

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/

Form 8-K

December 12, 2012

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

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 12, 2012

STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Washington

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

001-34696

(Commission File Number)

91-1572822

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

111 North Wall Street, Spokane, Washington 99201

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(509) 358-8097

(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))

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

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT

Item 8.01 Other Events

On December 12, 2012, Sterling announced that its Board of Directors (“Board”) authorized the payment of a special cash dividend of \$0.35 per common share, payable on December 28, 2012 to shareholders of record as of December 21, 2012. In addition, Sterling announced that its Board authorized the acceleration of the record and payable date for the regular quarterly cash dividend of \$0.15 per common share that would have otherwise occurred during the first quarter of 2013. The regular dividend is payable on December 28, 2012 to shareholders of record as of December 21, 2012. The press release for these announcements is included as Exhibit 99.1 of this Report.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) The following exhibit is being furnished herewith:

| Exhibit No. | Exhibit Description |
|-------------|---------------------|
|-------------|---------------------|

| | |
|------|---|
| 99.1 | Press release text of Sterling Financial Corporation dated December 12, 2012. |
|------|---|

SIGNATURE

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 thereunto duly authorized.

STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION
(Registrant)

December 12, 2012
Date

By: /s/ Patrick J. Rusnak
Patrick J. Rusnak
Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

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