Eckhardt Ezra Form 4 October 12, 2012

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

0.5

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OMB APPROVAL

Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

Check this box

if no longer

subject to

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).

Common

Common

Stock

Stock

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Eckhardt Ezra Issuer Symbol STERLING FINANCIAL CORP (Check all applicable) /WA/[STSA] (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify (Month/Day/Year) below) below) 111 N. WALL STREET 10/12/2012 COO - Sterling Financial Corp. (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting SPOKANE, WA 99201 Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned 1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 3. 4. Securities 5. Amount of 6. Ownership 7. Nature of Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if TransactionAcquired (A) or Securities Form: Direct Indirect (Instr. 3) Code Disposed of (D) Beneficially (D) or Beneficial (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Indirect (I) Ownership (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Owned Following (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Reported (A) Transaction(s) or (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price Common $A^{(1)}$ 10/12/2012 $316^{(2)}$ A \$0 53,028 D Stock

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

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10,072

925

I

Ι

SEC 1474 (9-02)

401k

Spouse

IRA

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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	2.	3. Transaction Date	3A. Deemed	4.	5.	6. Date Exerc	cisable and	7. Titl	le and	8. Price of	9. Nu
Derivative	Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	TransactionNumber		Expiration D	ate	Amou	ınt of	Derivative	Deriv
Security	or Exercise		any	Code	of	(Month/Day/	Year)	Under	rlying	Security	Secui
(Instr. 3)	Price of		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8) Derivative		;		Secur	ities	(Instr. 5)	Bene
	Derivative				Securities		(Ins				Own
	Security				Acquired						Follo
	·				(A) or						Repo
					Disposed						Trans
					of (D)						(Instr
					(Instr. 3,						`
					4, and 5)						
									Amount		
						Exercisable Date	Expiration	on Title	or		
							•		Number		
									of		
				Code V	(A) (D)				Shares		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Eckhardt Ezra

111 N. WALL STREET COO - Sterling Financial Corp.

SPOKANE, WA 99201

Signatures

/s/ Karla J. Gehlen, 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 in March of (1) 2012. 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.

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