#### SEIBLY JOHN GREGORY

Form 4

January 23, 2012

### FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

**SECURITIES** 

**OMB** Number:

3235-0287

Expires:

January 31, 2005

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obligations may continue. See Instruction

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1(b).

Stock

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and A SEIBLY JO	Symbol STERLI	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/ [STSA]				5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  (Check all applicable)			
(Last) 111 N. WAI		(Month/D	3. Date of Earliest Transa (Month/Day/Year) 01/20/2012				X Director 10% Owner X Officer (give title Other (specify below) CEO/President - SFC		
(Street) 4. If Am			endment, Date Original			6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check			
	Filed(Mon	onth/Day/Year)				Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person			
SPOKANE,	WA 99201							More than One Re	
(City)	(State)	Zip) Table	e I - Non-D	erivative S	Securi	ties Ac	quired, Disposed	of, or Beneficia	lly Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	4. SecurionAcquired Disposed (Instr. 3,	d (A) o d of (D 4 and (A) or	)	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	01/20/2012		$A^{(1)}$	1,211 (2)	A	\$ 0	49,306	D	
Common							2 120	T	401V

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

2,438

401K

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

1. Title of	2.	3. Transaction Date	3A. Deemed	4.	5.	6. Date Exerc	cisable and	7. Title	and	8. Price of	9. Nu
Derivative	Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transactio	onNumber	Expiration D	ate	Amount	t of	Derivative	Deriv
Security	or Exercise		any	Code	of	(Month/Day/	Year)	Underly	ing	Security	Secui
(Instr. 3)	Price of		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Derivative	e		Securitie	es	(Instr. 5)	Bene
	Derivative				Securities			(Instr. 3	and 4)		Own
	Security				Acquired						Follo
	•				(A) or						Repo
					Disposed						Trans
					of (D)						(Instr
					(Instr. 3,						
					4, and 5)						
								^	mount		
									mount		
						Date	Expiration	Title N			
						Exercisable	Date	Title Number of			
				C + V	(A) (D)						
				Code V	(A) (D)			S	hares		

# **Reporting Owners**

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships							
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other				
SEIBLY JOHN GREGORY 111 N. WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201	X		CEO/President - SFC					

### **Signatures**

/s/ Daniel G. Byrne, 01/23/2012 attorney-in-fact

\*\*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.
- 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. Seibly.

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.

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