

Eckhardt Ezra
 Form 4
 February 15, 2011

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 STERLING FINANCIAL CORP
 /WA/ [STSA]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)
 Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
 COO - Sterling Financial Corp.

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 111 N. WALL STREET
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 02/11/2011

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

SPOKANE, WA 99201

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | Code | V | Amount (A) or Price (D) | | |
| Common Stock | 02/11/2011 | | P | | 321 A \$ 17.83 | D | |
| Common Stock | 02/11/2011 | | P | | 500 A \$ 17.85 | D | |
| Common Stock | 02/14/2011 | | P | | 1,500 A \$ 17.65 | D | |
| Common Stock | 02/14/2011 | | P | | 500 A \$ 17.63 | D | |
| Common Stock | 02/14/2011 | | P | | 500 A \$ 17.62 | D | |

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| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|---|-------|---|----------|--------|---|------------|
| Common Stock | 02/14/2011 | P | 500 | A | \$ 17.6 | 23,610 | D | |
| Common Stock | 02/14/2011 | P | 1,300 | A | \$ 17.62 | 6,397 | I | 401k |
| Common Stock | 02/14/2011 | P | 500 | A | \$ 17.56 | 6,897 | I | 401k |
| Common Stock | | | | | | 925 | I | Spouse IRA |

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

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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. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Eckhardt Ezra 111 N. WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201 | | | COO - Sterling Financial Corp. | |

Signatures

/s/ Robert G. Butterfield,
attorney-in-fact
**Signature of Reporting Person

02/15/2011
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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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