

Citizens Community Bancorp Inc.  
Form DEF 14A  
January 26, 2015

SCHEDULE 14A

(Rule 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

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

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

CITIZENS COMMUNITY BANCORP, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

(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.

Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(1 )

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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):

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Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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Date Filed:

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CITIZENS COMMUNITY BANCORP, INC.

2174 EASTRIDGE CENTER

EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN 54701

Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders

to be held on March 26, 2015

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Citizens Community Bancorp, Inc., a Maryland corporation (the “Corporation” or “Citizens”), will be held at the Eau Claire Golf and Country Club located at 828 Clubview Lane, Altoona, Wisconsin 54720, on Thursday, March 26, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. local time, for the following purposes:

- 1 .To elect two directors to serve on our Board of Directors, each for a three-year term.
- 2 To approve the ratification of the appointment of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP as Citizens’ independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.
- 3 To take action with respect to any other matters that may be properly brought before the meeting and that might be considered by the shareholders of a Maryland corporation at their Annual Meeting.

By order of the Board of Directors

Edward H. Schaefer,

President and CEO

Eau Claire, Wisconsin

January 26, 2015

Shareholders of record at the close of business on January 12, 2015 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual meeting and any adjournment or postponement thereof. Your vote is important to ensure that a majority of our stock is represented. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting in person, please vote your shares via the Internet or by completing, signing, dating and returning the enclosed proxy card promptly in the enclosed envelope. If you send in your proxy card or vote by the Internet, you may still decide to attend the annual meeting and vote your shares in person. Your proxy is revocable in accordance with the procedures set forth in the accompanying proxy statement. Shareholders holding shares in brokerage accounts (“street name” holders) who wish to vote at the annual meeting will need to obtain a proxy form and voting instructions from the institution that holds their shares.

As noted above, shareholders of record may also vote by the Internet. Voting by the Internet is fast, convenient, and your vote is immediately confirmed and tabulated. Most important, by using the Internet, you help us reduce postage and proxy tabulation costs. The Internet voting facilities will close at 7:00 p.m. (eastern time) on March 25, 2015.

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Or, if you prefer, you can return the enclosed proxy card in the envelope provided.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD IF YOU ARE VOTING OVER THE INTERNET.

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CITIZENS COMMUNITY BANCORP, INC.

2174 EASTRIDGE CENTER

EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN 54701

Proxy Statement for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders

to be Held on March 26, 2015

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the

2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be Held on March 26, 2015:

The Notice of Annual Meeting, this Proxy Statement and the Accompanying Annual Report

are Available on the Internet at: [www.cstproxy.com/ccf/2015](http://www.cstproxy.com/ccf/2015)

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors of Citizens Community Bancorp, Inc. of proxies, in the accompanying form, to be used at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the "Annual Meeting") of Citizens for the purposes set forth in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting to be held on March 26, 2015 and any adjournments thereof. Only shareholders of record at the close of business on January 12, 2015 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Our principal executive offices are located at 2174 EastRidge Center, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701. It is expected that this Proxy Statement and the form of Proxy will be mailed to shareholders on or about January 26, 2015.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

##### Proxies and Voting Procedures

Shareholders can vote by completing and returning a proxy card in the form accompanying this Proxy Statement or, if shares are held in "street name," by completing a voting instruction form provided by your broker. Shareholders of record can also vote over the Internet. If Internet voting is available to you, you can find voting instructions in the materials accompanying this Proxy Statement. The Internet voting facilities will close at 7:00 p.m. (eastern time) on March 25, 2015. Please be aware that if you vote over the Internet, you may incur costs such as Internet access charges for which you will be responsible.

The shares represented by each validly executed proxy received by Citizens or its authorized agents in time will be voted at the Annual Meeting and, if a choice is specified in the proxy, it will be voted in accordance with that specification. If no instructions are specified in a signed proxy returned to Citizens, the shares represented thereby will be voted FOR the election of the directors listed in the enclosed proxy card and FOR the ratification of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP as Citizens' independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. If any other matters are properly presented at the Annual Meeting, including, among other things, consideration of a motion to adjourn the meeting to another time or place, the individuals named as proxies and acting thereunder will have the authority to vote on those matters according to their best judgment to the same extent as the person delivering the proxy would be entitled to vote. If the Annual Meeting is adjourned or postponed, a proxy will remain valid and may be voted at the adjourned or postponed meeting. As of the date of printing of this Proxy Statement, we do not know of any other matters that are to be presented at the Annual Meeting other than the matters referred to in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting. However, if any other matters are properly presented at the Annual Meeting, it is intended that the persons named in the proxy will vote on such matters in accordance with their judgment.

Shareholders may revoke proxies at any time to the extent they have not been exercised by giving us written notice or by a later executed proxy submitted via the Internet or by mail. Attendance at the Annual Meeting will not automatically revoke a proxy, but a shareholder attending the Annual Meeting may request a ballot and vote in person, thereby revoking a prior granted proxy. The cost of solicitation of proxies will be borne by Citizens. Solicitation will be made primarily by use of the mail; however, some solicitation may be made by our employees, without additional compensation, by telephone, by facsimile or in



person. We have also retained Regan and Associates to assist us with the solicitation of proxies for the Annual Meeting for a fee of not less than \$6,000 plus a reasonable amount to cover the expenses of such solicitation firm.

**Shareholders Entitled to Vote**  
Citizens common stock, \$0.01 par value per share (the “Common Stock”), is the only class of voting security of Citizens Community Bancorp, Inc. Only shareholders of record at the close of business on January 12, 2015 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting. On the record date, we had outstanding 5,195,714 shares of our Common Stock, entitled to one vote per share.

#### **Quorum; Required Vote**

A majority of the votes entitled to be cast at the Annual Meeting, represented either in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum with respect to the meeting. Approval of the election of the nominee directors requires a plurality of the shares represented at the Annual Meeting, meaning that the two individuals receiving the largest number of votes are elected as directors. The ratification of the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares cast, in person or by proxy, at the Annual Meeting by the holders of the Common Stock. Abstentions and broker nonvotes (i.e., shares held by brokers in street name, voting on certain matters due to discretionary authority or instructions from the beneficial owners but not voting on other matters due to lack of authority to vote on such matters without instructions from the beneficial owner) will count toward the quorum requirement but will not count toward the determination of whether the directors are elected or the other proposal is approved. The Inspector of Election appointed by our Board of Directors will count the votes and ballots.

Certain shares of our issued and outstanding Common Stock are held by participants in our 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan (the “401(k) Plan”). If you hold shares of our Common Stock in the 401(k) Plan, the trustee for the 401(k) Plan will vote the shares you hold through the plan as you direct. We will provide plan participants who hold Common Stock through the 401(k) plan with forms on which participants may communicate their voting instructions. In the event that a 401(k) Plan participant fails to give timely voting instructions to the trustee of the 401(k) with respect to the voting of shares of our Common Stock at the Annual Meeting that are allocated to the participant in the 401(k) Plan, then the trustee shall vote such shares in such manner as directed by the Plan Administrator.

#### **PROPOSAL 1:**

##### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

It is intended that shares represented by proxies in the enclosed form will be voted FOR the election of the two nominee directors in the following table to serve as directors for another three year term. Our Board of Directors is divided into three classes, with the term of office of each class ending in successive years. Accordingly, two directors are to be elected at the Annual Meeting to serve for a term of three years expiring at our annual meeting of shareholders in 2018 and four directors will continue to serve for the terms designated in the following schedule. As indicated below, all persons nominated by the Board of Directors are incumbent directors. We anticipate that the nominees for election as directors will be candidates when the election is held. However, if any of the nominees should be unable or unwilling to serve, the proxies, pursuant to the authority granted to them by the Board of Directors, will have discretionary authority to select and vote for substituted nominees (except where the proxy withholds authority with respect to the election of directors). As noted above, our directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast by holders of our Common Stock, which means the individuals who receive the largest number of votes cast by holders of the Common Stock entitled to vote in the election of directors are elected as directors up to the maximum number of directors (two in the case of the Annual Meeting) to be chosen at the Annual Meeting.

##### **Directors’ Qualifications**

Below is information as of the date of this proxy statement about each nominee for election to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting and each other director whose term continues after the Annual Meeting. The information presented includes information each nominee or continuing director has given Citizens about his or her age, his or her principal occupation and business experience for the past five years, and the names of other publicly-held companies of which he or she currently serves as a director or has served as a director during the past five years. The information presented also includes a description for each director of the specific experience, qualifications, attributes and skills

that led to the conclusion that he or she should serve as a director. Our Nominating Committee regularly evaluates the mix of experience, qualifications, attributes and skills of the Corporation's directors using a matrix of areas that the Committee considers important for Citizens' business. In addition to the information presented below regarding the nominee's specific experience, qualifications, attributes and skills that led the Nominating Committee to the conclusion that the nominee should serve or continue to serve as a director, the

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Nominating Committee also considered the qualifications and criteria described below under “Corporate Governance Matters – Director Nominations” with the objective of creating a complementary mix of directors.

Board of Directors Recommendation

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the election of Brian R. Schilling and David B. Westrate to serve as directors of Citizens for a three year term.

Name, Principal Occupation for Past Five Years and Directorships	Age	Director Since (1)
Nominees for election at the Annual Meeting (Class of 2018):		
<b>BRIAN R. SCHILLING</b>	60	1987
Mr. Schilling has served as a principal of Bauman Associates, Ltd., a certified public accounting firm, since 1990. Mr. Schilling previously served as the Managing Partner of Bauman Associates. Mr. Schilling is a member of the Audit Committee and the Compensation Committee. The Board of Directors benefits from Mr. Schilling’s skills, leadership and operational experience related to accounting, tax and finance matters and his qualification as an “audit committee financial expert” under the Securities and Exchange Commission’s rules, all of which led to the conclusion that he should serve as a director of Citizens.		
<b>DAVID B. WESTRATE</b>	71	1991
David B. Westrate’s diverse management experience with Fortune 500 corporations, the Federal Government, the United States Air Force, and his own companies, spans more than 45 years. In 1989, his marketing firm was named to INC Magazine’s “500 Fastest Growing Privately Held Companies in America.” Since 1996, Mr. Westrate has been involved in several start-up enterprises, including his current frac sand mine project. He has also served on several non-profit and ministry boards, and established two successful K-8 private schools. Mr. Westrate joined the Board of Citizens Community Federal N.A.’s predecessor, the Citizens Community Credit Union, in 1992, and was instrumental in converting the credit union to a publicly traded savings bank in 2004. He has been chairman of both the Audit and Compensation Committees of our Board of Directors since 2006. Mr. Westrate earned his BA and MA in economics, with postgraduate study in management at Loyola University in Chicago. This extensive business experience, both in other business ventures and with Citizens and its predecessors, all led to the conclusion that he should serve as a director of Citizens.		

Incumbent Directors (Class of 2016):		
TIMOTHY A. NETTESHEIM	58	2010
Mr. Nettesheim has served as our Vice Chairman of the Board since 2011, which is not considered one of our officers or employees. Mr. Nettesheim is an attorney with Whyte Hirschboeck Dubek S.C., a law firm headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he has been practicing law since December 2014. Formally, Mr. Nettesheim was an attorney and a shareholder of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c. (“Reinhart”), a law firm headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where Mr. Nettesheim practiced law for over 25 years. Mr. Nettesheim is a member of the Credit Committee and Chairman of the Merger and Acquisition Committee of our Board of Directors. The Board of Directors benefits from Mr. Nettesheim’s skills and professional experience related to corporate law and the financial services and the banking industry, all of which led to the conclusion that he should serve as a director of Citizens.		
JAMES R. LANG	71	2012
Mr. Lang has over 35 year’s leadership experience in the financial service and manufacturing industries with an emphasis on strategic realignment, revenue enhancement, mergers and acquisitions and financial performance. Mr. Lang has been the owner and President of Advantech Manufacturing, Inc., a company engaged in the business of manufacturing products for the dry particle sizing industry, since April 1998. Additionally, Mr. Lang has held several executive positions at Firststar Bank. Most recently serving as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer at Firststar Bank Iowa, NA from April 1991 to April 1996. Mr. Lang is a member of the Merger and Acquisition Committee, Nomination Committee and Chairman of the Credit Committee of our Board of Directors and a Board Member Representative of the Asset Liability Committee. Mr. Lang brings to the Board of Directors substantial experience in the banking industry and extensive leadership experience, all of which led to the conclusion that he should serve as a director of Citizens.		
Incumbent Directors (Class of 2017):		
RICHARD MCHUGH	72	1985
Mr. McHugh has served as the Chairman of our Board since 1988 and has been the majority owner and President of Choice Products USA, LLC for the past 34 years. Choice Products is engaged in the national distribution of products for the fundraising industry. The Chairman of the Board is not considered one of our officers or employees. Mr. McHugh is a member of the Audit Committee, Merger and Acquisition Committee and Nomination Committee of our Board of Directors. The Board of Directors benefits from Mr. McHugh’s leadership and business acumen in the Eau Claire community, as well as his tenure on the Board of Directors and indepth knowledge of our business.		
MICHAEL SWENSON	64	2010
Mr. Swenson has served as a member of our Board since May, 2011. Mr. Swenson retired in 2012. Prior to his retirement, Mr. Swenson was the President and CEO of Northern States Power Company – Wisconsin (an Xcel Energy Company and an electric and natural gas utility holding company) in Eau Claire, Wisconsin and had served as an engineer in various executive roles with Xcel Energy for over a decade. Mr. Swenson is a member of the Compensation Committee and Chairman of the Nomination Committee of our Board of Directors. The Board of Directors benefits from Mr. Swenson’s		

executive and leadership expertise all of which led to the conclusion that he should serve as a director of Citizens.

(1) Includes service as a director of Citizens Community Federal National Association (the "Bank") and its predecessors.

#### DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

##### General Information

Each of our non-employee directors, except our Chairman and Vice-Chairman, receives an annual retainer of \$12,000. Our Chairman receives an annual retainer of \$18,000 and our Vice-Chairman receives an annual retainer of \$14,000. Additionally, each director receives \$1,000 for each Board meeting attended. In addition to the foregoing amounts, the members of our Compensation Committee, Audit Committee, Credit Committee, Nomination Committee and Merger and Acquisition Committee, as well as our Asset Liability Committee Board Member Representative, each receive an additional annual retainer of \$3,000. Moreover, the chairman of each of these Committees, each receives an additional \$500 per meeting for attendance at each Committee meeting.

We maintain a Director Retirement Plan, which is an unfunded, non-contributory defined benefit plan, providing for supplemental pension benefits for our directors. Benefits are based on a formula that includes each participant's past and future earnings and years of service with Citizens. This retirement plan is administered by our Compensation Committee, which selects participants in the plan. Director McHugh is credited with one month of service under the plan for each month served since August 1, 2002. The remaining directors are credited with one month of service under the plan for every two months of service since August 1, 2002. The benefits under the plan are monthly payments for the lesser of 120 months or actual months of service under the plan, rounded up to the next full quarter end. Non-employee directors McHugh, Westrate and Schilling are participants in the plan. Mr. Nettesheim, Mr. Swenson, and Mr. Lang are not participants in the plan. As of December 31, 2014, director McHugh has quarterly benefits of \$4,500 per quarter, and non-employee directors Westrate and Schilling have quarterly benefits of \$2,000 per quarter. Unless a vesting schedule is included in a participant's plan agreement, each participating director is fully vested in the benefits under the plan upon executing the plan agreement. The benefits under the plan are unfunded and unsecured and are merely promised by Citizens. We are under no obligation to fund the plan in advance; however, if we chose to do so, such funded amounts would be automatically expensed at the time of funding. We accrue for the new liability under this plan based on a present value calculation. Benefits are expensed on a straight line basis over the remaining months until eligible retirement. Effective as of September 30, 2009, no director elected or selected (that was not an existing director as of such date) to become a director of Citizens after that date is eligible to participate in the Director Retirement Plan. All benefits owing our directors under this plan are vested. As of September 30, 2014, the accumulated present value of the benefit accrued under this plan for each of Mr. McHugh, Mr. Westrate and Mr. Schilling was \$192,969, \$62,878 and \$53,793 respectively. The increase in the actuarial present value calculation of each named director's accumulated benefit under our Director Retirement Plan, used the same assumptions and measurement dates used for financial reporting purposes with respect to our audited financial statements for the applicable fiscal year. See the caption "Note 11 – Retirement Plans" in the Notes to our Consolidated Financial Statements in the fiscal year 2014 Annual Report on Form 10-K, which was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") on December 8, 2014, and such information is incorporated herein by reference. Effective as of September 30, 2009, no director elected or selected (that was not an existing director as of such date) to become a director of Citizens after that date is eligible to participate in the Director Retirement Plan.

#### Director Summary Compensation Table

The following table summarizes the director compensation for fiscal year 2014 for all of our non-employee directors.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Option Awards (1)	Stock Awards (2)	Total (\$)
Richard McHugh	\$40,000	\$—	\$—	\$40,000
David B. Westrate	\$37,000	\$—	\$—	\$37,000
Brian R. Schilling	\$31,000	\$—	\$—	\$31,000
Timothy A. Nettesheim	\$34,000	\$—	\$—	\$34,000
Michael L. Swenson	\$31,000	\$—	\$—	\$31,000
James R. Lang	\$38,000	\$—	\$—	\$38,000

(1) For fiscal year 2014, there were no option awards granted.

(2) For fiscal year 2014, there were no restricted stock awards granted.

## DIRECTORS' MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES

### Directors and Director Attendance

Our Board of Directors held 12 meetings in fiscal 2014, and during fiscal 2014 all of our nominee and incumbent directors attended at least 75% of the meetings of our Board of Directors and the committees thereof on which they served.

Executive sessions or meetings of outside (non-management) directors without management present are included on the agenda for each regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting for a general discussion of relevant subjects. Executive sessions are held following each Board of Directors meeting on an as needed basis. In fiscal 2014, the outside directors met in executive session at least two times in accordance with the requirements of the NASDAQ Stock Market. The committees of our Board of Directors consist of the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Credit Committee and the Merger and Acquisition Committee. The chart below identifies the members of each of these committees as of the date of this Proxy Statement, along with the number of meetings held by each committee during fiscal 2013:

	Audit	Compensation	Nominating	Credit	Merger & Acquisition
Number of Meetings	5	7	1	2	2
Name of Director:					
David B. Westrate	X*	X*			
Richard McHugh	X		X		X
Brian R. Schilling	X	X			
Michael L. Swenson		X	X*		
James R. Lang			X	X*	X
Timothy A. Nettesheim				X	X*

X = committee member; \* = committee chairman

### Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is responsible for assisting our Board of Directors with oversight of: (1) the integrity of our financial statements; (2) our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; (3) our independent auditor's qualifications and independence; and (4) the performance of our internal accounting function and independent auditors. Our Audit Committee has the direct authority and responsibility to appoint, compensate, oversee and retain the independent auditors, and is an "audit committee" for purposes of Section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The Audit Committee's report required by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") appears on page 9.

### Compensation Committee

The Compensation Committee, in addition to such other duties as may be specified by our Board of Directors, (1) determines the compensation levels of our Chief Executive Officer and other executive officers, including salary rates, participation in incentive compensation and benefit plans, fringe benefits, non-cash perquisites and other forms of compensation; (2) reviews and makes recommendations to our Board of Directors with respect to incentive compensation plans and equity-based plans; and (3) reviews and makes recommendations to our Board of Directors with respect to the compensation of our outside directors. The Compensation Committee also administers our restricted stock, stock option and other stock incentive plans.

### Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is responsible for assisting our Board of Directors by: (1) identifying individuals qualified to become members of our Board of Directors and its committees; (2) recommending to our Board of Directors nominees for election to the Board at the annual meeting of shareholders; (3) developing and recommending to our Board of Directors a set of corporate governance principles applicable to Citizens and generally taking a leadership role in shaping the corporate governance of Citizens; and (4) assisting our Board of Directors in assessing director performance and the effectiveness of the Board of Directors.

### Credit Committee

The Credit Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors and reviews certain loan transactions of Citizens Community Federal N.A. The Committee's purpose is to act on behalf of the Board in fulfilling the following responsibilities: (1) oversight of the credit and lending strategies and objectives of the Bank; (2) oversight of the credit risk management of the



Bank, including reviewing internal credit policies and establishing portfolio limits; and (3) Reviewing the quality and performance of the Bank's credit portfolio.

Merger and Acquisition Committee:

The Merger and Acquisition Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors to assist the Board in reviewing and assessing potential acquisitions and investments.

Charters of Committees

The Board of Directors has adopted, and may amend from time to time, a written charter for each of the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Nominating Committee. Citizens maintains a website at [www.ccf.us](http://www.ccf.us). Citizens makes available on its website, free of charge, copies of each of these charters. Citizens is not including the information contained on or available through its website as a part of, or incorporating such information by reference into, this Proxy Statement.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Director Independence

Our Board of Directors has reviewed the independence of our continuing directors and the nominees for election to the Board at the Annual Meeting under the applicable standards of the NASDAQ Stock Market. Based on this review, our Board of Directors determined that each of the following directors is independent under those standards:

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| (1) Richard McHugh    | (3) Brian R. Schilling |
| (2) David B. Westrate | (4) Michael L. Swenson |
| (5) James R. Lang     |                        |

Mr. Nettesheim is not independent because Mr. Nettesheim was a partner at Reinhart during fiscal 2014, a law firm retained by Citizens and its wholly owned subsidiary, Citizens Community Federal N.A., which collectively paid Reinhart approximately \$378,000 in fees for legal services provided during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2014.

Board Leadership Structure

Citizens currently has separate persons serving as the Chief Executive Officer and as Chairman of the Board of Directors. Edward H. Schaefer has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Citizens since January 2010 and Richard McHugh has served as the Chairman of the Board since 1988. Mr. McHugh serves as our lead outside or independent director and is an independent director under the applicable standards of the NASDAQ Stock Market. Although the Board of Directors does not have a formal policy with respect to its leadership structure, we believe that currently separating the positions of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman serves as an effective link between management's role of identifying, assessing and managing risks and the Board of Directors' role of risk oversight. Although Citizens believes that the separation of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer roles is appropriate under current circumstances, it will continue to review this issue periodically to determine whether, based on the relevant facts and circumstances, combining these offices would serve our best interests and the best interests of our shareholders.

The Board's Role in Risk Oversight

The role of our Board of Directors in Citizens' risk oversight process includes receiving reports and presentations from members of our senior management on areas of material risk to Citizens, including operational, financial, legal and regulatory, strategic and reputational risks, and any measures taken or recommended by our management to mitigate risk. The Board has authorized the Audit Committee to oversee and periodically review Citizens' enterprise risk assessment and enterprise risk management policies to engage our management directly in carrying out this risk oversight function.

Director Nominations

We have a standing Nominating Committee. Based on the review described under "Corporate Governance Matters – Director Independence," our Board of Directors has determined that each member of the Nominating Committee is independent under the applicable standards of the NASDAQ Stock Market.

The Nominating Committee will consider director nominees recommended by shareholders. A shareholder who wishes to recommend a person or persons for consideration as a nominee for election to the Board of Directors must send a written notice by mail, c/o Secretary, Citizens Community Bancorp, Inc., 2174 EastRidge Center, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701, that sets forth: (1) the name, address (business and residence), date of birth and principal occupation or employment (present and for the past five years) of each person whom the shareholder proposes to be

considered as a nominee; (2) the number of shares of our

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Common Stock beneficially owned (as defined by section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) by each such proposed nominee; (3) any other information regarding such proposed nominee that would be required to be disclosed in a definitive proxy statement to shareholders prepared in connection with an election of directors pursuant to section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or as is required by the Corporation's Bylaws; and (4) the name and address (business and residential) of the shareholder making the recommendation and the number of shares of our Common Stock beneficially owned (as defined by section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) by the shareholder making the recommendation.

We may require any proposed nominee to furnish additional information as may be reasonably required to determine the qualifications of such proposed nominee to serve as a director. Shareholder recommendations will be considered only if received in accordance with the advance notice provisions contained in our Bylaws.

The Nominating Committee will consider any nominee recommended by a shareholder in accordance with the preceding paragraph under the same criteria as any other potential nominee. The Nominating Committee believes that a nominee recommended for a position on our Board of Directors must have an appropriate mix of director characteristics, experience, diverse perspectives and skills. Qualifications of a prospective nominee that may be considered by the Nominating Committee include:

- personal integrity and high ethical character;
- professional excellence;
- accountability and responsiveness;
- absence of conflicts of interest;
- fresh intellectual perspectives and ideas; and
- relevant expertise and experience and the ability to offer advice and guidance to management based on that expertise and experience.

Citizens does not have a formal policy for the consideration of diversity by the Nominating Committee in identifying nominees for director. Diversity is one of the factors the Nominating Committee may consider and in this respect diversity may include race, gender, national origin or other characteristics.

Communications between Shareholders and the Board of Directors

Our shareholders may communicate with the Board or any individual director by directing such communication to our Corporate Secretary at the address of our corporate headquarters, 2174 EastRidge Center, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701. Each such communication should indicate that the sender is a shareholder of the Corporation and that the sender is directing the communication to one or more individual directors or to the Board as a whole.

All communications will be compiled by our Corporate Secretary and submitted to the Board of Directors or the individual directors on a monthly basis unless such communications are considered, in the reasonable judgment of our Corporate Secretary, to be improper for submission to the intended recipient(s). Examples of shareholder communications that would be considered improper for submission include, without limitation, customer complaints, solicitations, communications that do not relate directly or indirectly to Citizens or our business or communications that relate to improper or irrelevant topics. Our Corporate Secretary may also attempt to handle a communication directly where appropriate, such as where the communication is a request for information about Citizens or where it is a stock-related matter.

Attendance of Directors at Annual Meetings of Shareholders

We do not have a formal policy regarding the attendance of our directors and nominees for election as directors at our annual meeting of shareholders. However, we expect that all of our continuing directors and nominees for election as directors at our annual meeting of shareholders will attend the annual meeting, absent a valid reason, such as a schedule conflict. All of our nominee and incumbent directors, who were directors at such time, attended the annual meeting of shareholders held on March 27, 2014.

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

We have adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that applies to all of our employees, including our Chief Executive Officer and Principal Accounting Officer. A copy of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is available free of charge by contacting Edward H. Schaefer, our President and Chief Executive Officer, at (715) 836-9994 and has been filed with the Commission as Exhibit 14 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended

September 30, 2010, which was filed with the Commission on December 23, 2010.

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## AUDIT COMMITTEE MATTERS

### Report of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is currently comprised of three members of our Board of Directors. Based upon the review described above under “Corporate Governance Matters – Director Independence,” our Board of Directors has determined that each member of the Audit Committee is independent as defined in the applicable standards and rules of the NASDAQ Stock Market and the rules of the Commission. The duties and responsibilities of our Audit Committee are set forth in the Audit Committee Charter.

The Audit Committee has:

- reviewed and discussed our audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2014 with our management and with our independent auditors;

discussed with our independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by the Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, “Communications with Audit Committees,” as amended (AICPA, Professional Standards, Vol. 1. AU Section 380), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3200T;

received and discussed with our independent auditors the written disclosures and the letter from our independent auditors required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent auditor’s communications with the audit committee concerning independence; and

discussed with our independent auditors without management present the auditor's independence.

Based on such review and discussions with management and with the independent auditors, the Audit Committee recommended to our Board of Directors that the audited consolidated financial statements be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K, for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2014, for filing with the Commission.

### AUDIT COMMITTEE:

David B. Westrate – Chairman

Richard McHugh

Brian R. Schilling

Fees of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The following table summarizes the fees we were billed for audit and non-audit services rendered by our independent auditors, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, during fiscal years 2014 and 2013.

Service Type	Fiscal Year Ended	Fiscal Year Ended
	September 30, 2014	September 30, 2013
Audit Fees (1)	\$95,830	\$109,198
Tax Fees (2)	1,185	31,820
Total Fees Billed	\$97,015	\$141,018

(1) Includes fees for professional services rendered in connection with the audit of our financial statements for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2014 and September 30, 2013; the reviews of the financial statements included in each of our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q during those fiscal years; and consents and assistance with documents filed by Citizens with the Commission.

(2) Consists of fees for services rendered related to tax compliance, tax advice and tax consultations.

The Audit Committee of our Board of Directors considered that the provision of the services and the payment of the fees described above are compatible with maintaining the independence of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP.

The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing and pre-approving any non-audit services to be performed by our independent auditors. The Audit Committee has adopted an Audit and Non-Audit Services Pre-Approval Policy. The Audit Committee reviews and, if appropriate, approves non-audit service engagements in accordance with the terms of such policy, taking into account the proposed scope of the non-audit services, the proposed fees for the non-audit services, whether the non-audit services are permissible under applicable law or regulation and the likely impact of the non-audit services on the independence of the independent auditors.

Each new engagement of our independent auditors to perform non-audit services set forth in the table above has been approved in advance by the Audit Committee pursuant to the foregoing procedures.



#### Audit Committee Financial Expert

Our Board of Directors has determined that at least one of the members of our Audit Committee qualifies as an “audit committee financial expert” as defined by the rules of the Commission. Brian R. Schilling qualifies as an “audit committee financial expert” based on his work experience and duties as a Principal of Bauman Associates, Ltd., a certified public accounting firm.

#### TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PERSONS

The Bank has a written policy of granting loans to officers and directors. Loans to directors and executive officers are made in the ordinary course of business and on substantially the same terms and conditions, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable loans with persons not related to Citizens, in accordance with the Bank’s underwriting guidelines, and do not involve more than the normal risk of collectability or present other unfavorable features.

Timothy A. Nettesheim is a former shareholder of Reinhart. During fiscal 2014, Reinhart served as our outside legal counsel. During fiscal 2014, Citizens and its wholly owned subsidiary collectively paid Reinhart approximately \$378,000 for legal services. We believe that the amounts paid to Reinhart are no greater than the fair market value of the services received.

#### OUR COMPENSATION PROCESS

The following section describes Citizen's fiscal 2014 executive compensation program. This analysis provides detailed compensation information for each of our named executive officers, or NEOs. For fiscal 2014, our NEOs are:

Name	Title
Edward H. Schaefer	President and Chief Executive Officer
Mark C. Oldenberg	Chief Financial Officer

#### Executive Summary

Fiscal 2014 Financial Highlights. Fiscal 2014 was a year of continued improvement in Citizens performance as illustrated by the following key results:

- Citizens stock price increased from \$7.25 per share at September 30, 2013 to \$8.85 per share at September 30, 2014, an increase of 22%.

- Shareholders received an annual dividend of \$0.04 per share in fiscal 2014, compared to an annual dividend of \$0.02 per share received in fiscal 2013.

- Citizens net income increased from \$1.0 million in fiscal 2013 to \$1.8 million in fiscal 2014.

- Nonperforming assets decreased from \$3.6 million as of September 30, 2013, to \$2.6 million as of September 30, 2014.

- Non-performing loans decreased from \$2.6 million as of September 30, 2013, to \$1.6 million as of September 30, 2014.

- Loan charge-offs decreased from a year ago resulting in net charge-offs of \$1.6 million for 2014, a decrease of \$1.1 million, or 41.51%, compared to \$2.7 million for 2013.

Key Executive Compensation Actions. The compensation Committee took the following key actions in fiscal 2014: Salaries: Base salaries for Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Oldenberg increased 2.20% and 12.10%, respectively, over fiscal 2013 levels. Mr. Oldenberg's base salary increased with the intention of bringing Mr. Oldenberg's salary closer to the competitive range of salaries paid to Chief Financial Officers within Citizens peer group which generally consisted of regional community banks in the upper midwestern part of the United States.

Incentive Compensation: Citizens granted stock options and restricted stock units to each of its named executive officers in fiscal 2014. Citizens also granted stock options to each of its senior management team in fiscal 2014.

Equity was awarded in recognition of Citizens performance, as well as the need to retain its executives and senior management and align their interests with the interest of our shareholders. Additionally, a cash bonus was paid to all employees in fiscal 2014 in recognition of Citizens performance.

## Our Compensation Process

Citizens recognizes the importance of its employees in fulfilling its role as a successful business enterprise and a responsible corporate citizen. Our compensation philosophy is to compensate all employees (including our named executive officers) at a level sufficient to attract, motivate, and retain the talent we need to achieve or surpass the short-term and long-term goals set forth in our business plan, without promoting irresponsible behavior. Guided by this philosophy, the pay and benefits practices of Citizens reflect our vision and values, and the economic condition of the banking industry, and are built on a framework of pay-for-performance, comprehensive position evaluations, and market-competitiveness. Executive management, with approval of our Board of Directors, fulfills our responsibility to promote the best interests of Citizens through the execution of sensible compensation principles and practices. Citizens' philosophy is created and sustained on core compensation principles. In determining compensation levels, we consider the key factors to be:

We will not create incentives that foster inappropriate risk nor pay excessive compensation. No Citizens compensation plan, program, or practice will promote excessive risk taking or encourage behavior inconsistent with 1. Citizens' vision, mission, or strategy. We believe all of our compensation elements comply with appropriate banking regulations and sound compensation practices, which we believe neither pays excessive compensation nor encourages inappropriate risk taking.

Citizens does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin, veteran status, handicap, or 2. sexual orientation in determining pay levels. Demonstrated performance, skills, commitment and results determine pay.

Each pay grade and pay range will have a minimum, a maximum, and a mid-point. The mid-point is the rate we 3. generally will pay a new hire who meets the required standards of education, skills, and experience. The maximum is the highest rate we will pay a fully qualified performing employee in that job. Salary above mid-point will be based upon exemplary performance.

Compensation levels are driven by an employee's level of impact on our organization. Not all positions are created 4. equal. Various positions require different levels of skills, knowledge, and personal attributes that drive different rates of pay and/or variable compensation opportunity. We have established a job structure and job evaluation process that provides a formal hierarchy of grades and salary ranges.

All employees should be paid a wage in line with their position within an assigned range for that position. Salary range minimums are a guideline to pay for an entry point position for that wage range. Any incumbent with the requisite skills to perform the job at minimally acceptable standards should be paid at least this rate. The salary range midpoint is developed to represent the wage paid to an employee performing the expectations of their position.

Pay levels for positions are reviewed periodically.

Our ability to pay drives our compensation program. Profitability is a key driver in determining compensation 5. opportunity. The annual salary is the single largest investment Citizens makes each year. It is incumbent on our compensation professionals and senior management to ensure that our plans provide an appropriate return to Citizens and its shareholders, in addition to appropriately compensating successful performance.

Citizens utilizes three general forms of compensation: Base salary, short-term incentive compensation, and long-term incentive compensation. We deliver compensation at various levels of the organization in different ways. In our most senior positions (including for each of our named executive officers), we have a combination of base salary and short-term and long-term incentives to help us attract and retain talented leaders to ensure continued growth and continuity. In positions where there is a clear ability to impact performance by providing short-term incentives linked to specific goals, we have created incentive plans that we believe are market competitive and in line with our ability to pay. Short-and long-term incentives are tied directly to individual performance and/or business results. Awards are paid only when business performance is strong. At the lowest levels of the organization we rely on base salary and short-term incentives. This array of compensation plans permits greater control over managing our fixed costs, while providing competitive and meaningful rewards. Base salaries are fixed, primarily, based on market rates. Based primarily on performance against stated goals, short-and long-term incentive pay gives us the opportunity to reward for performance in a specific year, or over a period of years, without the recurring (and compounding) expense of a base salary adjustment. Each of our compensation components is described in greater detail below.



Summary

Our Compensation Philosophy guides our pay and benefits practices at Citizens and is adjusted based on the business environment. Our programs are based on Citizens' ability to pay. Citizens' goals are to invest sufficient compensation to attract, retain, and motivate our workforce to achieve our short- and long-term business goals.

#### Base salary

We pay base salaries to attract and retain talented employees. Base salary increases are driven primarily by demonstrated value to our organization and are reviewed annually and adjusted from time to time, based on a review of market data and an assessment of company, business unit and individual performance and experience. Merit increases are awarded based on the performance of the employee.

#### Short-term incentive (STI) plan

We have two main styles of short-term incentive compensation: sales performance compensation and annual incentive compensation which is related to Bank performance. Citizens attempts to balance the security provided by base salary with the “at-risk” feature of sales performance compensation and annual incentive compensation in its efforts to attract and retain top quality employees and provide proper incentive to enhance the value of Citizen’s common stock for its shareholders. Sales performance compensation generally include a formula based on profits or revenues within a given line of business for new business achieved and any earned short-term incentive compensation is generally paid in the form of a cash bonus.

#### Long-term incentive (LTI) plans

Citizens’ long-term incentive plans reward key contributors who have demonstrated long-term positive impact to our success. These plans are designed to provide the opportunity for significant wealth accumulation for key contributors at the board and senior management level based on the performance of Citizens, and to enhance retention of these key executives. We have three forms of long-term incentives: stock option, deferred compensation, and restricted stock programs. All are designed to reward key significant contributors.

Not all positions are eligible for participation in our long-term incentive plans. Senior officers become eligible at the discretion of the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors based on demonstrated long-term value to Citizens. Each of our named executive officers is eligible to participate in our long-term incentive plans.

Our Compensation Committee is independent and involved.

• The Committee is comprised of fully independent Directors of the Corporation (based upon the standards and rules of the Nasdaq Stock Market).

• The Committee decides all compensation matters for our named executive officers.

In addition, our Chief Executive Officer works with our Compensation Committee in making recommendations regarding our overall compensation policies and plans as well as specific compensation levels for our other officers and key employees, other than the Chief Executive Officer. Members of management who were present during Compensation Committee meetings in fiscal 2014 and the first part of fiscal 2015 included our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. The Compensation Committee makes all decisions regarding the compensation of our Chief Executive Officer without our Chief Executive Officer or any other member of our management present.

“At Risk” Compensation is Maintained within Appropriate Levels.

Although profitability is a key driver for compensation opportunities, we do not reward, and in fact discourage, the taking of excessive or inordinate risk. Our Compensation Philosophy is “risk-reflective,” meaning we create our pay structure and programs to appropriately reward the returns from acceptable risk-taking through optimal pay mix, performance metrics, calibration and timing.

• Employees eligible for incentives or sales performance pay for new business are not permitted to make credit, investment, or consumer pricing decisions independently.

• We have no “highly-leveraged” or uncapped incentive plans. Where there are elements of an incentive plan that are uncapped, the performance drivers of these elements are not risk based.

Incentive compensation plans for certain positions which contain significant risk to Citizens (e.g., our CEO and CFO positions) include corporate, division and individual components, and awards are determined or reviewed by the Compensation Committee prior to any payment.

• Plan sponsors, those executives in charge of business lines in which incentive plans exist, are not eligible for awards under the plans they sponsor.

The Compensation Committee’s charter requires that Citizens provide the Committee with adequate funding to engage any compensation consultants or other advisers the Committee deems it appropriate to engage. During fiscal 2014, the

Compensation Committee did not engage any consultant to assist the Board with reviewing our compensation practices and levels. In October 2014, the Compensation Committee did engage an outside consultant to assist the Board with reviewing our

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compensation practices and levels relating to Director, Executive Officer and Senior Management compensation and to help assist us in determining our compensation levels and components. The Compensation Committee and Board will take into consideration the recommendations from the outside consultant when their review and report is completed during fiscal 2015.

At the Corporation's 2014 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, pursuant to a non-binding, advisory vote, shareholders approved the compensation of the Company's named executive officers as disclosed in the proxy statement for the meeting by a vote of 1,545,705 shares in favor to 423,897 against. The Compensation Committee has considered the results of this advisory shareholder vote and believes that it shows support by the Corporation's shareholders for the Corporation's compensation philosophy and the executive compensation programs that implement the Corporation's compensation philosophy. The Corporation has not significantly changed its executive compensation program following the shareholder advisory vote. Our Board has determined that shareholder advisory (non-binding) votes on executive compensation shall occur every three years. Accordingly, the next shareholder advisory (non-binding) vote on executive compensation will be held in connection with the Corporation's 2017 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The following table sets forth the name, age, current position and principal occupation and employment during the past five years of our executive officers who are not nominees for or incumbent directors. The information presented includes information each executive officer has given the Corporation about his or her age and his or her principal occupation and business experience for the past five years:

Name	Age	Current Position	Other Positions
Edward H. Schaefer	52	Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation and Chief Executive Officer, President and a director of Citizens Community Federal N.A., the Corporation's wholly owned subsidiary (the "Bank"), since January 2010.	Mr. Schaefer served as a consultant to the Corporation from October 1, 2009 until January 4, 2010. Mr. Schaefer was with Silver Spring Foods/Huntsinger Farms, a farming and food manufacturing company specializing in the production of horseradish, mustard and sauces, from May 2000 until October 2009, the last seven years serving as its President/Chief Executive Officer. For the twelve years prior to Silver Spring Foods/Huntsinger Farms, Mr. Schaefer held positions of Vice-President and President of various Norwest Bank entities, most recently as President of Norwest Bank/Wells Fargo, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.
Name	Age	Current Position	Other Positions
Mark C. Oldenberg	44	Chief Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer of the Corporation and the Bank since September 29, 2011.	Mr. Oldenberg served as the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Risk Officer of Security Financial Bank of Durand, Wisconsin from March 2008 to September 2011. Prior to joining Security Financial Bank, Mr. Oldenberg served as the Chief Financial Officer of Fidelity National Bank in Medford, Wisconsin from December 2002 through March 2008. Mr. Oldenberg also served as Vice President and Controller of Heritage Bank in Spencer, Wisconsin from May 1999 through December 2002.

#### SECURITY OWNERSHIP

The following table sets forth information regarding the beneficial ownership of shares of our Common Stock as of January 12, 2015 by (1) each director and named executive officer (as defined below), (2) all directors and executive officers as a group, and (3) each person or other entity known by us to beneficially own more than 5% of our outstanding Common Stock.

The following table is based on information supplied to us by the directors, officers and shareholders described above or in information otherwise publicly available in filings with the Commission. We have determined beneficial ownership in accordance with the rules of the Commission. Unless otherwise indicated, the persons and entities included in the table have sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares beneficially owned, except to the extent authority is shared by spouses under applicable law. Shares of our Common Stock subject to options that are either currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of January 12, 2015 are treated as outstanding and beneficially owned by the option holder for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of the option holder. However, these shares are not treated as outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other person. The table lists applicable percentage ownership based on 5,195,714 shares outstanding as of January 12, 2015.

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Unless otherwise indicated, the address for each person listed below is 2174 EastRidge Center, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701.

Name	Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned	Percent of Common Stock Beneficially Owned	
<b>Principal Shareholders:</b>			
Phil Lifschitz (1)	400,599	7.71	%
FJ Capital Management, LLC (2)	364,152	7.01	%
<b>Directors and Executive Officers:</b>			
Richard McHugh (3)	208,278	4.00	%
Michael L Swenson (4)	2,000	*	
Brian R Schilling (5)	14,991	*	
David B Westrate (6)	135,244	2.60	%
Timothy A Nettesheim (7)	23,500	*	
James R Lang (8)	32,467	*	
Edward H Schaefer (9)	74,804	1.43%	
Mark C Oldenberg (10)	17,760	*	
All directors (including nominees) and executive officers as a group (8 persons)	509,044	9.67	%

\* Denotes less than 1%

(1) Phil Lifschitz, a private investor, (“Lifschitz”), filed a Schedule 13D/A with the Commission on April 23, 2013, reporting that as of April 22, 2013, Lifschitz was the beneficial owner of 400,599 shares of our Common Stock, with sole voting and investment power over all such shares of Common Stock. Lifschitz’s business address is Phil Lifschitz, Residence 7 Tulane Dr., Livingston, NJ 07039.

(2) FJ Capital Management, LLC, on behalf of its clients and principals, including Martin S. Friedman, FJ Capital Long/Short Equity Fund LLC and Andrew Jose (collectively, “Friedman”) filed a Schedule 13G/A with the Commission on February 7, 2014 reporting that as of December 31, 2013, Friedman was collectively the beneficial owner of 364,152 shares of our Common Stock, with shared voting and investment power over all such shares of Common Stock. Friedman’s business address is FJ Capital Management, LLC, 1313 Dolley Madison Blvd, Ste 306, McLean, VA 22101.

(3) Consists of 34,414 shares of our Common Stock held by Mr. McHugh’s spouse, of which 280 shares are held by his spouse as custodian for her grandchildren (Mr. McHugh disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by his spouse except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein), 159,624 shares of our Common Stock owned directly by Mr. McHugh and 14,240 shares of our Common Stock subject to stock options.

(4) Consists of 2,000 shares of our Common Stock owned directly by Mr. Swenson.

(5) Consists of 751 shares of our Common Stock owned directly by Mr. Schilling and 14,240 shares of our Common Stock subject to stock options.

(6) Consists of 102,485 shares of our Common Stock owned directly by Mr. Westrate, 14,240 shares of our Common Stock subject to stock options, 6,100 shares of our Common Stock held by Oakdale LLC (“Oakdale”), 9,553 shares of our Common Stock held by Scanton Street, LLP (“Scanton”) and 2,866 shares of our Common Stock held by Northshore Partnership Ltd. (“Northshore”). Under the rules of the Commission, Mr. Westrate may be deemed to have voting and dispositive power as to the shares held by each of Oakdale, Scanton and Northshore since Mr. Westrate is an officer, director and equity owner of each of such entities.

(7) Consists of 23,500 shares of our Common Stock owned directly by Mr. Nettesheim, 22,000 shares of which are held in his self-directed IRA.

(8) Consists of 25,987 shares of our Common Stock owned directly by Mr. Lang in his self-directed IRA, 2,500 shares held by the Leah Delaney Karge Trust, pursuant to which Mr. Lang serves as trustee, and 3,980 shares held by the James & Patricia Lang Grandchildren Education Trust UAD 01/01/2002, pursuant to which Mr. Lang serves as

investment manager and has investment discretion over such shares. Mr. Lang disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.

(9) Consists of 51,644 shares of our Common Stock owned directly by Mr. Schaefer and 23,160 shares of our Common Stock subject to stock options.

(10) Consists of 13,176 shares of our Common Stock owned directly by Mr. Oldenberg and 4,584 shares of our Common Stock subject to stock options.

#### SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (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 Commission initial reports of beneficial ownership on Form 3 and reports of changes in beneficial ownership of our equity securities on Form 4 or 5. The rules promulgated by the Commission under section 16(a) of the Exchange Act require those persons to furnish us with copies of all reports filed with the Commission pursuant to section 16(a). Based solely upon a review of copies of such forms furnished to us, or written representations that no Forms 5 were required, except as previously reported in our prior year's proxy statement, we believe that during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2014 and through the date of this proxy statement all reports required by Section 16(a) to be filed by our directors, executive officers and 10% shareholders were filed with the Commission on a timely basis, except James R. Lang filed a form 4 report on August 13, 2014 reporting transactions occurring on August 7, 2014 and August 11, 2014.

#### EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The table below provides information for our last two fiscal years regarding compensation paid by the Corporation to the persons who served as our Principal Executive Officer and Principal Accounting Officer in fiscal 2014, who collectively are referred to herein as our named executive officers.

##### Summary Compensation Table

Name and Principal Position	Fiscal Year	Salary	Bonus (1)	Option Awards (2)	Stock Awards (3)	All Other Compensation (4)	Total
Edward H. Schaefer CEO and Principal Executive Officer	2014	\$271,991	\$41,000	\$37,800	\$80,000	\$ 11,726	\$442,517
	2013	\$266,132	\$—	\$35,914	\$88,065	\$ 11,276	\$401,387
Mark C. Oldenberg CFO and Principal Accounting Officer	2014	\$148,440	\$25,000	\$18,900	\$40,000	\$ 6,383	\$238,723
	2013	\$132,416	\$—	\$1,550	\$31,604	\$ 5,450	\$171,020

##### Explanatory Notes for Summary Compensation Table:

- For fiscal year 2013, the Compensation Committee decided not to award any bonus payments. For fiscal year 2014, the amounts represent discretionary cash bonuses awarded by our Compensation Committee to each listed officer in connection with our financial performance for fiscal 2014 and each officer's achievement of certain pre-determined individual performance goals.
- These amounts reflect the grant date fair value of option awards granted in the applicable fiscal year, computed in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718-10 (formerly FAS 123(R)). We calculate the grant date fair value of option awards using the Black-Sholes option pricing model. For purposes of this calculation, the impact of forfeitures is excluded until they actually occur. The other assumptions made in valuing option awards are included under the caption "Note 12 – Stock-Based Compensation" in the Notes to our Consolidated Financial Statements in the fiscal year 2014 Annual Report on Form 10-K which was filed with the Commission on December 8, 2014 and such information is incorporated herein by reference.
- These amounts reflect the grant date fair value of restricted stock awards granted in the applicable fiscal year, computed in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718-10 (formerly FAS 123(R)), excluding estimated forfeitures. The assumptions made in valuing stock awards are included under the caption "Note 12 – Stock-Based Compensation" in the Notes to our Consolidated Financial Statements in the fiscal year 2014 Annual Report on Form 10-K which was filed with the Commission on December 8, 2014 and such information is incorporated herein by reference.
- The table below shows the components of this column, which include our match for each individual's 401(k) plan contributions and cash dividends received on unvested restricted stock awards.





Name and Principal Position	Fiscal Year	401(k) Match	Unvested Restricted Stock Cash Dividends	Total "All Other Compensation"
Edward H. Schaefer CEO and Principal Executive Officer	2014	\$10,348	\$1,378	\$11,726
Mark C. Oldenberg CFO and Principal Accounting Officer	2013	\$10,645	\$631	\$11,276
	2014	\$5,938	\$445	\$6,383
	2013	\$5,297	\$153	\$5,450

Stock Awards

On January 24, 2014, our Compensation Committee issued 10,000 shares of restricted Common Stock to Mr. Schaefer. On January 24, 2014, Mr. Oldenberg was issued 5,000 shares of restricted Common Stock by our Compensation Committee. The shares received as part of each of these stock awards vest pro rata over a five year period: 20% of the shares of restricted stock vest on each anniversary date of the grant date. None of the shares were vested on September 30, 2014. Unvested shares are subject to forfeiture if Mr. Schaefer or Mr. Oldenberg voluntarily leaves the Company or is terminated for cause. All shares will vest immediately if there is a change in control of the Corporation.

Additionally, on January 24, 2014, our Compensation Committee awarded stock options to Mr. Schaefer to purchase 20,000 shares of our Common Stock. On January 24, 2014, our Compensation Committee awarded stock options to Mr. Oldenberg to purchase 10,000 shares of our Common Stock. Each of the option awards granted vest pro rata over a five year period: 20% of the shares vest on each anniversary date of the grant date. None of the option shares were vested on September 30, 2014. The option shares have an exercise price of \$8.00 per share and expire on the ten year anniversary of the grant date.

Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year End

The following table sets forth information on outstanding option and restricted stock awards held by the named executive officers at September 30, 2014, including the number of shares underlying both exercisable and unexercisable portions of each stock option as well as the exercise price and expiration date of each outstanding option and the number of shares of restricted stock held at fiscal year end that have not yet vested.

Name	Option Awards				Stock Awards	
	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 (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units That Have Not Vested (\$)(1)
Edward H. Schaefer (2)	13,932	9,287	5.48	6/14/2021	4,063	\$ 35,958
Edward H. Schaefer (3)	13,932	9,287	5.00	9/30/2021	4,063	\$ 35,958
Mark C. Oldenberg (4)	2,000	3,000	5.65	7/2/2022	1,500	\$ 13,275
Edward H. Schaefer (5)	4,644	18,575	5.56	10/31/2022	8,125	\$ 71,906
Edward H. Schaefer (6)	292	1,170	6.12	1/24/2023	4,131	\$ 36,559
Mark C. Oldenberg (6)	292	1,170	6.12	1/24/2023	4,132	\$ 36,568
Edward H. Schaefer (7)	—	20,000	8.00	1/24/2024	10,000	\$ 88,500
Mark C. Oldenberg (7)	—	10,000	8.00	1/24/2024	5,000	\$ 44,250

(1) Market value equals the closing market price of our common stock on September 30, 2014, which was \$8.85, multiplied by the number of shares of restricted stock that have not vested as of such date.

(2) The common stock options and restricted shares vest pro rata over a five year period on each of June 14, 2012, June 14, 2013, June 14, 2014, June 14, 2015 and June 14, 2016.

(3) The common stock options and restricted shares vest pro rata over a five year period on each of September 30, 2012, September 30, 2013, September 30, 2014, September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2016.

(4) The common stock options and restricted shares vest pro rata over a five year period on each of July 2, 2013, July 2, 2014, July 2, 2015, July 2, 2016 and July 2, 2017.

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(5) The common stock options and restricted shares vest pro rata over a five year period on each of October 31, 2013, October 31, 2014, October 31, 2015, October 31, 2016 and October 31, 2017.

(6) The common stock options and restricted shares vest pro rata over a five year period on each of January 24, 2014, January 24, 2015, January 24, 2016, January 24, 2017 and January 24, 2018.

(7) The common stock options and restricted shares vest pro rata over a five year period on each of January 24, 2015, January 24, 2016, January 24, 2017, January 24, 2018 and January 24, 2019.

#### Employment Agreements

Effective October 28, 2013, the Bank entered into an employment agreement with Edward H. Schaefer our President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Under the terms of the agreement, Mr. Schaefer's employment with the Bank shall continue until October 28, 2015.

Additionally, effective October 28, 2013, the Bank entered into an employment agreement with Mark C. Oldenberg our Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Under the terms of the agreement, Mr. Oldenberg's employment with the Bank shall continue until October 28, 2015.

The terms of these employment agreements generally include the following:

each of these executive officers has agreed to serve in their role as an officer (CEO in the case of Edward H. Schaefer and CFO in the case of Mark C. Oldenberg) of the Company and the Bank for a term of two years, which is renewable/extendable for a term of 1 additional year;

each of these executive officers is entitled to participate in our bonus plans and stock incentive plan;

each of these executive officers is eligible to participate in any medical, health, dental, disability and life insurance policy that we maintain for the benefit of our other senior management;

each of these executive officers has agreed not to compete with us during employment and for a period equal to eighteen months thereafter in the case of Edward H. Schaefer and 12 months thereafter in the case of Mark C.

Oldenberg and has agreed to maintain the confidentiality of our proprietary information and trade secrets during the term of employment and for eighteen months thereafter in the case of Edward H. Schaefer and 12 months thereafter in the case of Mark C. Oldenberg; and

if the executive officer's employment is terminated by us without cause (as defined in the employment agreements), then the executive officer will be entitled to continuation (1) of the executive officer's then effective base salary for a minimum of 24 months in the case of Edward H. Schaefer and 12 months in the case of Mark C. Oldenberg after termination and (2) of medical, dental and health coverage for such 24 month period in the case of Edward H. Schaefer and such 12 month period in the case of Mark C. Oldenberg.

#### Post-Employment Compensation

##### 401(k) Plan Benefits

Our executive officers are eligible to participate in our 401(k) plan on the same terms as our other employees. Our 401(k) plan is a qualified, tax-exempt savings plan with a cash or deferred feature qualifying under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code. All employees who have attained age 21 and completed 90 days of continuous employment, are eligible to participate in the 401(k) plan.

Participants are permitted to make salary reduction contributions to the 401(k) plan of up to 100% of their salary, up to a maximum of \$17,500 (\$23,000 for employees over 50 years of age) for each of calendar years 2014 and 2013, respectively. We match each contribution in an amount equal to 100% of the participant's 401(k) deferrals for the year up to 4% of their salary, provided the participant must contribute a minimum of 4% of his or her salary as a condition to receiving the matching contribution. All contributions made by participants are before-tax contributions. All participant contributions and earnings are fully and immediately vested.

Participants may invest amounts contributed to their 401(k) plan accounts in one or more investment options available under the 401(k) plan. Changes in investment directions among the funds are permitted on a periodic basis pursuant to procedures established by the plan administrator. Each participant receives a quarterly statement that provides information regarding, among other things, the market value of all investments and contributions made to the 401(k) plan on the participant's behalf.

##### Other Stock Benefit Plans

At the discretion of our Compensation Committee, our executive officers are eligible to participate in our equity incentive plans, including the Citizens Community Bancorp, Inc.'s 2004 Stock Option and Incentive Plan, the 2004 Recognition and

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Retention Plan and the 2008 Equity Incentive Plan. Eligible awards under these plans include, without limitation, stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock and restricted stock units. Eligible participants under these plans include our directors, officers and other employees of Citizens Community Bancorp, Inc. or Citizens Community Federal N.A. Upon the death or disability of the participant or upon a change of control of Citizens Community Bancorp, Inc., these awards become 100% exercisable or vested.

#### PROPOSAL 2:

##### RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Our Audit Committee has appointed Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm to audit the Corporation's consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. Unless otherwise directed, proxies will be voted FOR the ratification of such appointment.

Although this appointment is not required to be submitted to a vote of our shareholders, our Board of Directors believes it appropriate as a matter of policy to request that our shareholders ratify the appointment. If shareholder ratification is not received, the Board of Directors will reconsider the appointment, and may retain that firm or another firm without resubmitting the matter to the Corporation's shareholders. Even if the appointment is ratified, the Audit Committee may, in its discretion, direct the appointment of a different firm at any time during the fiscal year if it determines that such a change would be in the Corporation's best interests.

It is not expected that a representative of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP will be present at the Annual Meeting. Company Management will be available to respond to relevant questions regarding the appointment of our auditor. If a quorum exists, the approval of the ratification of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of Common Stock represented at the Annual Meeting, in person or by proxy, and entitled to vote thereon. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not count toward the determination of whether this proposal is approved.

##### Board of Directors Recommendation

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the ratification of Baker Tilly as Citizens' independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

##### ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION ON FORM 10-K

We are required to file an annual report, called a Form 10-K, with the Securities and Exchange Commission. A copy of Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2014 will be made available, without charge, to any person entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. Written requests should be directed to Edward H. Schaefer, President and Chief Executive Officer of Citizens Community Bancorp, Inc., 2174 EastRidge Center, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701.

##### SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS

Any shareholder who desires to submit a proposal for inclusion in our 2016 Proxy Statement in accordance with Rule 14a-8 must submit the proposal in writing to Edward H. Schaefer, President and Chief Executive Officer, Citizens Community Bancorp, Inc., 2174 EastRidge Center, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701. We must receive a proposal by September 28, 2015 (120 days prior to the anniversary of the mailing date of this Proxy Statement) in order to consider it for inclusion in our 2016 Proxy Statement.

Shareholder proposals that are not intended to be included in the proxy materials for our 2016 annual meeting, but that are to be presented by the shareholder from the floor are subject to the advance notice provisions in our Bylaws. According to our Bylaws, in order to be properly brought before the meeting, a proposal not intended for inclusion in our proxy materials must be received at our principal offices after September 28, 2015 (120 days prior to the anniversary of the mailing date of this Proxy Statement) and before October 28, 2015 (90 days prior to the anniversary of the mailing date of this Proxy Statement), except with respect to director nominations. The notice must set forth the following: (a) a brief description of the business desired to be brought before the annual meeting and the reasons for conducting such business at the annual meeting; (ii) the name and address of the shareholder proposing such business, as they appear on the Corporation's books, and of the beneficial owner, if any, on whose behalf the proposal is made; (iii) the class and number of shares of the Corporation's capital stock that are beneficially owned or of record by such shareholder and the underlying beneficial owner, if different; (iv) a description of all arrangements or understandings between such shareholder and any other person or persons (including their names) in connection with the proposal of

such business by such shareholder and any material interest of such shareholder in such business; and (v) a representation that such shareholder intends to appear in person or by proxy at the annual meeting to bring such business before the meeting.

Shareholder proposals related to director nominations under our Bylaws must be received at our principal offices not less than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the meeting; provided, however, that if less than one hundred (100) days' notice or prior disclosure of the date of the annual meeting is given or made to shareholders, notice by the shareholder to be timely must be so received not later than the close of business on the 10th day following the day on which such notice of the date of the meeting was mailed or otherwise transmitted or the day on which public announcement of the date of the meeting was first made by the Corporation, whichever shall first occur. The shareholder's notice must comply with the same requirements for the notice described above for proposals other than in connection with director nominations, must be in writing and shall set forth: (a) as to each person whom such shareholder proposes to nominate for election as a director, all information relating to such person that is required to be disclosed in connection with solicitations of proxies for election of directors, or is otherwise required, in each case pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Exchange Act, or any successor rule or regulation, (b) as to the shareholder giving the notice: (i) the name and address of such shareholder as they appear on the Corporation's books and of the beneficial owner, if any, on whose behalf the nomination is made; (ii) the class or series and number of shares of capital stock of the Corporation which are owned beneficially or of record by such shareholder and such beneficial owner, if different; (iii) a description of all arrangements or understandings between such shareholder and each proposed nominee and any other person or persons (including their names) pursuant to which the nomination(s) are to be made by such shareholder; (iv) a representation that such shareholder intends to appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to nominate the persons named in his, her or its notice; and (v) any other information relating to such shareholder that would be required to be disclosed in a proxy statement or other filings required to be made in connection with solicitations of proxies for election of directors pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Exchange Act or any successor rule or regulation. Such notice must be accompanied by a written consent of each proposed nominee to be named as a nominee and to serve as a director of Citizens if elected.

If the notice does not comply with the requirements set forth in our Bylaws, the chairman of the meeting may refuse to acknowledge the matter. If the chairman of the meeting decides to present a proposal despite its untimeliness, the people named in the proxies solicited by the Board of Directors for the 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders will have the right to exercise discretionary voting power with respect to such proposal.

#### OTHER MATTERS

Our directors know of no other matters to be brought before the meeting. If any other matters properly come before the meeting, including any adjournment or adjournments thereof, it is intended that proxies received in response to this solicitation will be voted on such matters in the discretion of the person or persons named in the accompanying proxy form.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Edward H. Schaefer,  
Chief Executive Officer  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin  
January 26, 2015









