Treatment on Compensation Decisions

In the review and establishment of our compensation programs, we consider the anticipated accounting and tax implications to us and our executives. However, these factors alone are not dispositive, and we also consider the cash and non-cash impact of the programs and whether a program is consistent with our overall compensation philosophy and objectives.

One of the tax implications that the Committee considers is the deductibility of executive compensation. Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code imposes a \$1 million limit on the amount of annual compensation that can be deducted by the Company with respect to each of the chief executive officer and the four other most highly compensated executive officers. Performance-based compensation that meets certain requirements will not be subject to this deductibility limit. It is generally the Company’s policy to seek to qualify the performance-based components of its compensation program for this exclusion from the Section 162(m) limitation as necessary to maximize the deductibility of executive compensation so long as doing so is consistent with the Committee’s objectives for executive compensation.

## Compensation-Related Risk

The Company regularly assesses the risks related to our compensation programs, including our executive compensation programs and does not believe that the risks arising from our compensation policies and practices are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company. Incentive award targets and bonus opportunities are reviewed annually allowing the Committee to maintain an appropriate balance between rewarding high performance without encouraging excessive risk.

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## Executive Compensation

The following table presents information with respect to total compensation of Bassett's Chief Executive Officer, its principal financial officer and its four other most highly compensated executive officers (the "named executives") for the fiscal years ended November 26, 2016, November 28, 2015 and November 29, 2014.

### SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

<u>Name and principal position</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Salary (\$)</u>	<u>Bonus (\$)</u>	<u>Stock awards (\$)(2)</u>	<u>Option awards (\$)(2)</u>	<u>Non-equity incentive plan compensation (\$)</u>	<u>Change in pension value and non- qualified deferred compensation earnings (\$)</u>	<u>All other compensation (\$)(1)</u>	<u>Total (\$)</u>
Robert H. Spilman, Jr., Chief Executive Officer and President	2016	398,333	0	0	0	366,154	382,183	24,712	1,171,382
	2015	388,750	99,585	202,100	0	442,623	1,459,771	19,624	2,612,453
	2014	375,000	0	169,440	0	411,821	871,781	14,512	1,842,554
Bruce R. Cohenour, Senior Vice President, Sales & Merchandising	2016	343,833	0	0	0	167,472	0	14,336	525,641
	2015	336,917	45,643	121,260	0	202,869	0	10,872	717,561
	2014	325,000	0	84,720	0	188,751	0	9,076	607,547
Jack L. Hawn, Jr. Senior Vice President; President of Zenith Freight Lines	2016	308,333	0	0	0	38,568	0	3,741	350,642
John E. Bassett, III, Senior Vice President, Wood	2016	198,333	0	0	0	121,683	0	14,738	334,754
	2015	189,167	33,195	101,050	0	147,541	0	12,112	483,065
	2014	180,000	0	84,720	0	137,274	0	8,760	410,754
Mark S. Jordan, Senior Vice President, Upholstery	2016	198,333	0	0	0	121,683	0	14,738	334,754
	2015	189,167	33,195	101,050	0	147,541	0	12,112	483,065
	2014	180,000	0	84,720	0	137,274	0	8,580	410,574
J. Michael Daniel, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	2016	198,333	0	0	0	121,683	0	14,738	334,754
	2015	189,167	33,195	101,050	0	147,541	0	12,112	483,065
	2014	180,000	0	84,720	0	137,274	0	8,760	410,754

- (1) No named executive received personal benefits in excess of \$10,000 during fiscal 2016. For fiscal 2016, includes dividends paid to the named executives with respect to previously unvested stock awards as follows: Mr. Spilman - \$15,072, Mr. Cohenour - \$7,916, Mr. Bassett - \$7,536, Mr. Jordan - \$7,536, and Mr. Daniel - \$7,536.
- (2) Represents the aggregate grant date fair value of the awards made in each fiscal year as computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. These amounts do not necessarily correspond to the actual value that may be recognized by each named executive officer. Additional information regarding outstanding awards, including corresponding exercise prices and expiration dates, can be found in the "Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End" table on page 16. The assumptions used in determining the grant date fair values of the stock and option awards are set forth in Note 13 to our Consolidated Financial Statements, included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended November 26, 2016.



## GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS

The following table sets forth information concerning individual grants of plan-based awards.

Name	Grant date	Estimated future payouts under non-equity incentive plan awards			All other stock awards: number of shares of stock or units (#)(1)	All other option awards: number of securities underlying options (#)	Exercise or base price of option awards (\$/sh)	Grant date value of stock and option awards (\$)
		Threshold (\$)	Target (\$)	Maximum (\$)				
Robert H. Spilman, Jr. Annual Cash Incentive	-	145,000	352,000	621,000				
Bruce R. Cohenour Annual Cash Incentive	-	66,000	161,000	284,000				
Jack L. Hawn, Jr. Annual Cash Incentive	-	37,000	90,000	158,000				
John E. Bassett III Annual Cash Incentive	-	48,000	117,000	206,000				
Mark S. Jordan Annual Cash Incentive	-	48,000	117,000	206,000				
J. Michael Daniel Annual Cash Incentive	-	48,000	117,000	206,000				

### Discussion for Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table

#### Salary

The base salaries for the named executives were unchanged in fiscal 2014, were increased by 4% to 5% in fiscal 2015 and were increased by 2% to 5% in fiscal 2016. Consistent with our emphasis on paying for performance and aligning our executives' interests with those of our stockholders, our chief executive officer's salary has increased only 19% in the aggregate from fiscal 2007 to fiscal 2016.

#### Performance-Based Cash Bonuses

For each of the named executives, cash bonuses could be earned in fiscal 2016 under awards utilizing a formula and performance measure bonus threshold, target and maximum set by the Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee. The named executives' cash incentive opportunities were based on company operating income with the exception of Mr. Hawn's bonus opportunity, which was based on Zenith operating income. For purposes of these awards, operating income is defined in the same manner as for financial reporting purposes. 23% of the maximum bonus opportunity would be earned based on achieving the performance measure threshold. If the performance measure target was achieved, the executive would receive 57% of his maximum bonus opportunity. The bonus opportunity increases ratably from the threshold to the target and from the target to the maximum. The performance measure was achieved at 59% of the maximum for named executives other than Mr. Hawn, and at 24% for Mr. Hawn.

#### Stock Incentive Awards

In fiscal 2014 and in fiscal 2015, each of the named executives, other than Mr. Hawn, received an award of performance shares under the 2010 Stock Incentive Plan to be issued in the form of restricted stock in one year subject to the Company achieving a performance goal based on cash flow from operations for fiscal 2014 and for fiscal 2015, respectively. The Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee determined that the performance goals for the 2014 and 2015 awards were met and thus the restricted shares were issued in January 2015 and January 2016, respectively, and will vest two years thereafter.

All such equity awards will also vest, if earlier, upon the occurrence of certain "change in control" events (as defined in the Stock Incentive Plan), which include generally (i) the acquisition by an individual, an entity or a group of beneficial ownership or voting power of 30% or more of the Company's outstanding common stock, (ii) certain changes in the constitution of the Company's Board of Directors that have not been approved by the current Board, (iii) the occurrence of a reorganization, merger or consolidation approved by the stockholders of the Company in which the then-current stockholders cease to own at least 75% of the then outstanding shares of common stock, (v) the occurrence of a complete liquidation or dissolution of the Company approved by the stockholders of the Company and (vi) the sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company approved by the stockholders of the Company.

## Components of Total Compensation

In fiscal 2016, salary and performance based bonus awards for the named executives constituted more than 96% of their total compensation (except for the portion of Mr. Spilman's compensation related to the Supplemental Plan and the Deferred Compensation Agreement established in the 1980s, and in which Mr. Spilman is the only participant remaining with the Company). Consistent with the Company's policy that a substantial portion of each named executive's potential cash compensation be based on performance, the performance-based bonus potential for such officers in fiscal 2016 ranged from 34% to 61% of total potential cash compensation. For named executives other than Mr. Hawn, the payout under the annual incentive awards in fiscal 2016 was 59% of the performance-based bonus potential of such awards, as the Company exceeded the target performance goal. Mr. Hawn's payout under his annual incentive award in fiscal 2016 was 24% of his performance-based bonus potential as Zenith exceeded the threshold performance goal.

### OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR-END

The following table sets forth information concerning the fiscal year-end number and terms of unexercised options and unvested restricted stock held by each of the named executives.

Name	Number of securities underlying unexercised options (#) exercisable	Number of securities underlying unexercised options (#) unexercisable	Option exercise price (\$)	Option expiration date	Number of shares or units of stock that have not vested (#)(1)	Market value of shares or units of stock that have not vested (\$)
Robert H. Spilman, Jr.	0	0			27,600	815,580
Bruce R. Cohenour	0	0			14,800	437,340
Jack L. Hawn, Jr.	0	0			0	0
John E. Bassett, III	6,000	0	8.02	7/12/2021	13,800	407,790
Mark S. Jordan	8,000	0	8.02	7/12/2021	13,800	407,790
J. Michael Daniel	0	0			13,800	407,790

- (1) 5,600 of Mr. Spilman's shares of restricted stock vest ratably over the next two years (one-fifth of the original grant vesting on each of the first five anniversaries of the date of grant) and 12,000 and 10,000 shares vest on the second anniversaries of the dates of issuance. For each of the other named executives, 2,800 shares of restricted stock vest ratably over the next two years (one-fifth of the original grant vesting on each of the first five anniversaries of the date of grant) and the remaining shares vest on the second anniversaries of the date of issuance.

## OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED

The following table sets forth information concerning options exercised by, and stock awards that vested for, our named executives during fiscal 2016.

Name	Number of shares acquired on exercise (#)	Value realized on exercise (1)(\$)	Number of shares acquired on vesting (#)	Value realized on vesting (1)(\$)
Robert H. Spilman, Jr.			2,800	73,108
Bruce R. Cohenour			1,400	36,554
Jack L. Hawn, Jr.				
John E. Bassett, III			1,400	36,554
Mark S. Jordan			1,400	36,554
J. Michael Daniel	7,500	113,773	1,400	36,554

(1) The value realized is calculated by multiplying the number of shares acquired on exercise or vesting by the market price of our common stock (less the exercise price in the case of options) on the date of acquisition.

### Supplemental Retirement Income Plan

The Company has a Supplemental Retirement Income Plan (the "Supplemental Plan") that covers one current and certain former senior executives to promote their long service and dedication and to provide an additional retirement benefit. Upon retirement, the Supplemental Plan provides for lifetime monthly payments in an amount equal to 65% of the participant's final average compensation as defined in the Supplemental Plan, which amount is reduced by (i) 50% of old age social security benefits, (ii) the benefit that would be payable on a life annuity basis from Company contributions to the Employee Savings/Retirement Plan based on a formula using maximum employee contributions, and (iii) the benefit that would be payable on a life annuity basis from funds the Company contributed to a defined benefit plan that was terminated in 1977. There is no provision under the Supplemental Plan for a disability benefit if a participant's employment is terminated prior to age 65 due to disability; however, the participant, notwithstanding the termination of employment, will continue to be covered by the Supplemental Plan. The death benefit is divided into (a) prior-to-retirement death, which pays the beneficiary 50% of final average annual compensation for a period of 120 months, and (b) post-retirement death, which pays the beneficiary 200% of final 12 months' compensation in a single payment. There are no benefits payable as a result of a termination of employment for any reason other than death or retirement, except there is a change of control provision which provides for the immediate vesting and payment of the retirement benefit under the Supplemental Plan in the event of an employment termination resulting from a change of control. The executive officer covered under this Supplemental Plan has waived participation in the Company's group life insurance program.

## PENSION BENEFITS

The following table sets forth information as of November 26, 2016 concerning pension benefits under the Supplemental Plan for Mr. Spilman, who is the only named executive participating in a defined benefit pension plan.

Name	Plan name	Number of years credited service (#)	Present value of accumulated benefit (\$)	Payments during last fiscal year (\$)
Robert H. Spilman, Jr.	Supplemental Retirement Income Plan	N/A	4,784,112	0

Assuming no change in the rate of compensation for Mr. Spilman after November 26, 2016, the estimated annual benefit payable on retirement at age 65 to Mr. Spilman is \$468,239.

## Deferred Compensation Agreement

Mr. Spilman has entered into a Deferred Compensation Agreement with the Company pursuant to the Executive Deferred Compensation Plan. Under that agreement, Mr. Spilman deferred a portion of his compensation over the four-year period from 1985 to 1989. The following table provides details for Mr. Spilman's deferred compensation account as of November 26, 2016.

### NONQUALIFIED DEFERRED COMPENSATION

Name	Executive contributions in last FY (\$)	Registrant contributions in last FY (\$)	Aggregate earnings in last FY (\$)	Aggregate withdrawals/distributions (\$)	Aggregate balance at last FYE (\$ (1))
Robert H. Spilman, Jr.	0	0	53,554	0	492,776

- (1) Upon Mr. Spilman's retirement at age 65, he would be entitled to annual payments of \$108,125 for a fifteen year period. Upon his death prior to retirement, his beneficiary would receive annual payments for a fifteen year period as specified in the agreement. Had death occurred on November 26, 2016, the beneficiary would receive \$61,352 per year.

## Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table provides information as of November 26, 2016 with respect to shares of common stock that may be issued under existing equity compensation plans. All equity compensation plans currently in place have been approved by the stockholders.

Plan	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options	Weighted average exercise price of outstanding options	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a))
Equity Compensation Plans Approved by Stockholders <sup>(1)</sup>	66,250	10.57	662,343 <sup>(2)</sup>
Equity Compensation Plans Not Approved by Stockholders <sup>(3)</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	66,250	10.57	662,343 <sup>(2)</sup>

- (1) Includes the following plans: 1997 Employee Stock Plan ("Employee Stock Plan"), the 2005 Non-Employee Directors Stock Incentive Plan and the 2010 Stock Incentive Plan.

- (2) Consists of shares available under the 2010 Stock Incentive Plan.

- (3) There are no equity compensation plans in place not approved by stockholders.

## Potential Payments Upon Termination of Employment

In January 2009, the Board of Directors adopted the Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated Severance Program for Officers and Management Employees (the "Severance Program"). All executive officers (other than Mr. Hawn) and other management employees participate in the Severance Program. Also, the Company entered into Employment Continuity Agreements with the named executives (other than Mr. Hawn) in January 2009 (as to three of them) and in January 2014 (as to the remaining two of them). In February 2015, the Company entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Hawn in connection with the acquisition of Zenith Freight Lines, LLC. The Severance Program, the Employment Continuity Agreements and Mr. Hawn's employment agreement are described below.

### Severance Program

Under the terms of the Severance Program, in the event that the participant's employment is terminated by the Company for reasons other than "cause" or the participant's death or disability, the participant will be entitled to receive:

- a monthly cash payment equal to (A) the product of (i) the participant's base salary, (ii) a severance multiplier and (iii) the participant's years of service (less any other cash severance or pay in lieu of notice under any other severance program, including the Employment Continuity Agreements, or applicable law) divided by (B) the number of months in the participant's severance period;
- if the participant is an executive officer, a lump sum cash payment equal to the participant's average annual performance bonus for the three fiscal years preceding the date of termination;

- if the participant is an executive officer, the prorated portion of the participant’s actual annual performance bonus for the fiscal year in which the participant’s employment is terminated, payable in cash concurrently with the payment to other participants in the Company’s annual bonus plan;
- continued health insurance coverage for the duration of the severance period; and
- outplacement services for the period and up to the limits specified in the program.

The term “cause” means (i) the willful and repeated failure of the executive to perform substantially his or her duties (other than failure resulting from incapacity due to physical or mental illness), (ii) conviction of, or plea of guilty or *nolo contendere* to, a felony which is materially and demonstrably injurious to the Company, or (iii) the willful engagement in gross misconduct in violation of Company policy.

A participant’s total cash severance benefits may not exceed the maximum payout specified in the program for such participant.

The following chart sets out the severance multiplier, maximum payout, severance period and outplacement period and cost limit for each category of participants:

<b>Job classification</b>	<b>Multiplier</b>	<b>Maximum payout</b>	<b>Severance period</b>	<b>Outplacement period and cost limit</b>
President/CEO	.25	2 times Base Salary + Average Bonus + Prorated Bonus	18 months	6 months \$ 15,000 limit
Senior Vice President	.125	1 times Base Salary + Average Bonus + Prorated Bonus	12 months	3 months \$ 7,500 limit
Other Executive Officers	.125	.75 times Base Salary + Average Bonus + Prorated Bonus	9 months	3 months \$ 7,500 limit
Non-Executive Officers	.0833	.50 times Base Salary	6 months	None
Other Management Employees	.0833	.25 times Base Salary	3 months	None

A participant’s entitlement to benefits under the Severance Program ceases upon the participant’s employment by a competitor.

#### *Employment Continuity Agreements*

Under the terms of the Employment Continuity Agreements, in the event that a “change in control” has occurred and the executive’s employment is terminated by the Company before the second anniversary thereof for reasons other than “cause,” death or disability or by the participant for “good reason” within the 90 day period following the “change in control,” the participant will be entitled to receive:

- a lump sum cash payment equal to the product of the executive’s “required base salary” and a change in control severance multiplier (which is equal to two for the President and Chief Executive Officer and one for the other executives);
- a lump sum cash payment equal to the executive’s most recently established target annual performance bonus plus the executive’s average annual performance bonus for the three fiscal years preceding the date of termination;
- continued health insurance coverage for the duration of the severance period (which is 18 months for the President and Chief Executive Officer and 12 months for the other executives);
- a lump sum cash payment equal to the present value of continued life insurance and long-term disability coverage for the duration of the severance period; and
- outplacement services (for a period of six months and three months for the President and Chief Executive Officer and the other executives, respectively, with a cost limit of \$15,000 and \$7,500 for the President and Chief Executive Officer and the other executives, respectively).

The term “change in control” is defined for purposes of the Employment Continuity Agreements the same as it is under the Company’s Employee Stock Plan. Under the Employee Stock Plan, a “change in control” includes generally (i) the acquisition by an individual, an entity or a group of beneficial ownership or voting power of 30% or more of the Company’s outstanding common stock, (ii) certain changes in the constitution of the Company’s Board of Directors that have not been approved by the current Board, (iii) shareholder approval of a reorganization, merger or consolidation in which the then-current shareholders cease to own at least 75% of the then outstanding shares of common stock, (iv) shareholder approval of a complete liquidation or dissolution of the Company and (v) the sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company. An executive’s “required base salary” means the higher of (i) his base salary in effect immediately prior to the change in control and (ii) his highest base salary at any point in time after the change in control. The term “good reason” means (i) a material reduction in the executive’s base salary below the required base salary, (ii) a material diminution in the executive’s authority, duties or responsibilities, (iii) a material diminution in the authority, duties or responsibilities of the supervisor to whom the executive is required to report, including a requirement that the executive report to a corporate officer or other employee if the executive reported to the Board of Directors prior to the change in control; (iv) a material diminution in the budget over which the executive retains authority; or (v) a change at the request of the employer in the executive’s principal work location of more than 50 miles; in each case provided the executive gives notice to the employer of the existence of such condition within 30 days of its initial existence and the employer has not remedied the condition within 30 days of such notice. The term “cause” has the same meaning as under the Severance Program.

The Employment Continuity Agreements may be amended or terminated by the Board of Directors at any time, provided that the agreements cannot be terminated or amended after the occurrence of a change in control, and provided further that the agreements cannot be terminated or amended in a manner that would adversely affect the rights of participants after the Board of Directors has knowledge of a potential change in control unless and until the Board of Directors has determined that such potential change in control will not be consummated and the Board of Directors does not have knowledge of any other potential change in control.

#### *General*

Each of the Severance Program and the Employment Continuity Agreements provides for severance benefits to be paid in a manner intended to comply with, or be exempt from, Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code, including delaying certain benefits for a period of six months following termination if necessary. In addition, severance benefits are subject to reduction to avoid any excise tax on excess “parachute payments” under Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code. All employees who accept benefits under the Severance Program or the Employment Continuity Agreements will be required to sign a release of claims and will be subject to certain covenants, including a one-year non-solicitation agreement.

#### *Employment Agreement*

In connection with its acquisition of Zenith Freight Lines, LLC in February 2015, the Company entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Hawn, the President of Zenith Freight Lines, LLC. Under the terms of the employment agreement, if the Company terminates Mr. Hawn’s employment without cause (as defined in the agreement), Mr. Hawn will be entitled to receive the greater of (i) his annual base salary (which may not be less than \$300,000 under the terms of the agreement) for the remaining term of the agreement, which expires in February 2019, or (ii) the severance benefits that Mr. Hawn would otherwise be entitled to receive if he were a participant in the Severance Program.

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Potential Payments Table

The table below shows the estimated amount of payments and benefits that the Company would provide to the named executives under the Severance Program (or, in the case of Mr. Hawn, his employment agreement) assuming that their employment was terminated as of November 26, 2016 for reasons other than cause, death or disability. The table also shows the estimated amount of payments and benefits that the Company would provide those named executives who have entered into Employment Continuity Agreements assuming that their employment was terminated as of November 26, 2016 by the Company without cause or by the executives with good reason, in each case within the period specified in the agreements following a change in control.

	Salary continuation (\$)	Lump sum cash payment (\$)	Continuation of health insurance coverage (\$)	Outplacement services cost limit (\$)	Accelerated vesting of stock options \$(1)	Accelerated vesting of restricted stock \$(1)	Total benefits (\$)
<b>Robert H. Spilman, Jr.</b>							
Termination without cause							
Termination following a change in control	800,000	726,278	16,411	15,000	0	0	1,557,689
	0	1,518,471	16,411	15,000	0	815,580	2,365,462(2)
<b>Bruce R. Cohenour</b>							
Termination without cause						0	
Termination following a change in control	215,625	332,529	10,941	7,500	0	437,340	566,595
	0	674,709	10,941	7,500	0		1,130,490
<b>Jack L. Hawn, Jr.</b>							
Termination without cause	671,667						671,667
<b>John E. Bassett III</b>							
Termination without cause						0	
Termination following a change in control	200,000	241,724	10,941	7,500	0	407,790	460,165
	0	439,148	10,941	7,500	0		865,379
<b>Mark S. Jordan</b>							
Termination without cause						0	
Termination following a change in control	200,000	241,724	10,941	7,500	0	407,790	460,165
	0	439,148	10,941	7,500	0		865,379
<b>J. Michael Daniel</b>							
Termination without cause						0	
Termination following a change in control	200,000	241,724	10,941	7,500	0	407,790	460,165
	0	439,148	10,941	7,500	0		865,379

- (1) Pursuant to the terms of the Company's stock incentive plans and the applicable award agreements, upon the occurrence of a "change in control," as defined in the plans (and, for grants made in fiscal 2016 or later, a qualifying termination of employment within two years following a change in control), the vesting of all options granted under the plans will accelerate and all restrictions imposed on shares of restricted stock will lapse.
- (2) In addition to the amounts shown in the table, Mr. Spilman's retirement benefit under the Supplemental Retirement Income Plan would be accelerated upon a termination following a change in control, resulting in the payment of an estimated annual benefit of \$370,699 commencing upon such termination.

**PROPOSAL NO. 2**

**APPROVAL OF THE BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED 2017 EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN**

At the Annual Meeting, there will be submitted to stockholders a proposal to approve the adoption of the Company's 2017 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "Employee Plan") for the benefit of the employees of the Company and participating subsidiaries. The Board of Directors believes that the Employee Plan is in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders and employees. The Employee Plan was adopted by the Board of Directors on January 11, 2017 and will become effective as of March 8, 2017 if approved by the stockholders.

The Employee Plan is designed to encourage and assist a broad spectrum of the Company's employees to acquire an equity interest in the Company through the purchase of common stock by means of payroll deductions. It is believed that the employees' participation in the ownership of the Company will enhance their interest in the success and progress of the Company. The Company also believes that the Employee Plan will assist it in recruiting and retaining employees. The Employee Plan is intended to be qualified under Section 423 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

The Employee Plan will replace the Company's 2000 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, which no longer has any shares available for issuance.

The following description of the Employee Plan is not intended to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by the complete text of the Employee Plan, which is attached to this Proxy Statement as Exhibit A.

### **Administration**

The Employee Plan will be administered, at the Company's expense, by the Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors (the "Plan Committee"). The Plan Committee will have the authority to interpret the Employee Plan, to make and revise rules and regulations relating to it and to make all other determinations in administering the Employee Plan. The Plan Committee may delegate some of its routine administrative duties to Company management.

### **Shares Issuable Pursuant to the Plan**

The maximum number of shares of common stock that may be issued under the Employee Plan will be 250,000 (subject to equitable adjustments to reflect any stock splits, stock dividends or other changes affecting the common stock).

### **Eligibility**

Any employee of the Company or its subsidiaries designated by the Plan Committee for participation is eligible to participate in the Employee Plan if he or she is customarily employed for 20 hours or more per week and for more than five months per calendar year, except that no employee may participate if, immediately after a purchase under the plan, the employee would own 5% or more of the Company's common stock. However, the Plan Committee may exclude from participation such executive officers of the Company or its subsidiaries as the Plan Committee may determine. Approximately 2,500 employees will be eligible to participate.

### **Purchase of Common Stock**

Shares of common stock will be offered under the Employee Plan through a series of successive three-month offering periods, coinciding generally with calendar year quarters. The commencement date and the duration of an offering period may be changed by the Plan Committee with prior notice, provided that no offering period may exceed 27 months in length. If the Employee Plan is approved by the stockholders, the first offering period will begin on April 1, 2017. As of the last day of each offering period, the Company's transfer agent will automatically apply the funds then in the participant's account to the purchase of shares of common stock. All shares purchased under the Employee Plan will be held by the Company's transfer agent in separate investment accounts for each participating employee. The purchase price for each share will be 85% of the lower of the fair market value of the common stock on The Nasdaq Stock Market on (i) the first day of the offering period or (ii) the last day of the offering period. If the number of shares that would otherwise be purchased at the end of an offering period exceeds the number of shares remaining available under the Employee Plan, the number of shares so purchased will be reduced pro rata. The fair market value of the common stock on January 26, 2017, the latest practicable date prior to the filing of this proxy statement, was \$29.10 per share,

### **Payment of Purchase Price; Withdrawal of Funds**

The purchase price of the shares to be acquired under the Employee Plan is accumulated by payroll deductions during the offering period, and is increased by any dividends paid during the offering period which the participant has elected to reinvest. The minimum contribution is \$5 per weekly payroll period and \$25 per monthly payroll period. A participant may increase or decrease the amount of his or her payroll deduction by filing the appropriate form at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the offering period in which the change is to become effective. Any dividends in the participant's investment account on the last day of the offering period that cannot be used to purchase shares will be distributed to the participant in cash.

No employee may accrue the right at any time to purchase common stock at a rate exceeding \$25,000 in fair market value in any one calendar year. An employee also cannot acquire more than 2,000 shares during any offering period. This includes shares purchased via any reinvested cash dividends as well as payroll deductions.

A participant may withdraw from the Employee Plan at any time by filing the appropriate form at least 30 days prior to the payroll period in which participation is to end, with the withdrawal being effective as of the end of that payroll period. A withdrawing employee may not participate in the Employee Plan again until the end of the next completed offering period. If a participant dies or retires or if his or her employment is terminated for any reason, the employee's participation in the Employee Plan will end effective immediately. Following the termination of an employee's participation as described above, the transfer agent will refund to the employee (or in the case of death, to his or her estate), the amount of the employee's uninvested payroll deductions. Any shares of common stock that have been credited to the employee's investment account will continue to be held in the account until the employee (or in the case of death, his or her beneficiary) requests that the shares be sold or, after the applicable holding period has lapsed, transferred to the employee's own broker. The transfer agent will sell any fractional shares on the open market and remit the proceeds to the employee or his or her beneficiary or estate by check or electronic transfer. Any cash dividends paid while shares remain in the employee's investment account will be distributed to the employee in cash and may not be used to purchase additional shares under the Employee Plan.

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## **Non-transferability**

The right of an eligible employee to participate in the Employee Plan is not transferable and is exercisable during the employee's lifetime only by him or her.

## **Amendment and Termination of the Plan**

The Board of Directors may at any time amend the Employee Plan in any respect without the approval of the stockholders, except that without stockholder approval, no amendment to the Employee Plan may be made that increases the number of shares issuable under the Employee Plan (other than equitable adjustments for changes in capitalization) or permits persons other than employees to participate in the Employee Plan.

The Employee Plan and all rights of employees under the Employee Plan will terminate on the date that participating employees become entitled to purchase a number of shares greater than or equal to the number of shares remaining available under the Employee Plan. In addition, the Board of Directors may terminate the Employee Plan at any time, in its discretion, after the completion of any offering period.

## **United States Federal Income Tax Information**

The Employee Plan, and the right of participants to make purchases thereunder, is intended to qualify under the provisions of Sections 421 and 423 of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code"). Under these provisions, no income will be taxable to a participant until the shares purchased under the Employee Plan are sold or otherwise disposed of. Upon sale or other disposition of the shares, the participant will generally be subject to tax and the amount of the tax will depend upon how long the shares have been held by the participant. If the shares are sold or otherwise disposed of more than two years from the first day of the applicable offering period or more than one year after the applicable purchase date, the participant will recognize ordinary income measured as the lesser of (a) the excess of the fair market value of the shares at the time of such sale or disposition over the purchase price, or (b) an amount equal to 15% of the fair market value of the shares as of the first day of the applicable offering period. Any additional gain will be treated as long-term capital gain, taxed at a maximum rate of 20%. If the shares are sold or otherwise disposed of before the expiration of these holding periods, the participant will recognize ordinary income generally measured as the excess of the fair market value of the shares on the date the shares are purchased over the purchase price. Any additional gain or loss on such sale or disposition will be long-term or short-term capital gain or loss, depending on the holding period. The Company is not entitled to a deduction for amounts taxed as ordinary income or capital gain to a participant except to the extent of ordinary income recognized by participants upon a sale or disposition of shares prior to the expiration of the holding period(s) described above.

The foregoing is only a summary of the effect of federal income taxation upon the participant and the Company with respect to the shares purchased under the Employee Plan. Reference should be made to the applicable provisions of the Code. In addition, this summary does not discuss the tax consequences of a participant's death or the income tax laws of any state or foreign country in which the participant may reside.

## **New Plan Benefits**

Since benefits under the Employee Plan depend on the amount that each eligible employee elects to purchase under the Employee Plan, as well as the future fair market value of the common stock, it is not possible to determine either the benefits or amounts that will be received by eligible employees under the Employee Plan or the benefits or amounts that would have been received by eligible employees had the Employee Plan been in effect for the Company's last completed fiscal year.

## **Recommendation of the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors recommends a vote **FOR** the approval of the Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated 2017 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, and proxies solicited by the Board of Directors will be so voted unless stockholders specify a different choice.

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## PROPOSAL NO. 3

### RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Audit Committee has selected Ernst & Young LLP as independent registered public accounting firm to audit the financial statements of the Company for the fiscal year ending November 25, 2017. This selection is being presented to the stockholders for their ratification at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The firm of Ernst & Young LLP is considered well qualified. Representatives of Ernst & Young LLP are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders with an opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so and are expected to be available to respond to appropriate questions.

#### **Audit and Other Fees**

*Audit Fees.* The aggregate fees billed by Ernst & Young LLP for audit services (audit of the Company's annual financial statements, audit of internal control over the Company's financial reporting, review of the Company's quarterly financial statements included in its Forms 10-Q, and assistance with and review of SEC filings) for fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2015 were \$783,000 and \$788,000, respectively.

*Audit-Related Fees.* There were no fees billed by Ernst & Young LLP in fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2015 for audit-related services not otherwise reported in the preceding paragraph.

*Tax Fees.* The aggregate fees billed by Ernst & Young LLP in fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2015 for tax-related services were \$288,628 and \$260,076, respectively. Tax compliance services accounted for \$212,350 of the fees billed in fiscal year 2016 and for \$133,716 of the fees billed in fiscal year 2015.

*All Other Fees.* For fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2015, the Company paid an additional \$2,000 and \$1,820, respectively, to Ernst & Young LLP for a subscription to its online accounting research tool. None of the services provided by Ernst & Young LLP consisted of financial information systems design or implementation services.

The Audit Committee considered whether, and determined that, the auditor's provision of non-audit services was compatible with maintaining the auditor's independence. In accordance with provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, all audit and non-audit services provided to the Company by its independent auditors must be pre-approved by the Audit Committee. As authorized by that statute, the Audit Committee has delegated authority to the chairperson of the Audit Committee to pre-approve audit and non-audit services when the Audit Committee is not in session. Any decisions by the chairperson of the Audit Committee under this delegated authority will be reported at the next meeting of the Audit Committee. All services described above were pre-approved by the full Audit Committee.

#### **Recommendation**

The Board of Directors recommends a vote **FOR** the ratification of the selection of Ernst & Young LLP as independent registered public accounting firm to audit the financial statements of the Company for the fiscal year ending November 25, 2017, and proxies solicited by the Board of Directors will be so voted unless stockholders specify a different choice. If the stockholders do not ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP, the selection of independent public accountants will be reconsidered by the Audit Committee.

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## PROPOSAL NO. 4

### ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION (SAY-ON-PAY)

In accordance with Section 14A of the Exchange Act, we are asking stockholders to approve the following advisory resolution at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders:

RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the Company's named executives, as disclosed in this Proxy Statement, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, compensation tables and narrative discussion, is hereby APPROVED.

The primary goal of our executive compensation program is the same as our goal for operating the Company – to maximize corporate performance and thereby create value for our stockholders. To achieve this goal we have designed an executive compensation program based on the following principles:

- Paying for performance – A significant portion of each executive's potential cash compensation is made subject to achieving business performance measures.
- Alignment with the interests of stockholders – Equity awards align our executives' financial interests with those of our stockholders by providing value to our executives if the market price of our stock increases.
- Attracting and retaining top talent – The compensation of our executives must be competitive so that we may attract and retain talented and experienced executives in our industry.

We believe the design and operation of our compensation program effectively incorporates these principles, as illustrated by the following:

- In recognition of the depressed economic conditions facing the Company and the rest of the industry for most of the last decade and to keep fixed costs under control, the base salaries of our executives have changed only modestly in the last nine years. For example, our chief executive officer's salary has increased by 19% in the aggregate from fiscal 2007 to fiscal 2016.
- After three consecutive years (fiscal 2007 through fiscal 2009) in which no performance-based bonuses were earned, our executives earned bonuses in recent years (110% 114% and 92% of salary, respectively, for the last three fiscal years in the case of our chief executive officer) as the Company has achieved increasing levels of positive net income over such period.

For a detailed description of our executive compensation policies and programs and how they are designed to motivate superior performance, we urge stockholders to read the *Compensation Discussion and Analysis* in this proxy statement beginning on page 9. The *Compensation Discussion and Analysis* also discusses the compensation objectives and principles that underlie the Company's executive compensation program, the elements of the program and how performance is measured, evaluated and rewarded.

This vote is not intended to address any specific item of compensation, but rather the overall compensation that is paid to our named executives resulting from our compensation objectives, policies and practices as described in this proxy statement. Because your vote is advisory, it will not be binding upon the Board of Directors. However, the Board of Directors and the Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee value the opinions expressed by our stockholders and will review the voting results in connection with their ongoing evaluation of our executive compensation program.

#### **Recommendation**

Our Board of Directors recommends a vote **FOR** the above advisory resolution approving the compensation paid to our named executives, as disclosed in this proxy statement, and proxies solicited by the Board of Directors will be so voted unless stockholders specify a different choice.

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Stockholder Proposals for Inclusion in the Proxy Statement

Any proposal that a stockholder intends to present for action at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (“2018 Annual Meeting”) must be received by the Company not later than October 10, 2017 in order for the proposal to be included in the proxy statement and form of proxy for the 2017 Annual Meeting. Any such proposal must meet the applicable requirements of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder. Such proposals should be sent to Jay R. Hervey, Secretary, Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated, Post Office Box 626, Bassett, Virginia 24055.

### Other Stockholder Proposals and Nominations

The Company’s Bylaws prescribe the procedures that a stockholder must follow to nominate directors for election at an annual meeting or to bring other business before an annual meeting (other than matters that have been included in the Company’s proxy statement for such meeting). The Chairman of the meeting may refuse to acknowledge the nomination of any person as a director or any other proposal by a stockholder not made in compliance with these procedures. The following summary of these procedures is qualified by reference to the Company’s Bylaws, a copy of which may be obtained, without charge, upon written request to Jay R. Hervey, Secretary, Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated, Post Office Box 626, Bassett, Virginia 24055.

A stockholder who desires to nominate a director for election at an annual meeting must give timely written notice thereof to the Secretary of the Company by personal delivery or by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, at the address shown above. To be timely, a stockholder’s notice must be received not later than December 8, 2017, for nominations to be made at the 2018 Annual Meeting. The notice must contain the information specified in the Bylaws regarding the stockholder giving the notice and each person whom the stockholder wishes to nominate for election as a director. The notice must be accompanied by the written consent of each proposed nominee to serve as a director of the Company, if elected.

A stockholder who desires to bring any other business before an annual meeting (other than matters that have been included in the Company’s proxy statement for such meeting) must give timely written notice thereof to the Secretary of the Company by personal delivery or by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, at the address shown above. To be timely, a stockholder’s notice must be received not later than September 29, 2017 for business to be acted upon at the 2018 Annual Meeting. The notice must contain the information specified in the Bylaws regarding the stockholder giving the notice and the business proposed to be brought before the meeting.

With respect to stockholder proposals not included in the Company’s proxy statement for the 2018 Annual Meeting, the persons named in the Board of Directors’ proxy for such meeting will be entitled to exercise the discretionary voting power conferred by such proxy under the circumstances specified in Rule 14a-4(c) under the Exchange Act, including with respect to proposals received by the Company after September 29, 2017.

**COPIES OF THE COMPANY’S ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED NOVEMBER 26, 2016, AS FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, CAN BE OBTAINED WITHOUT CHARGE UPON WRITTEN REQUEST TO JAY R. HERVEY, SECRETARY, BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED, POST OFFICE BOX 626, BASSETT, VIRGINIA 24055.**

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**BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED**  
**2017 EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN**

**1. Purpose of Plan.**

The purpose of the Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated 2017 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the “Plan”) is to enhance employee interest in the success and progress of Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated (“Bassett” or the “Company”), by encouraging employee ownership of Common Stock, \$5.00 par value, of the Company (“Common Stock”). The Plan provides the opportunity to purchase Bassett Common Stock at a discount to the market price on the Purchase Date through payroll deductions. The Plan is intended to qualify as an employee stock purchase plan under Section 423 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”) and shall be administered in accordance with the requirements of that Section.

**2. Eligible Employees.**

Any employee (the existence of the employment relationship between an individual and the Company will be determined under Treasury Regulation Section 1.421-1(h)) of the Company or its subsidiaries designated by the Plan Committee (as defined below) for participation is eligible to participate in the Plan, except employees:

- (a) whose customary employment is less than 20 hours per week or five months or less in any calendar year; or
- (b) who own, or are considered as owning under Code Section 424(d), 5% or more of the total combined voting power or value of all classes of stock of the Company or any participating subsidiary, including the Common Stock that would otherwise be purchased during the Offering Period (as defined in Section 6)
- (c) who are citizens or residents of a foreign jurisdiction (without regard to whether they are also citizens of the United States or resident aliens (within the meaning of Section 7701(b)(1)(A) of the Code) if (i) participation in the Plan or by a citizen or resident of the foreign jurisdiction is prohibited under the laws of such jurisdiction; or (ii) compliance with the laws of the foreign jurisdiction would cause the Plan to violate the requirements of Section 423 of the Code.

For any Offering Period, the Plan Committee may also exclude all highly compensated employees (within the meaning of Section 414(q) of the Code) of the Company, or such highly compensated employees as have compensation above a certain threshold, or who are officers or subject to the reporting requirements of Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, provided such exclusion is applied in an identical manner to all employees of the Company and every subsidiary whose employees are eligible for the Offering Period.

Employees eligible to participate in the Plan as defined in this Section 2 are referred to as “Eligible Employees.”

**3. Election to Participate**

Participation in the Plan is voluntary. Each employee who is an Eligible Employee may participate in the Plan by completing and delivering to the Company’s Human Resources department an Enrollment/Change/Withdrawal Form. The completed Enrollment/ Change/Withdrawal Form must be received by the Human Resources department no later than thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of a payroll period in order to participate in the Plan for that payroll period and subsequent payroll periods. Eligible Employees who elect to participate in the Plan in accordance with this Section 3 are referred to herein as “Participating Employees.” Participating Employees may be asked to complete a beneficiary designation form. A Participating Employee may change a beneficiary designation form under procedures established by the Plan Committee.

By electing to participate in the Plan, a Participating Employee authorizes the Company to withhold the amount designated by the Participating Employee on the Enrollment/ Change/Withdrawal Form from the Participating Employee's paycheck for the next and subsequent payroll periods after timely submission of the Enrollment/Change/Withdrawal Form. A Participating Employee may only increase or decrease his or her payroll deduction by timely filing a new Enrollment/Change/Withdrawal Form at least thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the Offering Period in which the increase or decrease is to become effective. So long as the Plan remains in effect, once an Eligible Employee enrolls in the Plan, he or she will automatically continue participation on the same basis, unless he or she elects to change deduction amounts, withdraws from participation in the Plan, or becomes ineligible to participate in the Plan. Changes in deduction amounts or participation in the Plan must be communicated in writing to the Company's Human Resources department through timely submission of a new Enrollment/Change/Withdrawal Form.

**4. Investing in the Plan.**

Elections for Plan investments must be made in whole dollar amounts and specified on the Enrollment/Change/Withdrawal Form. The minimum dollar amount for payroll deductions is \$5.00 per pay period for employees who are paid weekly and \$25.00 per pay period for employees who are paid monthly. The Plan Committee may change these minimums at any time for future Offering Periods.

**5. Use of Funds; No Interest Paid.**

All funds received by the Company under the Plan may be included in the general funds of the Company and may be used by the Company for any corporate purpose. No separate account or trust fund must be established to hold funds received under the Plan. No interest will be paid to any Participating Employee for amounts invested in the Plan.

**6. Purchases of Common Stock Under the Plan.**

As of each Purchase Date (defined below), each Participating Employee will be deemed to have purchased, without any further action, a number of whole and fractional shares of Common Stock determined by dividing the amount of his or her payroll deductions for the preceding Offering Period (as defined below), plus any dividends paid during such Offering Period on shares held in the Participating Employee's Investment Account which the Participating Employee has elected to reinvest (collectively, "Available Funds"), by the Purchase Price. Fractional shares purchased will be combined with subsequent purchases under the Plan to make whole shares where possible. Common Stock will be purchased for the Participating Employee and credited to the Participating Employee's account as soon as practicable after the close of an Offering Period (the "Purchase Date"). If a Participating Employee is subject to any limitation under the Plan that would prevent the full use of his or her Available Funds to purchase Common Stock on a Purchase Date, the remaining Available Funds shall be returned to the Participating Employee without interest. No Available Funds will be carried forward between Offering Periods. Any payroll deductions or cash dividends in the account that are not used on a Purchase Date will be distributed to the Participating Employee without interest.

Offering Periods begin on the first trading day on or after the beginning of each calendar year quarter, and end on the last trading day immediately preceding the commencement date of the following Offering Period, (each, an "Offering Period"). The Plan Committee has the power to change the commencement dates and/or duration of an Offering Period with respect to any future Offering Period if the change is announced at least fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled beginning of the Offering Period to be affected; provided that no Offering Period shall exceed 27 months in duration.

**7. Purchase Price.**

The Purchase Price for each share of Common Stock purchased under the Plan for an Offering Period (the “Purchase Price”) will be eight-five percent (85%) of the lesser of the Fair Market Value of the Common Stock on (x) the first day of the Offering Period or, (y) the last day of the Offering Period.

“Fair Market Value” of the Common Stock will be determined by the Plan Committee by any reasonable means, including (a) if the Common Stock is listed for trading on a national securities exchange or is quoted in the over-the-counter market, the last sales price on the appropriate date or (b) if the Common Stock is not listed for trading on a national securities exchange or quoted in the over-the-counter market on the basis of last sales prices, but is traded in the over-the-counter market, the average of the bid and asked prices for the Common Stock at the close of business on the appropriate date.

**8. Investment Accounts.**

All shares purchased under the Plan will be maintained by the Plan’s administrator (“Administrator”) in separate investment accounts (“Investment Accounts”) for each Participating Employee. Each Investment Account may be in the name of the Participating Employee, or if he or she so indicates on the Enrollment/Change/Withdrawal Form, in the Participating Employee’s name jointly with a member of the Participating Employee’s family, with right of survivorship. An employee who is a resident of a jurisdiction that does not recognize a joint tenancy may have an Investment Account as tenant in common with a family member, without right of survivorship.

**9. Sale or Transfer of Common Stock.**

A Participating Employee may sell any Common Stock in their Investment Account at any time after purchase, subject to limitations, if any, imposed by applicable laws and procedures instituted by the Company, but may not otherwise transfer any Common Stock out of the account or receive shares in kind until after the end of the holding period applicable to such shares under Section 423 of the Code has lapsed. Until the applicable holding period has lapsed, a sale may be made only through the Administrator. After the applicable holding period has lapsed, a sale may be made through the Administrator or by the employee’s own broker. Any sale or transfer is subject to any commission or other sales or transfer charges, which shall be paid by the Participating Employee.

**10. Limitation on Number of Shares that an Employee May Purchase.**

No employee may purchase, or accrue the right to purchase, more Common Stock through the Plan than the lesser of (a) at a rate that exceeds \$25,000.00 of the Fair Market Value for any one calendar year, or (b) 2,000 shares per Offering Period. This includes shares purchased via any reinvested cash dividends as well as payroll deductions.

**11. Shares Reserved for the Plan.**

There will be reserved for issuance and purchase by employees under the Plan an aggregate of 250,000 shares of Common Stock, subject to adjustment as provided in Section 12. Shares subject to the Plan will be shares authorized but unissued. If reserved shares are not purchased by a Participating Employee for any reason or if a right to purchase terminates as provided in the Plan, the unpurchased shares will again become available for issuance under the Plan unless the Plan has been terminated, but the unpurchased shares will not increase the aggregate number of shares reserved for purchase under the Plan.

**12. Adjustment in Case of Changes Affecting the Company’s Stock.**

If the outstanding shares of Common Stock are subdivided or split, or a stock dividend is paid thereon, the number of shares reserved under this Plan will be adjusted proportionately, and the other provisions of the Plan may be adjusted as the Board of Directors of the Company may deem necessary or equitable. If any other change affecting the Common Stock occurs, the Board of Directors may make such adjustments, as they deem equitable to give proper effect to such event.

**13. Right as a Stockholder; Dividends.**

When at least one whole share of Common Stock is deemed purchased for a Participating Employee's account, the employee will have all of the rights or privileges of a stockholder of the Company with respect to whole shares purchased under the Plan whether or not certificates representing full shares are issued. Any cash or stock dividend or other distribution on Common Stock held in a Participating Employee's Investment Account will be credited to the account.

A Participating Employee may elect whether to receive any cash dividends credited to his or her Investment Account during an Offering Period in cash or have them held in his or her Investment Account as Available Funds until the next Purchase Date and applied toward the purchase of shares on such date at the discounted price, subject to applicable Plan limits. Any dividends that cannot be used at the next Purchase Date will be distributed to the Participating Employee in cash. Following a Participating Employee's withdrawal from the Plan or termination of employment, any future cash dividends on the shares remaining in the Participating Employee's Investment Account will be distributed to the Participating Employee in cash and may not be used to purchase additional shares under the Plan.

Proxy information will be provided for each meeting of the Company's stockholders so that each Participating Employee may vote his or her shares in accordance with his or her instructions. If no written or electronic instructions are received on a timely basis, the voting of shares in the account will be governed by the rules and policies of the NASDAQ and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

**14. Rights Not Transferable.**

The right to participate in the Plan (including the right to make payroll deductions and the right to make purchases of Common Stock) is not transferable by a Participating Employee and is exercisable during his lifetime only by him.

**15. Withdrawing from the Plan.**

A Participating Employee may withdraw from the Plan at any time by properly completing and delivering an Enrollment/Change/Withdrawal Form to the payroll department at least thirty (30) days prior to the payroll period in which participation is to end, with the withdrawal being effective as of the end of that payroll period and thereafter. After a Participating Employee properly withdraws from the Plan, the Administrator will deliver to the withdrawing employee the balance of his or her uninvested payroll deductions as soon as practicable after withdrawal. The Administrator also will continue to hold whole shares of Common Stock in the employee's Investment Account until the employee requests the shares be sold by the Administrator or, after the end of the applicable holding period, transferred to the employee's own broker. The Administrator will sell any fractional shares on the open market and remit the proceeds by check or electronic transfer. Any amounts withheld from a Participating Employee's paycheck that are not invested at the time of withdrawal will be returned to the Participating Employee without interest. A withdrawing employee may not participate in the Plan again until the next Offering Period after the one in which the employee withdrew. To rejoin the Plan, a new Enrollment/ Change/Withdrawal Form must be submitted.

**16. Death, Retirement or Termination of Employment**

If a Participating Employee dies or retires or if his or her employment is terminated for any reason, the Participating Employee's participation in the Plan will end effective immediately and the amount of the employee's uninvested payroll deductions will be refunded without interest to the employee, or in the case of death to his or her designated beneficiary or beneficiaries (or if no beneficiary is designated, to his or her estate). The Administrator also will continue to hold whole shares of Common Stock in the employee's Investment Account until the employee requests the shares be sold by the Administrator or, after the end of the applicable holding period, transferred to the employee's own broker. The Administrator will sell fractional shares on the open market and remit the net proceeds by check or electronic transfer.



**17. Administration of the Plan.**

The Plan will be administered, at the Company's expense, by the Organization, Compensation and Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors or any successor committee appointed by the Board of Directors (the "Plan Committee"). Subject to the express provisions of the Plan, the Plan Committee will have authority to interpret the Plan, to prescribe, amend and rescind rules and regulations relating to it, and to make all other determinations necessary or advisable in administering the Plan, all of which determinations will be final and binding upon all persons unless determined otherwise by the Board of Directors. The Plan Committee may delegate the day-to-day administration of the Plan and may request advice or assistance or employ such other persons as are necessary for proper administration of the Plan.

**18. Amendment of the Plan.**

The Board of Directors may at any time, or from time to time, amend the Plan in any respect, except that no amendment shall be made increasing the number of shares to be reserved under the Plan (other than as provided in Section 12), or otherwise requiring shareholder approval under the Code or applicable listing requirements, without obtaining shareholder approval. No amendment will be permitted that will cause the Plan to fail to meet the requirements of Section 423 of the Code.

**19. Termination of the Plan.**

The Plan and all rights of employees under the Plan will terminate: (a) on the Purchase Date that Participating Employees become entitled to purchase a number of shares greater than the number of reserved shares remaining available for purchase (and no such additional shares shall then be purchased); or (b) at any time, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, after the completion of any Offering Period. If the Plan terminates under clause (a), reserved shares remaining as of the termination date will be sold to Participating Employees on a pro rata basis.

**20. Effective Date of Plan.**

The Plan was approved by the Board of Directors on January 11, 2017 and shall become effective upon March 8, 2017, the date of the Company's 2017 annual meeting of shareholders, assuming it is approved by the shareholders at such meeting. The first Offering Period under the Plan shall be the first calendar quarter commencing after the Plan becomes effective.

**21. Laws and Regulations.**

The Plan and all rights and obligations of the Company and Participating Employees under the Plan are subject to all applicable federal, state and foreign laws, rules and regulations, and to such approvals by and regulatory or governmental agency as may, in the opinion of counsel for the Company, be required.

**22. ERISA**

The Plan is not subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA").

**23. No Continued Employment**

The Plan does not confer any rights of continued employment upon any employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF  
**BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED**

March 8, 2017

**GO GREEN**

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON MARCH 8, 2017**

The Company's Proxy Statement for the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and the Annual Report for the fiscal year ended November 26, 2016 are available at <http://investors.bassettfurniture.com>.

Please sign, date and mail  
your proxy card in the  
envelope provided as soon  
as possible.

↓ Please detach along perforated line and mail in the envelope provided. ↓

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THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR ALL NOMINEES" IN THE ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND "FOR" PROPOSALS 2, 3 AND 4. PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND RETURN PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. PLEASE MARK YOUR VOTE IN BLUE OR BLACK INK AS SHOWN HERE

1. Election of Directors:

FOR ALL NOMINEES

NOMINEES:

- John R. Belk
- Kristina Cashman
- Paul Fulton
- George W. Henderson, III
- J. Walter McDowell
- Robert H. Spilman, Jr.
- William C. Wampler, Jr.
- William C. Warden, Jr.

WITHHOLD AUTHORITY FOR ALL NOMINEES

FOR ALL EXCEPT (See instructions below)

**INSTRUCTIONS:** To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee(s), mark "FOR ALL EXCEPT" and fill in the circle next to each nominee you wish to withhold, as shown here: ●

2. PROPOSAL to approve the Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated 2017 Employee Stock Purchase Plan.  FOR  AGAINST  ABSTAIN

3. PROPOSAL TO RATIFY THE SELECTION OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending November 25, 2017.  FOR  AGAINST  ABSTAIN

4. PROPOSAL to consider and act on an advisory vote regarding the approval of compensation paid to certain executive officers.  FOR  AGAINST  ABSTAIN

5. In their discretion, the proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

**THIS PROXY will be voted as specified herein and unless otherwise directed, will be voted FOR the election of all nominees as Directors, FOR the approval of the 2017 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, FOR ratification of the selection of the independent registered public accounting firm, and FOR the advisory vote regarding the approval of compensation paid to certain executive officers.**

The undersigned acknowledges receipt of the Notice of said Annual Meeting and of the accompanying Proxy Statement attached thereto.

Please mark, sign, date and return the proxy card using the enclosed envelope.

To change the address on your account, please check the box at right and indicate your new address in the address space above. Please note that changes to the registered name(s) on the account may not be submitted via this method.

Signature of Stockholder

Date:

Signature of Stockholder

Date:

**Note:** Please sign exactly as your name or names appear on this Proxy. When shares are held jointly, each holder should sign. When signing as executor, administrator, attorney, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such. If the signer is a corporation, please sign full corporate name by duly authorized officer, giving full title as such. If signer is a partnership, please sign in partnership name by authorized person.

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**BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED**

**Proxy Solicited by the Board of Directors for the**

**Annual Meeting to be held on March 8, 2017**

The undersigned hereby appoints Robert H. Spilman, Jr. and Jay R. Hervey, each or either of them, proxies, with full power of substitution, with the powers the undersigned would possess if personally present, to vote, as designated below, all shares of the \$5.00 par value Common Stock of the undersigned in Bassett Furniture Industries, Incorporated at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Company to be held on March 8, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. local time, at the Company's headquarters, 3525 Fairystone Park Highway, Bassett, Virginia 24055, and at any adjournments or postponements thereof. **The Board of Directors recommends voting FOR ALL NOMINEES in the election of directors and FOR proposals 2, 3 and 4.**

(Continued and to be signed on the reverse side)

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14475 ■

*Rob Spilman*