

COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM, INC.

Form 8-K

January 02, 2015

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

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FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): December 31, 2014  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its  
charter)

Delaware  
(State or other  
jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

001-13695  
(Commission File  
Number)

16-1213679  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

5790 Widewaters  
Parkway, DeWitt, New  
York

(Address of principal  
executive offices)

13214

(Zip Code)

(315) 445-2282

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if  
changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the Registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

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Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

(b) On December 31, 2014, Brian R. Wright, a member of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Community Bank System, Inc. (the “Company”), retired from the Board in accordance with the Company’s mandatory retirement policy for directors. Pursuant to the Company’s Bylaws, a director is required to retire from the Board on December 31st of the year in which he or she attains the age of 70. Mr. Wright has served as a director of the Company and its subsidiary, Community Bank, N.A. (the “Bank”), since 2011.

(e) Effective January 1, 2015, the Company and the Bank entered into a renewal employment agreement with Mark E. Tryniski, the Bank’s President and Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. Tryniski’s Employment Agreement continues the format and terms of his prior employment agreement which expired on December 31, 2014. The Employment Agreement provides that Mr. Tryniski shall serve as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank during the period from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017. During the term of the Agreement, the Company shall pay a base salary at an annual rate of \$725,000, which will be reviewed and may be adjusted in future years in accordance with the Company’s regular payroll practices for executive employees. Mr. Tryniski will be eligible to receive annual incentive compensation under the terms of the Company’s Management Incentive Plan (“MIP”) as determined by the Compensation Committee of the Board. The Employment Agreement may be terminated by the Company for cause at any time, and shall terminate upon Mr. Tryniski’s death or disability. In the event Mr. Tryniski is terminated without cause, he will be entitled to the greater of (i) 200 percent of the sum of his annual base salary at the time of termination and the most recent payment to him under the Company’s MIP, or (ii) the amount of base salary and expected MIP payments that otherwise would have been payable to Mr. Tryniski through the unexpired term of the agreement. If Mr. Tryniski’s employment is terminated for reasons other than cause, death, or disability within two years following a change in control of the Company, or if Mr. Tryniski voluntarily resigns during this period based upon an involuntary and material adverse change in his authority, duties, responsibilities, base salary, or the geographic location of his assignment, he shall be entitled to three times his base salary and his incentive compensation award for the year immediately preceding the change in control and continuation of certain benefits for a 36 month period. Mr. Tryniski is subject to non-compete provisions which restrict his ability to engage in competing business activities for one year following termination of employment or to solicit customers of the Company or Bank for two years following termination of employment.

The foregoing description of Mr. Tryniski’s Employment Agreement does not purport to be complete and are qualified in its entirety by reference to the copy of the Employment Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit 10.1, and incorporated by reference.

Item 8.01 Other Events

At its December meeting, the Board also approved a stock repurchase program authorizing the repurchase, at the discretion of senior management, of up to 2,000,000 shares of the Company’s common stock during a twelve-month period starting January 1, 2015. Such repurchases may be made at the discretion of senior management depending on market conditions and other relevant factors and will be acquired through open market or privately negotiated transactions as permitted under Rule 10b-18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and other applicable legal requirements. The new repurchase authorization replaces the existing program which expired on December 31, 2014. In 2014, the Company repurchased 123,000 shares of its’ own common stock as part of the expired program.



Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

10.1 Employment Agreement, dated January 1, 2015, by and among Community Bank System, Inc., Community Bank, N.A. and Mark E. Tryniski.

#### SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of The Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Community Bank System, Inc.

By: /s/ George J. Getman  
Name: George J. Getman  
Title: Executive Vice President and General  
Counsel

Dated: January 2, 2015

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