Eckhardt Ezra Form 4 January 30, 2013

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

Check this box

if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

Form 5 obligations may continue.

See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

Eckhardt Ezra

(Last) (First) (Middle)

(State)

01/28/2013

(Zip)

111 N. WALL STREET

(Street)

SPOKANE, WA 99201

(City)

Common

Stock

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/[STSA]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year) 01/28/2013

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number:

3235-0287

Expires:

January 31, 2005

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response...

0.5

(Check all applicable)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below) below)

COO - Sterling Financial Corp.

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

D

Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

Issuer

1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 3. 4. Securities Acquired 5. Amount of 6. Ownership 7. Nature of Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Transaction(A) or Disposed of (D) Securities Form: Direct Indirect (Instr. 3) Code (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Beneficially (D) or Beneficial (Month/Day/Year) Indirect (I) Ownership (Instr. 8) Owned Following (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Reported (A) Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price Common 01/28/2013 M 11,287 Α <u>(1)</u> 66,438 D Stock

3,216

D

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

F

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63,222

(9-02)

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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 Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)			6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Restricted Stock Unit	\$ 0 (2)	01/28/2013		M		11,287	(2)	01/28/2014	Common Stock	11,287

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 01/30/2013

**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).
- (1) Represents the vesting and settlement of 11,287 shares of common stock pursuant to a restricted stock unit vest on January 28, 2013.
- Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of common stock. 75% of the restricted stock units are scheduled to vest on January 28, 2013, 25% of the restricted stock units are scheduled to vest on January 28, 2014, subject to the reporting person's continued employment with the Company on such date.

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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