## Edgar Filing: Eckhardt Ezra - Form 4

Eckhardt Ezr Form 4 January 09, 2 <b>FORM</b> Check thi if no long subject to Section 1 Form 4 or Form 5 obligation may cont <i>See</i> Instru 1(b).	2012 <b>4</b> UNITED S is box ger 6. r Filed purs Section 17(a)	Wa ENT OF CHAN Suant to Section a) of the Public U	RITIES AND EXCHANGE shington, D.C. 20549 NGES IN BENEFICIAL O SECURITIES 16(a) of the Securities Excha Jtility Holding Company Act nvestment Company Act of 1	WNERSHIP OF nge Act of 1934, of 1935 or Sectio	N OMB Number: Expires: Estimated burden hou response	urs per		
(I Thit of Type F	(esponses)							
1. Name and A Eckhardt Ez	ddress of Reporting F ra	Symbol	er Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading LING FINANCIAL CORP STSA]	5. Relationship o Issuer (Che	of Reporting Per eck all applicabl			
(1			3. Date of Earliest Transaction Director(Month/Day/Year) X Officer below)01/06/2012COO			give title 10% Owner give title Other (specify below) Sterling Financial Corp.		
			endment, Date Original onth/Day/Year)	One Reporting P	int/Group Filing(Check			
SPOKANE,	WA 99201			Form filed by Person	More than One R	eporting		
(City)	(State) (	(Zip) Tab	ole I - Non-Derivative Securities A	Acquired, Disposed of	of, or Beneficia	lly Owned		
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)		Code Disposed of (D)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)		
Common Stock	01/06/2012		Code         V         Amount         (D)         Prior $A^{(1)}$ 725 $\frac{(2)}{2}$ A         \$ 0	ce	D			
Common Stock				8,897	I	401k		
Common Stock				925	Ι	Spouse IRA		

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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#### number.

# Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	Conversion (Month/Day/Year) or Exercise Price of Derivative		3A. Deemed Execution Date, any (Month/Day/Yea	Co		5. onNumber of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	;	ate	Amor Unde Secur	le and unt of rlying ities . 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Nu Deriv Secu Bene Owne Follo Repo Trans (Instr
Repo	rting O	wner	S		Cc	ode V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		
Reporting	g Owner Name	e / Address	Director	r 10% Owner	Ro	<b>Relations</b> er	ships		Other				

Eckhardt Ezra 111 N. WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201	COO - Sterling Financial	COO - Sterling Financial Corp.			
Signatures					
/s/ Daniel G. Byrne, attorney-in-fact	01/09/2012				
**Signature of Reporting Person	Date				

# **Explanation of Responses:**

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Grant of salary stock in the form of mandatorily deferred Restricted Stock Units as approved by Sterling's board of directors on December
 (1) 8, 2010. Future RSUs are to be granted each payroll period and will be calculated using the closing price of Sterling's common stock on the NASDAQ Capital Market as of the last trading day in each payroll period.

(2) Units vest immediately upon grant, however, delivery of the awarded shares is deferred until future distribution dates provided in the Agreement between Sterling and Mr. Eckhardt.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.