

NEWTEK BUSINESS SERVICES INC
Form DEF 14A
April 30, 2008

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by the 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 Rule 14a-11(c) or Rule 14a-12

NEWTEK BUSINESS SERVICES, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

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

Edgar Filing: NEWTEK BUSINESS SERVICES INC - Form DEF 14A

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 transaction applies:

2. Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

3. Per unit price or other underlying value of 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):

4. Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

5. Total fee paid:

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.

Edgar Filing: NEWTEK BUSINESS SERVICES INC - Form DEF 14A

1. Amount previously paid:

2. Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

3. Filing Party:

4. Date Filed:

NEWTEK BUSINESS SERVICES, INC.

1440 Broadway

17th Floor

New York, New York 10018

April 30, 2008

Dear Stockholder:

We invite you to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the Annual Meeting) of Newtek Business Services, Inc. (the Company) to be held at the offices of the Company at 1440 Broadway, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018 on June 17, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., local time.

The attached Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement describe the formal business to be transacted at the Annual Meeting. Also enclosed is a Proxy Card and the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007.

As an integral part of the Annual Meeting, we will report on the operations of the Company. Directors and Officers of the Company and a representative of the Company s independent auditors will be present to respond to any questions that our stockholders may have. Detailed information concerning our activities and operating performance is contained in our enclosed Annual Report.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT, REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF SHARES YOU OWN. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we urge you to please sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card in the enclosed postage-prepaid envelope as soon as possible even if you currently plan to attend the Annual Meeting. This will not prevent you from voting in person, but will assure that your vote is counted if you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Barry Sloane

Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Secretary

NEWTEK BUSINESS SERVICES, INC.

1440 Broadway

17th Floor

New York, New York 10018

(212) 356-9500

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To Be Held on June 17, 2008

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the Annual Meeting) of Newtek Business Services, Inc. (the Company) will be held at the offices of the Company at 1440 Broadway, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018 on June 17, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., local time.

The Annual Meeting is for the following purposes, which are more completely described in the accompanying Proxy Statement:

1. To elect two Class II Directors of the Company to serve on the Board of Directors until the Company's Annual Meeting of Stockholders in 2011.
2. To ratify the appointment of the Company's independent registered accounting firm (independent auditors) for the year ended December 31, 2008; and
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Directors is not aware of any other business to come before the Annual Meeting.

Any action may be taken on any one of the foregoing proposals at the Annual Meeting or any adjournments thereof. Stockholders of record at the close of business on April 28, 2008 are the stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting and any adjournment thereof.

We ask that you fill in and sign the enclosed proxy card which is solicited by the Board of Directors and to mail it promptly in the enclosed envelope. The proxy will not be used if you attend and vote at the Annual Meeting in person.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BARRY SLOANE
CHAIRMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND
SECRETARY

New York, New York

April 30, 2008

IMPORTANT: THE PROMPT RETURN OF PROXIES WILL SAVE YOUR COMPANY THE EXPENSE OF A FURTHER REQUEST FOR PROXIES IN ORDER TO INSURE A QUORUM. A SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ENCLOSED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE. NO POSTAGE IS REQUIRED IF MAILED WITHIN THE UNITED STATES.

PROXY STATEMENT

NEWTEK BUSINESS SERVICES, INC.

1440 Broadway

17th Floor

New York, New York 10018

(212) 356-9500

ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

June 17, 2008

INTRODUCTION

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Directors of Newtek Business Services, Inc. (the Company) for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the Annual Meeting) to be held at the offices of the Company at 1440 Broadway Floor, New York, NY 10018 on June 17, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., local time. The accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting and this Proxy Statement, together with the enclosed form of proxy, are first being mailed to stockholders on or about April 30, 2008.

VOTING AND REVOCATION OF PROXIES

Proxies solicited by the Board of Directors of the Company will be voted in accordance with the direction given therein. Properly executed but unmarked proxies will be voted **FOR Proposal I to approve the election of two nominees of the Board of Directors as Class II Directors to serve on the Board until the Annual Meeting in 2011, and FOR Proposal II to ratify the appointment of the Company's independent public accountants for the year ending December 31, 2008.** If any other matters are properly brought before the Annual Meeting as to which proxies in the accompanying form confer discretionary authority, the persons named in the accompanying proxy will vote the shares represented thereby on such matters as determined by a majority of the Board of Directors. The proxies solicited by the Board of Directors confer discretionary authority on the persons named therein to vote with respect to the election of any person as a director where the nominee is unable to serve or for good cause will not serve, with respect to matters incident to the conduct of the Annual Meeting and with respect to any other matter presented at the Annual Meeting if notice of such matter has not been delivered to the Company within a reasonable time before the date of this Proxy Statement. Proxies marked as abstentions will not be counted as votes cast. In addition, shares held in street name which have been designated by brokers on proxy cards as not voted (broker no votes) will not be counted as votes cast. Proxies marked as abstentions or as broker no votes, however, will be treated as shares present for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present.

Stockholders who execute the form of proxy enclosed herewith retain the right to revoke such proxies at any time prior to exercise. Unless so revoked, the shares represented by properly executed proxies will be voted at the Annual Meeting and all adjournments thereof. Proxies may be revoked at any time prior to exercise by written notice to the Secretary of the Company or by the filing of a properly executed, later-dated proxy. A proxy will not be voted if a stockholder attends the Annual Meeting and votes in person. The presence of a stockholder at the Annual Meeting alone will not revoke such stockholder's proxy.

VOTING SECURITIES

The securities which can be voted at the Annual Meeting consist of the Company's common shares, \$0.02 par value per share (Common Shares). Stockholders of record as of the close of business on April 28, 2008 (the Record Date) are entitled to one vote for each Common Share then held on all matters. As of the Record Date 36,948,524 Common Shares were issued and outstanding. The presence, in person or by proxy, of at least a majority of the total number of Common Shares outstanding and entitled to vote will be necessary to constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting.

Persons and groups owning in excess of 5% of Common Shares are required to file certain reports regarding such ownership with the Company and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). See Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management.

REQUIRED VOTE

The proposals for the election of the nominees for Class II directors and the ratification of the appointment of J.H. Cohn as independent auditors will be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The table below shows the number of our Common Shares beneficially owned as of April 28, 2008 by:

each person or group known by us to beneficially own more than 5% of our outstanding common shares;

each director and nominee for director;

each executive officer named in the Summary Compensation Table under the heading Executive Compensation; and

all of our current directors and executive officers of the company as a group.

The number of shares beneficially owned by each 5% holder, director or executive officer is determined by the rules of the SEC, and the information does not necessarily indicate beneficial ownership for any other purpose. Under such rules, beneficial ownership includes any shares over which the person or entity has sole or shared voting power or investment power and also any shares that the person or entity can acquire within 60 days of April 28, 2008 through the exercise of any stock option or other right. For purposes of computing the percentage of outstanding shares of common shares held by each person or entity, any shares that the person or entity has the right to acquire within 60 days after April 28, 2008 are deemed to be outstanding with respect to such person or entity but are not deemed to be outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage of ownership of any other person or entity. Unless otherwise indicated, each person or entity has sole investment and voting power (or shares such power with his or her spouse) over the shares set forth in the following table. The inclusion in the table below of any shares deemed beneficially owned does not constitute an admission of beneficial ownership of those shares. As of April 28, 2008 there were 36,948,524 Common Shares issued and outstanding.

| Name and Address of Beneficial Owner (1) | Total | | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| | Shares Owned | Right to Acquire (2) | Beneficial Ownership (3) | Percent of Class |
| David C. Beck | 163,654 | 39,685 | 203,339 | * |
| Craig J. Brunet | 83,384 | 100,000 | 183,384 | * |
| Seth A. Cohen | 50,193 | 100,000 | 150,193 | * |
| Michael J. Holden (4) | 10,121 | 150,000 | 160,121 | * |
| Christopher G. Payan | 77,775 | 55,559 | 133,334 | * |
| Salvatore F. Mulia | 48,695 | 27,780 | 76,475 | * |
| Jeffrey M. Schottenstein | 101,115 | 248,698 | 349,813 | * |
| Jeffrey G. Rubin (5) | 4,291,505 | | 4,291,505 | 11.61% |
| Michael A. Schwartz | 53,531 | 39,685 | 93,216 | * |
| Barry Sloane | 4,637,896 | | 4,637,896 | 12.55% |
| Tracy A. Schmidt (6) | 274,969 | 50,000 | 324,969 | * |
| Gordon L. Schroeder | 9,608 | 27,780 | 37,388 | * |
| All current directors and executive Officers as a group (12 persons) | | | 10,641,633 | 28.80% |

* Less than 1% of total Common Shares outstanding as of April 28, 2008.

Edgar Filing: NEWTEK BUSINESS SERVICES INC - Form DEF 14A

- (1) Unless otherwise stated, the address of each person listed is c/o Newtek Business Services, Inc., 1440 Broadway, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10018.

- (2) Number of shares underlying stock options which are exercisable as of April 28, 2008, or which become exercisable 60 days thereafter.
- (3) As of April 19, 2007 except with respect to Mr. Schmidt as of February 5, 2007, Mr. Holden as of August 31, 2007 and Mr. Rubin as of March 7, 2008.
- (4) Resigned August 31, 2007.
- (5) Resigned March 7, 2008.
- (6) Resigned February 5, 2007.

PROPOSAL I ELECTION OF CLASS II DIRECTORS

Composition of the Board

The full Board of Directors consists of seven Directors. The Board of Directors is divided into three classes, with Class I having two Directors, Class II having two Directors and Class III having three Directors. The Directors in each class serve a three-year term, following the Interim Term. The terms of each class expire at successive annual meetings so that the stockholders elect one class of Directors at each annual meeting.

The current composition of the Board of Directors is:

| | |
|---|---|
| Class I Directors (serving until the 2010 meeting) ¹ | Salvatore F. Mulia |
| Class II Directors (term expiring at this meeting) | David C. Beck Jeffrey M. Schottenstein ² Gordon L. Schroeder |
| Class III Directors (serving until the 2009 meeting) | Christopher G. Payan Barry Sloane Michael A. Schwartz |

The election of two Class II Directors will take place at the Annual Meeting. If elected, each of the two Class II Director nominees will serve on the Board until the Annual Meeting in 2011, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified in accordance with the Company's Bylaws. If either of the two nominees should become unable to accept election, the persons named on the proxy card as proxies may vote for other person(s) selected by the Board or the named proxies. The Board of Directors has no reason to believe that any of the two nominees for election named below will be unable to serve.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the nominees named below as directors of the Company.

¹ There is currently a vacancy on the Board due to the resignation of Mr. Rubin as a Class I Director on March 7, 2008.

² Mr. Schottenstein has decided not to stand for reelection.

Barry Sloane

Age: 48

Director since: 1999

Mr. Sloane is the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer, and Secretary of the Company and has been an executive officer of each of the Company-sponsored certified capital companies for more than five years. Previously, from September 1993 through July 1995, Mr. Sloane was a Managing Director of Smith Barney, Inc. While there, he directed the Commercial and Residential Real Estate Securitization Unit and, prior to that, he was national sales manager for institutional mortgage and asset backed securities sales. From April 1991 through September 1993, he was founder and President of Aegis Capital Markets, a consumer loan origination and securitization business which was eventually taken public with the name of Aegis Consumer Funding. From October 1988 through March 1991, Mr. Sloane was Senior Vice President of Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette, where he was responsible for directing sales of mortgage-backed securities. From August 1982 to September 1988 Mr. Sloane was a senior mortgage security salesman and trader for Bear Stearns, L.F. Rothschild, E.F. Hutton and Paine Webber.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Board and Board Meetings

Newtek's Board of Directors and management are committed to responsible corporate governance to ensure that Newtek is managed for the long-term benefit of its stockholders. To that end, the Board of Directors and management periodically review and update, as appropriate, Newtek's corporate governance policies and practices. In doing so, the Board and management review published guidelines and recommendations of institutional stockholder organizations and current best practices of similarly situated public companies. The Board of Directors and management also regularly evaluate and, when appropriate, revise Newtek's corporate governance policies and practices in accordance with the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the rules and listing standards issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and The NASDAQ Stock Market, Inc. (NASDAQ).

The Board of Directors consists of seven directors. The Board of Directors has determined that each of the directors, with the exception of Mr. Sloane, qualify as independent as defined by applicable NASDAQ and SEC rules. In making this determination, the Board has concluded that none of these members has a relationship which, in the opinion of the Board, would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a director. It is the policy of the Board of Directors to hold executive sessions of the independent directors meeting without management at regular intervals and as requested by a director. David C. Beck has been designated as Lead Director and presides over these meetings of the independent directors. All members of the Board of Directors are welcome to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders. In 2007, Mr. Sloane, Mr. Rubin (a former director), Mr. Schottenstein, Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Payan, Mr. Beck and Mr. Mulia attended the Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007, the Board of Directors held a total of 7 meetings. Each director attended at least 75% of the total number of meetings of the Board of Directors and at least 75% of the meetings of all committees on which he served.

Corporate Governance Guidelines

The Company has adopted corporate governance guidelines titled Governance Guidelines which are available at www.newtekbusinessservices.com. The Governance Guidelines are also available in print to any stockholder who requests them. These principles were adopted by the Board of Directors to best ensure that the Board is independent from management, that the Board adequately performs its function as the overseer of management and to help ensure that the interests of the Board and management align with the interests of the stockholders.

On an annual basis, each Director and executive officer is obligated to complete a Directors and Officers Questionnaire which requires disclosure of any transactions with the Company in which the Director or executive officer, or any member of his or her immediate family, have a direct or indirect material interest.

Committees of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors currently has two standing committees: the Audit Committee and the Compensation, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. Each member of these committees is independent as defined by applicable NASDAQ and SEC rules. Each of the committees has a written charter approved by the Board of Directors, which is available on our website at www.newtekbusinessservices.com.

The Board of Directors Audit Committee consists of Messrs. Payan, as Chair, and Beck and Schottenstein and operates pursuant to a written Charter. The Audit Committee held 7 meetings during the year ended December 31, 2007. The Audit Committee is authorized to examine and approve the audit report prepared by the independent auditors of the Company, to review and select the independent auditors to be engaged by the Company, to review the internal audit function and internal accounting controls, and to review and approve conflict of interest transactions and audit policies.

Both Messrs. Beck and Payan, the immediate past and current Chair of the Audit Committee, respectively, have been determined by the Board of Directors to be financial experts and independent, under applicable rules of the SEC and NASDAQ. In addition, the Board of Directors has determined that all members of the audit committee are financially literate as that term is defined by applicable NASDAQ and SEC rules.

The Company's Compensation, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee consists of Messrs. Schwartz, as Chair, Payan, Mulia and Schroeder, all of whom are non-employee directors within the meaning of the federal securities laws. The Compensation, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee evaluates the compensation and benefits of the directors, officers and employees, recommends changes, and monitors and evaluates employee performance. The Compensation Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee met 9 times during the year ended December 31, 2007. The Compensation, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee is generally responsible for identifying corporate governance issues, creating corporate governance policies, identifying and recommending potential candidates for election to the Board and reviewing director compensation and performance.

The Company's Executive Committee consisted of Messrs. Rubin and Sloane for the year ending December 31, 2007, and was authorized to take actions it deems necessary or appropriate between regular meetings of the Board. The Executive Committee held 4 meetings during the year ended December 31, 2007. Mr. Rubin resigned from the Board on March 7, 2008 and was replaced on the Executive Committee by Mr. Beck.

Director Independence

The Board of Directors is required by the Governance Guidelines to have a majority of members who meet the applicable independence requirements of the NASDAQ and any applicable rule or law. Each of the following non-employee Directors is independent and has no relationship to the Company, except as a Director and Stockholder.

David C. Beck

Salvatore F. Mulia

Michael A. Schwartz

Jeffrey M. Schottenstein

Christopher G. Payan

Gordon L. Schroeder

In addition, based on such standards, Barry Sloane is not independent because he is the Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and Secretary and holds more than 5% of the outstanding Common Shares of the Company.

Director Candidates

In the event of a vacancy on the Board, the process followed by the Compensation, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee to identify and evaluate director candidates includes requests to Board members and others for recommendations, meetings from time to time to evaluate biographical information and background material relating to potential candidates and interviews of selected candidates by members of the committee and the Board.

In considering whether to recommend any particular candidate for inclusion in the Board of Directors' slate of recommended director nominees, the Compensation, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee applies the criteria set forth in the Governance Guidelines. These criteria include the candidate's integrity, business acumen, knowledge of our business and industry, experience, diligence, absence of conflicts of interest and the ability to act in the interest of all stockholders. The committee does not assign specific weights to particular criteria, and no particular criterion is a prerequisite for each prospective nominee. We believe that the backgrounds and qualifications of our directors, considered as a group, should provide a composite mix of experience, knowledge and abilities that will best allow the Board to fulfill its responsibilities.

Stockholders may recommend individuals to the Compensation, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee for consideration as potential director candidates by submitting their names, together with appropriate biographical information and background materials and a statement as to whether the stockholder or group of stockholders making the recommendation has beneficially owned more than 5% of our common shares for at least a year as of the date such recommendation is made. The recommendation should be sent to the Compensation, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, c/o Barry Sloane, Secretary, Newtek Business Services, Inc., 1440 Broadway, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10018. Assuming that appropriate biographical and background material has been provided on a timely basis, the committee will evaluate stockholder-recommended candidates by following substantially the same process, and applying substantially the same criteria, as it follows for candidates recommended by our Board or others. If the Board of Directors determines to nominate a stockholder-recommended candidate and recommends his or her election, then his or her name will be included in the proxy card for the next annual meeting.

Stockholders also have the right under our Bylaws to directly nominate director candidates, without any action or recommendation on the part of the Compensation, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee or the Board, by following the procedures set forth under "Stockholder Proposals" below. Candidates nominated by stockholders in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Bylaws may be included in our proxy card for the next annual meeting.

Communicating with the Independent Directors

Our Board will give appropriate attention to written communications that are submitted by stockholders, and will respond if and as appropriate. Our lead independent director, Mr. Beck, with the assistance of our Chief Legal Officer, Andrew Lewin, is primarily responsible for monitoring communications from stockholders and for providing copies or summaries to the other Directors as he considers appropriate.

Communications are forwarded to all Directors if they relate to important substantive matters and include suggestions or comments that the lead independent director, with the assistance of our Chief Legal Officer, Andrew Lewin, considers to be important for the Directors to know. In general, communications relating to corporate governance and long-term corporate strategy are more likely to be forwarded than communications relating to ordinary business affairs, personal grievances and matters as to which we tend to receive repetitive or duplicative communications.

Stockholders who wish to send communications on any topic to the Board should address such communications to Newtek Business Services, Inc. Board of Directors, c/o Barry Sloane - Secretary, Newtek Business Services, Inc., 1440 Broadway, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10018.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

All members of the Compensation, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee are independent Directors, and none of them are present or past employees or paid officers of ours or any of our subsidiaries. No member of the Compensation, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee has had any relationship with us requiring disclosure under Item 404 of Regulation S-K. None of our executive officers has served on the board or compensation committee (or other committee serving an equivalent function) of any other entity, one of whose executive officers has served on our Board or Compensation, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee.

Our Code of Ethics

We have adopted a code of ethics, referred to as our Code of Conduct, which applies to all directors and employees, including the principal executive, financial and accounting officers. A copy of the Code of Conduct will be made available upon request to the executive offices of the Company and may be viewed on our web site (www.newtekbusinessservices.com). In addition, we intend to post on our website all disclosures that are required by law or NASDAQ listing standards concerning any amendments to, or waivers from, any provision of the Code.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our directors and executive officers and persons who own more than 10% of a registered class of our equity securities, to file with the SEC and the NASDAQ initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership of Common Shares of the Company. Officers, directors and greater than 10% stockholders are required by SEC regulations to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file.

To the Company's knowledge, based solely on Forms 3 and 4 provided to Newtek by its Directors and executive officers and greater than 10% stockholders during 2007, it appears that all such required reports were timely filed.

Director Compensation

The Board has adopted a plan for compensation of non-employee Directors for the year ending December 31, 2007, which gives effect to the time and effort required of each of them in the performance of their duties. The plan approved by the Board provides annual compensation, paid quarterly in our Common Shares valued as of the close of each quarter, with the exception of Mr. Payan who receives \$6,500 each quarter in cash and the balance in Common Shares:

for participation on the Board: \$25,000;

as chair of the Compensation, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee: \$30,000;

as chair of the Audit Committee: \$40,000; and

as lead independent Director: \$15,000.

Director Summary Compensation Table (1)

| | Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$) | Stock Awards (\$)(2) | Option Awards (\$) | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$) | Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (\$) | All Other Compensation (\$) | Total (\$) |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|--|-------------------|
| David C. Beck | | 40,000 | | | | | 40,000 |
| Salvatore F. Mulia | | 25,000 | | | | | 25,000 |
| Gordon L. Schroeder | | 12,500 | | | | | 12,500 |
| Michael A. Schwartz | | 55,000 | | | | | 55,000 |
| Jeffrey M. Schottenstein | | 25,000 | | | | | 25,000 |
| Christopher G. Payan | 26,000 | 39,000 | | | | | 65,000 |

- (1) Barry Sloane, the Company's Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Secretary, and Jeffrey G. Rubin, the Company's former President, are not included in this table as they were employees of the Company in 2007 and thus received no compensation for their services as Directors. The compensation received by Messrs. Sloane and Rubin as employees of the Company are shown in the Summary Compensation Table on page 16.
- (2) Reflects the dollar amount recognized for financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FASB 123(R) and thus may include awards granted in and prior to 2007. The aggregate number of shares of restricted stock held by each independent director as of December 31, 2007 is as follows: Mr. Payan 77,775; Mr. Beck 153,654; Mr. Mulia 48,695; Mr. Schroeder 9,608; Mr. Schottenstein 101,115; and Mr. Schwartz 53,531. The aggregate number of options held by each independent Director as of December 31, 2007 is as follows: Mr. Schottenstein 241,753. Each director received a pro-rata share of restricted stock on a quarterly basis based on the fair market value of the Company's stock calculated using the average of the high and low stock price for each three trading days prior to the 2nd of March 2007, June 2007, September 2007 and December 2007, respectively. The grant prices were \$2.24, \$1.91, \$1.58 and \$1.11 respectively.

PROPOSAL II RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

The Audit Committee of the Board has reappointed J.H. Cohn LLP as our independent public accountants to audit our consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008, and the audit committee has asked that this selection be ratified by our stockholders.

Representatives of J.H. Cohn LLP are invited to the Annual Meeting. They will have an opportunity to make a statement if they so desire and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

The ratification of the selection of J.H. Cohn LLP as our independent public accountants for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008, will require the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding Common Shares present at the Meeting, in person or represented by proxy, and entitled to vote. In determining whether the proposal has received the requisite number of affirmative votes, abstentions will be counted and will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal; broker non-votes will be disregarded and will have no effect on the outcome of the vote.

THE BOARD BELIEVES THAT A VOTE FOR THE PROPOSAL TO RATIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AS DESCRIBED ABOVE IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF OUR STOCKHOLDERS AND US AND UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR SUCH PROPOSAL.

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Overview of Compensation Program

The Compensation, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee (for purposes of this analysis, the Committee) of the Board of Directors is responsible for establishing, implementing, administering and continually monitoring compliance with the Company's compensation philosophy. The Committee attempts to ensure that the total compensation paid to the senior executives is fair, reasonable and competitive.

The individuals who served as the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer during fiscal 2007, as well as the other individuals included in the Summary Compensation Table below, are referred to throughout this proxy statement, as the named executive officers.

Compensation Philosophy and Objectives

All of our compensation programs are designed to attract and retain key employees and to motivate them to achieve, and reward them for achieving superior performance. Different programs are geared to shorter- and longer-term performance, with the goal of increasing stockholder value over the long term. Executive compensation programs impact all employees by setting general levels of compensation and helping to create an environment of goals, rewards and expectations. Because we believe the performance of every employee is important to our success, we are mindful of the effect of executive compensation and incentive programs on all of our employees.

We believe that the compensation of our executives should reflect their success as a management team, rather than as individuals, in attaining key operating objectives, such as growth of sales, growth of operating earnings and earnings per share and growth or maintenance of market share and long-term competitive advantage, and ultimately, in attaining an increased market price for our stock. We believe that the performance of our executives in managing our Company, considered in light of general economic and specific company, industry and competitive conditions, should be the basis for determining their overall compensation. We also believe that their compensation should not be based on the short-term performance of our stock, whether favorable or unfavorable, but rather that the price of our stock will, in the long term, reflect our operating performance and, ultimately, the management of the Company by our executives. We seek to have the long-term performance of our stock reflected in executive compensation through our equity incentive programs, including stock options and restricted stock awards.

Role of Executive Officers in Compensation Decisions

The Committee supervises all compensation decisions for all executive officers (which include the named executive officers) and overall incentive equity awards to all employees of the Company. Decisions regarding the non-equity compensation of executive officers, other than named executive officers, are made by the Chief Executive Officer within the compensation philosophy set by the Committee. Decisions regarding the non-equity compensation of named executive officers are made by the Chief Executive Officer and the Committee.

The Chief Executive Officer semi-annually reviews the performance of each member of the senior executive team, including named executive officers (other than himself whose performance is reviewed by the Committee). The conclusions reached and recommendations based on these reviews, including with respect to salary adjustments and annual award amounts, are then presented to the Committee by the Chief Executive Officer. The Committee can exercise its discretion in modifying any recommended adjustments or awards.

Setting Executive Compensation

During the course of each fiscal year, it has been the practice of the Chief Executive Officer to review the history of all the elements of each executive officer's total compensation and to compare the compensation of the executive officers with that of the executive officers in an appropriate market comparison group of companies with a capitalization similar to that of the Company. We seek to set compensation levels that are perceived as fair, internally and externally, and competitive with overall compensation levels at other companies in our industry, including larger companies from which we may want to recruit employees. However, the Company does not establish individual objectives in the range of comparative data for each individual or for each element of compensation. Typically, the Chief Executive Officer sets compensation with respect to the executive officers who report to him and presents it to the Committee, and then consults with the Committee with respect to named executive officers. The named executive officers are not present at the time of these deliberations. The Committee then performs a similar review of the Chief Executive Officer's total compensation and makes compensation decisions with respect to such officer, who does not participate in that determination.

We choose to pay each element of compensation in order to attract and retain the necessary executive talent, reward annual performance and provide incentive for balanced focus on long-term strategic goals as well as short-term performance. The amount of each element of compensation is determined by or under the direction of our Committee, which uses the following factors to determine the amount of salary and other benefits to pay each named executive officer:

performance against corporate and individual objectives for the year;

difficulty of achieving desired results in the coming year;

value of their unique skills and capabilities to support long-term performance;

performance of their general management responsibilities; and

contribution as a member of the executive management team.

At this point in the Company's development, we do not establish individual goals but focus on the overall profitable growth of our business.

Based on the foregoing objectives, we have structured the Company's annual and long-term incentive-based cash and non-cash executive compensation to motivate executives to achieve the business goals set by the Company and reward the executives for achieving such goals.

A significant percentage of total compensation is allocated to incentives as a result of the philosophy mentioned above. There is no pre-established policy or target for the allocation between either cash or non-cash compensation. Historically, and in fiscal 2007, we granted a majority of total compensation to executive officers in the form of cash compensation.

2007 Executive Compensation Components

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007, the principal components of compensation for named executive officers were:

base salary;

performance-based incentive compensation based on the executive's performance; and

retirement and other benefits made available to all employees.

Base Salary

The Company provides named executive officers and other employees with base salary to compensate them for services rendered during the fiscal year. Executive base salaries continue to reflect our operating philosophy, our performance driven corporate culture and business direction, with each salary determined by the skills, experience and performance level of the individual executive, and the needs and resources of the Company. Base salaries are targeted to market levels based on reviews of published salary surveys and the closest related peer company compensation since we do not believe that Newtek has any peer companies. Base salary ranges for named executive officers are determined for each executive based on his or her position and responsibility by using market data from published salary surveys such as Equilar, and the Company generally attempts to fix each named executive officer's salary within the range. We believe that the Company's most direct competitors for executive talent are not necessarily restricted to those companies that are included in the peer company index used to compare stockholder returns, but encompass a broader group of companies engaged in the recruitment and retention of executive talent in competition with the Company.

During the review of base salaries for executives, we primarily consider:

an internal review of each executive's compensation both individually and relative to other executive officers;

individual performance of the executive; and

a review of the Company's revenue growth, net income and cash flow metrics relative to the Company's annual plan as established by the Board.

Salary levels are typically considered annually as part of the Company's performance review process as well as upon a promotion or other change in job responsibility. Merit based increases to salaries are based on the Chief Executive Officer's assessment of the individual's performance. Merit based increases to the salaries of named executive officers other than the Chief Executive Officer are determined by the Committee.

Annual Bonus

Annual bonuses may be earned by executive officers under the Company's cash bonus plan. The Company creates a bonus pool based on the salaries of all employees which it accrues as an expense. Payments under the plan are based on the Company's overall performance as determined by the Chief Executive Officer and the Committee. The Committee determines any bonus for the Chief Executive Officer based on, among other things, a review of the Company's revenue growth, net income and cash flow metrics relative to the Company's annual plans as established by the Board. The Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Committee with respect to the named executive officers, or in consultation with the named executive officers and other executive officers with respect to lower level employees, determines annual bonuses for other employees based on such employee's performance. Factors considered include the achievement of business plans, defined goals, and performance relative to other companies of a similar size and business strategy. The mix and weighting of the factors vary, depending on the business segment and the executive's responsibilities. The level of achievement by the executive determines the level of bonus.

Equity Based Compensation

From time to time, at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer, and with the approval of the Committee, the Company grants equity-based awards, such as stock options or restricted stock to the named executive officers and certain other key employees to create a clear and strong alignment between compensation and stockholder return and to enable the named executive officers and other employees to develop and maintain a stock ownership position in the company that will vest over time and act as an incentive for the employee to remain with the Company. Restricted stock and options are granted pursuant to the Company's 2000 Incentive Stock and Deferred Compensation Plan or its 2003 Stock Incentive Plan.

In 2007, we issued 204,241 shares of restricted stock to employees and executives with vesting periods from one to three years. Of this amount, 82,515 shares were granted to named executive officers, of which 72,394 shares were granted in 2004 to Mr. Sloane and Mr. Rubin in respect of deferred compensation and issued in 2007. An additional 171,795 shares of restricted stock were granted to a former employee in connection with a legal settlement.

An accounting pronouncement adopted by the Financial Accounting Standards Board and effective for Newtek beginning on January 1, 2006 (FAS 123(R)), requires us to measure the value of equity awards based on the fair value of the award on the grant date. The cost is recognized in our statements of operations over the period during which an employee is required to provide service in exchange for the award, which is usually the vesting period. FAS 123(R) applies to all equity-based compensation awarded on or after January 1, 2006, and to existing stock options that vest after January 1, 2006.

Stock option award levels are determined by the Committee based on the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer, and vary among participants based on their positions within the Company.

Options are awarded at the average of the highest and lowest sale price of the Company's Common Shares on the NASDAQ market on the date of the grant (the Market Value). In certain limited circumstances, the Committee may grant options to an executive at an exercise price in excess of the Market Value of the Company's Common Shares on the grant date. The Committee has never granted options with an exercise price that is less than the Market Value of the Company's common shares on the grant date, nor has it granted options which are priced on a date other than the grant date.

Options granted by the Committee typically vest over the first three to five years of the ten-year option term, although in certain cases we have granted options that have vested immediately. Vesting rights cease upon termination of employment but options may be exercised within one year of termination. Prior to the exercise of an option, the holder has no rights as a stockholder with respect to the shares subject to such option, including voting rights and the right to receive dividends or dividend equivalents.

Upon a change of control, or, if earlier, the execution of an agreement to effect a change of control, all options and restricted stock awards under the Company's 2000 Incentive Stock and Deferred Compensation Plan and its 2003 Stock Incentive Plan become fully vested and immediately exercisable, notwithstanding any other provision of the plan or any agreement.

In 2007, we did not grant any options.

Benefits and Perquisites

Our executives are generally not entitled to benefits that are not available to all of our employees. In this regard, it should be noted that we do not provide pension arrangements, post-retirement health coverage, or similar benefits for our executives or employees. The Committee periodically reviews the levels of benefits provided to executive officers. The named executive officers participate in the Company's 401(k) savings plan and other benefit plans on the same basis as other similarly situated employees. The Company has adopted a match for the Company's 401(k) savings plan which consists of a discretionary match in the form of Company's Common Shares of 50% of the first 2% of employee contributions up to a maximum of 1% of the employee's compensation. In March, 2008, the Company issued 80,315 shares under this program to employees in respect of the 2007 match.

The perquisites we provided in fiscal 2007 are as follows. We paid the premiums on life insurance policies for Messrs. Sloane and Rubin in the amount of \$5,995 and \$1,380, respectively.

Compensation of the Chief Executive Officer

The Committee determined the compensation for Barry Sloane, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Secretary, for 2007. While recognizing the Chief Executive Officer's leadership in building a highly talented management team and in driving the Company forward, Mr. Sloane's salary was maintained at \$350,000 for 2007 and no bonus was paid. Mr. Sloane also received no bonus in 2005 and 2006. This is less than the competitive labor market median for someone with his skills and talents, but reflective of the Company's current cash position. Mr. Sloane's compensation has remained unchanged since 2005.

Conclusion

Attracting and retaining talented and motivated management and employees is essential to creating long-term stockholder value. Offering a competitive, performance-based compensation program helps to achieve this objective by aligning the interests of the executive officers and other key employees with those of stockholders. We believe that the Company's 2007 compensation program met those objectives.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Compensation, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee of the Company has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis for fiscal 2007 required by Item 402(b) of Regulation S-K with management and, based on such review and discussions, the Compensation, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement.

THE COMPENSATION, CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Michael A. Schwartz, Chairman

Christopher G. Payan

Salvatore F. Mulia

Gordon Schroeder

The information contained in this report shall not be deemed to be soliciting material or filed with the SEC or subject to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Exchange Act, except to the extent that Newtek specifically incorporates it by reference into a document filed under the Securities Act or Exchange Act.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The executive officers of Newtek, and their ages, as of April 28, 2008, are as follows:

| Name | Age | Position |
|-----------------|------------|---|
| Barry Sloane | 48 | Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, and Secretary |
| Craig J. Brunet | 60 | Executive Vice President, Chief Information Officer |
| Seth A. Cohen | 45 | Chief Financial Officer |

Barry Sloane is the Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and Secretary of the Company and has been an executive officer of each of the Company-sponsored certified capital companies for more than five years. Previously, from September 1993 through July 1995, Mr. Sloane was a Managing Director of Smith Barney, Inc. While there, he directed the Commercial and Residential Real Estate Securitization Unit and, prior to that time, he was national sales manager for institutional mortgage and asset backed securities sales. From April 1991 through September 1993, he was founder and President of Aegis Capital Markets, a consumer loan origination and securitization business which was eventually taken public with the name of Aegis Consumer Funding. From October 1988 through March 1991, Mr. Sloane was Senior Vice President of Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette, where he was responsible for directing sales of mortgage-backed securities. From August 1982 to September 1988 Mr. Sloane was a senior mortgage security salesman and trader for Bear Stearns, L.F. Rothschild, E.F. Hutton and Paine Webber.

Craig J. Brunet has served as Executive Vice President, Chief Information Officer since January 1, 2008. Mr. Brunet previously served as Executive Vice President Strategic Planning and Marketing since July, 2006 and as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Company's Harvest Strategies subsidiary since June, 2001. From 1984-1989, Mr. Brunet served as Director of Strategic Planning for AT&T, where he managed all special development and modifications to standard AT&T products to include non-standard pricing, terms and conditions, hardware and software strategic initiatives, FCC Tariffs, as well as joint venture and/or integration requirements for the top 50 AT&T accounts. In 1989, Mr. Brunet joined Entergy Corporation as Executive Vice President of Entergy Corporation responsible for managing and directing the overall Entergy System retail and wholesale marketing effort including strategy development, policy preparation and administration, market development and market analysis and research. During his tenure with Entergy he served as Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and served on the Board of Directors of Entergy Enterprises guiding decisions on unregulated activities including strategic acquisition and investments in generation, distribution and new technology assets domestically and internationally. From 1993-1996, Mr. Brunet served as Chairman, CEO and President of First Pacific Networks, a leader in the initial development and deployment of broadband technologies in the United States and Europe. During this period he was also Chairman of the Board of Credit Depot Corporation, a publicly traded multi-state mortgage company and served as Chairman of both the audit committee and compensation committee.

Seth A. Cohen has served as Chief Financial Officer since August 31, 2007 and Senior Vice President Finance since March 30, 2007. Mr. Cohen has previously served as Executive Vice President of Capital Markets for the Company since January 2005 and Vice President for Capital Markets for the Company since June 2000. Mr. Cohen has 20 years experience in corporate and municipal finance. Prior to Newtek, from September 1998 to May 2000, Mr. Cohen was Director of the Mayor's Office of Pensions and Public Finance for the City of New York.

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

The following table sets forth the aggregate compensation earned by the Company's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and next three most highly compensated executive officers during 2007 and 2006 which we refer to as named executive officers.

| Name and Principal Position | Year | Salary (\$) | Bonus (\$)(1) | Stock Awards (\$) | Option Awards (\$) | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$) | Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation (\$) | All other compensation (in excess of \$10,000) (\$) | Total (\$) |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|------------|
| Barry Sloane, CEO | 2007 | 350,000 | | | | | | | 350,000 |
| Jeffrey G. Rubin, President(2) | 2007 | 286,668 | 50,000 | | | | | | 336,668 |
| Michael J. Holden, CFO(3) | 2007 | 160,000 | | | | | | | 160,000 |
| Craig J. Brunet, EVP | 2007 | 240,000 | 60,000 | | | | | | 300,000 |
| Seth A. Cohen, SVP, CFO | 2007 | 210,833 | 25,000 | | | | | | 235,833 |
| Tracy A. Schmidt, President, | | | | | | | | | |
| Universal Processing Services Wisconsin, LLC (4) | 2007 | 18,750 | | | | | | | 18,750 |

(1) Cash bonus awarded for 2007 performance and paid in 2008.

(2) Resigned March 7, 2008.

(3) Resigned August 31, 2007.

(4) Resigned February 5, 2007.

| Name and Principal Position | Year | Salary (\$) | Bonus (\$)(1) | Stock Awards (\$) | Option Awards (\$) | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$) | Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation (\$) | All other compensation (in excess of \$10,000) (\$) | Total (\$) |
|--------------------------------------|------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|------------|
| Barry Sloane, CEO | 2006 | 350,000 | | | | | | | 350,000 |
| Jeffrey G. Rubin, President | 2006 | 286,668 | 50,000 | | | | | | 336,668 |
| Michael J. Holden, CFO | 2006 | 240,000 | 45,000 | 25,000(2) | | | | | 310,000 |
| Craig J. Brunet, EVP (3) | 2006 | 120,000 | 48,000 | | | | | | 288,000 |
| Seth A. Cohen, SVP | 2006 | 185,000 | 35,000 | 18,329(4) | | | | | 238,329 |
| Tracy A. Schmidt, President, | | | | | | | | | |
| Universal Processing Services | | | | | | | | | |
| Wisconsin, LLC | 2006 | 151,425 | | | | | | | |
| Tim Uzzanti, CEO, CrystalTech | | | | | | | | | |
| Web Hosting, Inc. (5) | 2006 | 116,769 | | | | | | | |

(1) Cash bonus Awarded for 2006 performance and paid in 2007

(2) Shares awarded for 2006, granted and vested in 2007

(3) As of July 1, 2006.

(4) Shares awarded in 2003 and vested in 2006

(5) Resigned July 8, 2006
Equity Compensation Plans

The following table provides information as of December 31, 2007 with respect to the shares of our Common Shares that may be issued under our equity compensation plans.

| Plan Category | Number of Securities to be issued upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights | Weighted Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights ⁽²⁾ | Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans |
|---|---|--|--|
| Equity Compensation Plans Approved by Stockholders ⁽¹⁾ | 1,376,948 | \$ 2.68 | 2,571,417 |
| Equity Compensation Plans Not Approved by Stockholders | | | |
| Total | 1,376,948 | \$ 2.68 | 2,571,417 |

(1) Consists of 4,250,000 Common Shares under the Company's 2000 Stock Incentive and Deferred Compensation Plan and 1,000,000 Common Shares under the Company's 2003 Stock Incentive Plan.

(2) Excludes 68,028 restricted stock rights which have a zero exercise price.

GRANTS OF PLAN BASED AWARDS

No equity grants were made to any named executive officer during 2007.

| Name | Grant date | Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards | | | Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards | | | All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units (#) | All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options (#) | Exercise or Base Price of Awards (\$/Sh) | Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards |
|------------------------|------------|---|-------------|--------------|---|------------|-------------|--|--|--|--|
| | | Threshold (\$) | Target (\$) | Maximum (\$) | Threshold (#) | Target (#) | Maximum (#) | | | | |
| Barry Sloane, CEO | N/A | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jeffrey G. Rubin, (1) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| President | N/A | | | | | | | | | | |
| Michael J. Holden, (2) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CFO | N/A | | | | | | | | | | |
| Craig J. Brunet, EVP | N/A | | | | | | | | | | |
| Seth A. Cohen, SVP | N/A | | | | | | | | | | |

OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT 2007 YEAR END

The following table reflects all outstanding equity awards held by the our named executive officers as of December 31, 2007.

| Name | Option Awards (1) | | | | | | Stock Awards | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|---|----------------------------|------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable (#) | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Unexercisable (#) | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) | Option Exercise Price (\$) | Option Expiration Date | Number of Shares or Units of Stock that have not Vested (#) | Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock that have not Vested (\$) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights that have not Vested (#) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights that have not Vested (\$) | |
| Barry Sloane, CEO | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jeffrey G. Rubin | | | | | | | | | | |
| President | | | | | | | | | | |
| Michael J. Holden, CFO | 100,000 | | | 2.38 | 08/31/08 | | | | | |
| | 50,000 | | | 1.57 | 8/31/08 | | | | | |
| Craig J. Brunet, EVP | 100,000 | | | 1.57 | 12/21/15 | | | | | |
| Tracy A. Schmidt, | 50,000 | | | 2.48 | 2/05/08 | | | | | |

**President,
Universal
Processing
Services
Wisconsin,
LLC**

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|------|----------|
| Seth A. Cohen, SVP | 50,000 | 7.00 | 04/7/10 |
| | 50,000 | 1.57 | 12/21/15 |

(1) These options are fully vested.

OPTIONS EXERCISED AND STOCK VESTED

The following table reflects the stock options exercised and restricted shares vested during 2007 for the named executive officers.

| Name | Option Awards | | Stock Awards | |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| | Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#) | Value Realized on Exercise (\$) | Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#) | Value Realized on Vesting (\$) (1) |
| Barry Sloane, CEO | | | | |
| Jeffrey G. Rubin, President | | | | |
| Michael J. Holden, CFO | | | 10,121 | 25,000 |
| Craig J. Brunet, EVP | | | | |
| Seth A. Cohen, SVP | | | | |

(1) Dollar amounts shown in this column represent the value of Stock Awards that vested during the year; these are calculated using the closing price of our Common Shares on the vesting date.

Employment Agreements

The Company has entered into separate employment agreements with two of its executive officers and, as of December 31, 2007 was a party to an employment agreement of an officer s which was subsequently terminated:

Barry Sloane, as Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Secretary;

Craig J. Brunet as Executive Vice President Strategic Planning and Marketing until December 31, 2007, and Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer thereafter; and

Jeffrey G. Rubin, as President, which agreement was terminated on March 7, 2008.

Barry Sloane, as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, is responsible for implementing the policies adopted by the Company s Board of Directors.

Mr. Sloane s employment agreement provides for:

an eighteen-month term through June 30, 2008 at an annual base salary of \$350,000;

at least one annual salary review by the Board of Directors;

participation in any discretionary bonus plan established for senior executives;

retirement and medical plans, customary fringe benefits, vacation and sick leave; and

Edgar Filing: NEWTEK BUSINESS SERVICES INC - Form DEF 14A

\$2 million of split-dollar life insurance coverage.

Mr. Brunet's employment agreement provides for:

A twenty-four month term through June 30, 2008 at an annual base salary of \$276,000;

at least one annual salary review by the Board of Directors;

participation in any discretionary bonus plan established for senior executives; and

retirement and medical plans, customary fringe benefits, vacation and sick leave.

Mr. Rubin's employment agreement provided for:

an eighteen-month term through June 30, 2008 at an annual base salary of \$286,000;

at least one annual salary review by the Board of Directors;

participation in any discretionary bonus plan established for senior executives;

retirement and medical plans, customary fringe benefits, vacation and sick leave; and

\$2 million of split-dollar life insurance coverage.

On March 7, 2008, Jeffrey G. Rubin terminated his Employment Agreement with the Company and resigned as President and Director of the Company. Mr. Rubin entered into a Consulting Agreement with the Company on March 7, 2008 under which he will perform business development consulting services under the direction and direct supervision of the Company's Chief Executive Officer for a one year term, at a salary of \$250,000 per annum.

In connection with his resignation, Mr. Rubin entered into a Termination Agreement dated March 7, 2008 with the Company that provides for a ninety (90) day lock-up of Mr. Rubin's shares, the non-disclosure or use of confidential information of the Company by Mr. Rubin and an agreement not to solicit employees or customers of the Company for twenty-four (24) months.

Each employment agreement contains a non-competition provision that requires the employee to devote substantially his full business time and efforts to the performance of the employee's duties under the agreement. The employee is not prohibited, however, from:

 serving on the boards of directors of, and holding offices or positions in, companies or organizations which, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, will not present conflicts of interest with the Company; or

 investing in any business dissimilar from the Company's or, solely as a passive or minority investor, in any business.

The Company may terminate an employee's employment for just cause as defined in the agreement, and upon the termination, no severance benefits are available. If the Company terminates an employee without just cause, or if the term of the agreement is not extended for an additional year, the employee will be paid an amount equal to six months' compensation. If the employee voluntarily terminates his employment for good reason as defined in the agreement, or the employee's employment terminates during the term of the agreement due to death, disability, or retirement after age 62, the employee will be entitled to a continuation of his salary and benefits from the date of termination through the remaining term of the agreement. The employee is able to voluntarily terminate his agreement by providing 60 days written notice to the Board of Directors, in which case the employee is entitled to receive only his compensation, vested rights, and benefits up to the date of termination.

Payments upon Change of Control

Mr. Sloane's employment agreement contains provisions stating that in the event of the employee's involuntary termination of employment (other than for cause) in connection with, or within six months after, any change in control of the Company, the employee will be paid within 10 days of the termination a sum equal to 2.99 times the average annual compensation he received during the five-year period immediately prior to the date of change in control. Change of Control generally refers to the acquisition, by any person or entity, of the ownership or power to vote more than 25% of the Company's voting stock, or the control of the election of a majority of directors or the exercise of a controlling influence over the Company's management or policies.

Mr. Sloane's employment agreement also provides for a similar lump sum payment to be made in the event of the employee's voluntary termination of employment within 30 days of a change in control, or within 90 days thereafter, of certain specified events following any change in control, whether approval by the Board of Directors or otherwise which have not been consented to in writing by the employee including:

 requiring the employee to move his personal residence or perform his principal executive functions more than 50 miles from the employee's primary office;

 failing to maintain existing employee benefit plans, including material vacation, fringe benefits, and retirement plans;

 assigning duties and responsibilities to the employee which are other than those normally associated with his position;

 materially diminishing the employee's authority and responsibility; and

 failing to elect or re-elect the employee to the Company's Board of Directors.

Post Termination Payments

The table below reflects the amount of compensation that would be payable to the Chief Executive Officer under existing arrangements if the hypothetical termination of employments events described above had occurred on December 31, 2007, given Mr. Sloane's compensation and service levels as of such date. All payments are payable by the Company in a lump sum unless otherwise noted. No other named executive officer is entitled to post termination payments.

These benefits are in addition to benefits available regardless of the occurrence of such an event, such as currently exercisable stock options, and benefits generally available to salaried employees, such as distributions under the Company's 401(k) plan, disability benefits, and accrued vacation pay. In addition, in connection with any termination of Mr. Sloane's employment, the Company may determine to enter into an agreement or to establish an arrangement providing additional benefits or amounts, or altering the terms of benefits described below, as the Compensation, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee deems appropriate.

The actual amounts that would be paid upon Mr. Sloane's termination of employment can be determined only at the time of his separation from the Company.

| Name | Post Termination Payments | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| | Change in Control with Termination | Change in Control with Change in Duties |
| Barry Sloane, CEO | \$ 1,046,500 | \$ 1,046,500 |

Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

The Company did not have any nonqualified deferred compensation in the year ended December 31, 2007.

Pension Benefits

The Company had no obligation under pension benefit plans to the named executive officers as of December 31, 2007.

Tax and Accounting Implications

Deductibility of Executive Compensation

As part of its role, the Committee reviews and considers the deductibility of executive compensation under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, which provides that the Company may not deduct compensation of more than \$1,000,000 that is paid to certain individuals. The Company believes that compensation paid by the Company is generally fully deductible for federal income tax purposes. However, in certain situations, the Committee may, in the future, approve compensation that will not meet these requirements in order to ensure competitive levels of total compensation for its executive officers.

Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation

Beginning on January 1, 2006, the Company began accounting for stock-based payments including its Stock Option Program, Long-Term Stock Grant Program, Restricted Stock Program and Stock Award Program in accordance with the requirements of FASB Statement 123(R).

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS
Related Party Transactions

During the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, the Company provided merchant processing for a company controlled by the father-in-law of the former President of the Company, in the approximate amounts of \$234,000 and \$108,000, respectively. In addition, the Company recorded a receivable for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 in the amount of \$104,000 and \$164,000, respectively.

The Company's CrystalTech Webhosting, Inc. (CrystalTech) subsidiary paid Mr. Uzzanti, its former CEO, rent for its principal office location in Phoenix, Arizona. The aggregate cost of the rental was approximately \$251,000 and \$210,000 for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively. In addition, Mr. Uzzanti owned and controlled a software development company (Smarter Tools) which leases 200 square feet of space from CrystalTech and provides software services to CrystalTech. The space was rented through April 2006 at \$24,000 per year which amount is paid by Smarter Tools through the provision of certain technological services to CrystalTech. In addition, Smarter Tools provided services above the \$24,000 annual rent. Total payments to Smarter Tools in 2006 were \$84,000.

The Company may also, from time to time, provide business services to executives of the Company or their family members. These transactions are conducted at arms length and do not represent a material portion of the Company's revenues.

The Company's Code of Conduct provides that when any potential conflict exists, it must be properly disclosed and an appropriate determination made by the Company. The Chairman and CEO is ultimately responsible for the determination. The Company's policies and procedures were followed in connection with all of the above.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

J.H. Cohn LLP served as the Company's independent auditors for the years ended December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2007. A representative of J.H. Cohn LLP is expected to be present at the Annual Meeting to respond to appropriate questions and will have the opportunity to make a statement if he so desires.

Fees for professional services rendered to the Company by J.H. Cohn LLP during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 were as follows:

| | (thousands) |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Audit Fees | \$ 924 |
| Audit Related Fees | \$ |
| All Other Fees | \$ 84 |
| Total Fees | \$ 1,008 |

Fees for professional services rendered to the Company by J.H. Cohn LLP during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2006 were as follows:

| | (thousands) |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Audit Fees | \$ 800 |
| Audit Related Fees | \$ 304 |
| All Other Fees | \$ |
| Total Fees | \$ 1,104 |

Audit Fees: The audit fees for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 were for professional services rendered in connection with the audit of the Company's annual financial statements, assistance with review of documents filed with the SEC, consents and other services required to be performed by our independent auditors.

Audit-Related Fees: The audit-related fees during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 were for assurance and related services associated with the audit in connection with an acquisition.

Tax Fees: No fees were billed to the Company by J.H. Cohn LLP during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 for professional services rendered in connection with tax compliance, tax advice, and tax planning.

All Other Fees: All other fees billed to the Company by J.H. Cohn LLP during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006 for non-audit services and assurance and related services for attestations not required by law.

In accordance with the Audit Committee Charter, all of the foregoing audit and non-audit fees paid to and the related services provided by J.H. Cohn LLP were pre-approved by the Audit Committee.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors, through its Audit Committee, and in accordance with its written Charter, reviews the audit function, internal controls and financial statements of the Company. The Committee consists solely of directors who are not Company employees and are considered independent under applicable rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the NASDAQ Stock Market. In 2007, the Audit Committee convened 7 times to discuss with management and the independent auditors their respective accounting, auditing and financial reporting responsibilities with respect to the fiscal year 2007 or 2006.

In connection with the December 31, 2007 financial statements of the Company, the Audit Committee: (1) reviewed and discussed the audited and interim unaudited financial statements with management; (2) discussed with the auditors the matters required by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 and the independence of the auditors; and (3) received and discussed with the auditors the matters required by Independence Standards Board Statement No. 1. In discharging these oversight responsibilities as to the audit process, the Committee obtained from the independent auditors a formal written statement describing all relationships between the auditor and the Company that might bear on the auditors independence and discussed with the auditors any relationships that may impact their objectivity and independence. Based upon these procedures and discussions with Company management, the Audit Committee considered whether it was necessary to exclude J.H. Cohn LLP from performing any work for the Company separate and apart from auditing the Company's financial statements. After a thorough analysis, the Audit Committee concluded that at this time there was no conflict that would jeopardize auditor independence and that it is satisfied as to the auditors independence. The committee also discussed with management and the independent auditors the quality and adequacy of the Company's internal controls.

The Audit Committee, with and without management present, discussed and reviewed the results of the independent auditors examination of the financial statements. The Audit Committee reviewed the audited financial statements of the Company as of and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007, with management and the independent auditors. Based upon these reviews and the resulting discussions, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the Company's audited financial statements be included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007, for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Date: April 30, 2008

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher G. Payan, Chairman
David C. Beck
Jeffrey M. Schottenstein

OTHER MATTERS

The Board of Directors is not aware of any business to come before the Annual Meeting other than those matters described above in this Proxy Statement and matters incident to the conduct of the Annual Meeting. Properly executed proxies in the accompanying form that have not been revoked confer discretionary authority on the persons named therein to vote at the direction of a majority of the Board of Directors on any other matters presented at the Annual Meeting. Under SEC rules, if a Stockholder does not notify the Company within a reasonable time before the date of this Proxy Statement of such Stockholder's intent to present a proposal at the

Annual Meeting, the persons named in the accompanying proxy may exercise such discretionary voting authority if the proposal is raised at the Annual Meeting, without any discussion of the matter in this Proxy Statement.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS

FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON JUNE 17, 2008

The Proxy Statement and Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2007 are available at www.newtekbusinessservices.com.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may read and copy any reports, statements or other information we file at the SEC's public reference rooms in Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at (800) SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from commercial document retrieval services and on the web site maintained by the SEC at www.sec.gov. Such information will also be furnished upon written request to , Newtek Business Services, Inc., 1440 Broadway, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018, Attention: Chief Legal Officer, and can also be accessed through our website at www.newtekbusinessservices.com.

The SEC has adopted rules that permit companies and intermediaries such as brokers to satisfy delivery requirements for proxy materials with respect to two or more shareholders sharing the same address. This process, which is commonly referred to as householding, potentially provides extra convenience for shareholders and cost savings for companies. The Company and some brokers household proxy materials, delivering a single copy of the proxy materials to multiple shareholders sharing an address unless contrary instructions have been received from the affected shareholders.

Once you have received notice from your broker or the Company that they or the Company will be householding materials to your address, householding will continue until you are notified otherwise or until you revoke your consent. If, at any time, you no longer wish to participate in householding, please notify your broker if your shares are held in a brokerage account or the Company if you hold registered shares. You can notify the Company by sending a written request to, Newtek Business Services, Inc., 1440 Broadway, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018, Attention: Chief Legal Officer.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROXIES

The Company's policy is that proxies identifying individual stockholders are private except as necessary to determine compliance with law, or assert or defend legal claims, or in a contested proxy solicitation, or in the event that a shareholder makes a written comment on a proxy card or an attachment to it.

MISCELLANEOUS

The cost of solicitation of proxies will be borne by the Company. The Company will reimburse brokerage firms and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for reasonable expenses incurred by them in sending proxy material to the beneficial owners of Common Shares. In addition to solicitations by mail, directors, officers and regular employees of the Company may solicit proxies personally, by telephone or by email without additional compensation.

The Annual Report to Stockholders for the year ended December 31, 2007, including financial statements, is being mailed to all stockholders of record as of the close of business on or about April 30, 2008. Any Stockholder who has not received a copy of the Annual Report may obtain a copy by writing to the Secretary of the Company. Such Annual Report is not to be treated as part of the proxy solicitation material nor as having been incorporated herein by reference.

STOCKHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

Stockholders may send written communications to the Board of Directors to the attention of the Board of Directors, c/o Newtek Business Services, Inc., 1440 Broadway, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10018. Stockholder communications must be signed by the stockholder and identify the number of Common Shares held by the stockholder. Each properly submitted stockholder communication will be provided to the Board of Directors at its next meeting or, if such communication requires more immediate attention, it will be forwarded to the Directors promptly after receipt.

STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS

In order to be eligible for inclusion in the proxy statement and proxy relating to the 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Company, which will be held on or about June 17, 2009, any stockholder proposal to take action at such meeting must be received by the Secretary of the Company at 1440 Broadway, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10018 no later than January 19, 2009. Nothing in this paragraph shall be deemed to require the Company to include in its proxy statement and proxy relating to the 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, or to consider and vote upon at any such meeting, any stockholder proposal which does not meet all of the requirements established by the SEC or the Company's Certificate of Incorporation or Bylaws in effect at the time such proposal is received.

By order of the Board of Directors,

Barry Sloane, Secretary

ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS OF

NEWTEK BUSINESS SERVICES, INC.

June 17, 2008

Please sign, date and mail

your proxy card in the

envelope provided as soon

as possible.

1 Please detach along perforated line and mail in the envelope provided. **1**

¢ 20230000000000001000 9

061708

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND FOR PROPOSALS 1 AND 2.

PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND RETURN PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. PLEASE MARK YOUR VOTE IN BLUE OR BLACK INK AS SHOWN HERE x

- | | | | | |
|---|--|-----|---------|---------|
| | | FOR | AGAINST | ABSTAIN |
| 1. Election as Class II directors of all nominees listed below (except as marked to the contrary) | 2. To ratify the selection of J.H. Cohn LLP as auditors of the Company for the year ending December 31, 2008. | .. | .. | .. |
| .. | NOMINEES: O David C. Beck | | | |
| .. | FOR ALL NOMINEES O Gordon L. Schroeder WITHHOLD AUTHORITY | | | |
| .. | FOR ALL EXCEPT | | | |
| | 3. Such other matters as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof. | | | |
- (See instructions below)

Should the undersigned be present and elect to vote at the Annual Meeting or at any adjournment thereof and after notification to the Secretary of the Company at the Annual Meeting of the shareholder s decision to terminate this proxy, then the power of said attorneys and proxies shall be deemed terminated and of no further force and effect. The undersigned hereby revokes any and all proxies heretofore given

Edgar Filing: NEWTEK BUSINESS SERVICES INC - Form DEF 14A

with respect to Common Shares of the Company which the undersigned is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

The undersigned shareholder acknowledges receipt from the Company, prior to the execution of this proxy, of Notice of the

Annual Meeting and a Proxy Statement dated April 30, 2008.

PLEASE COMPLETE, DATE, SIGN AND MAIL THIS PROXY

PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE-PREPAID

ENVELOPE.

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: 1

Check here if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting: "

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 Shareholder

Date:

Signature of Shareholder

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.

NEWTEK BUSINESS SERVICES, INC.

ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

June 17, 2008

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The undersigned shareholder of Newtek Business Services, Inc. (the Company) hereby appoints Barry Sloane and Michael A. Schwartz, or either of them, with full powers of substitution, as attorneys and proxies for the undersigned, to vote all Common Shares of the Company which the undersigned is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders, to be held at the New York City office of the Company, 1440 Broadway, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018 on Tuesday, June 17, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., local time, and at any and all adjournments thereof, as indicated below and as determined by a majority of the Board of Directors with respect to such other matters as may come before the Annual Meeting.

This proxy will be voted as directed, but if no instructions are specified, this proxy will be voted for each of the propositions stated. If any other business is presented at the Annual Meeting as to which this proxy confers discretionary authority, this proxy will be voted by those named in this proxy as determined by a majority of the Board of Directors. At the present time, the Board of Directors knows of no other business to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

(Continued and to be signed on the reverse side)