## Edgar Filing: Eckhardt Ezra - Form 4

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.       UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549       OMB Num         STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF BECURITIES       Expir Estin burdet	OMB APPROVAL OMB 3235-0287 Number: January 31, Expires: 2005 Estimated average burden hours per response 0.5			
(Print or Type Responses)				
1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *       2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading       5. Relationship of Reporting         Eckhardt Ezra       Symbol       Issuer         STERLING FINANCIAL CORP       /WA/ [STSA]       (Check all app)				
(Last)       (First)       (Middle)       3. Date of Earliest Transaction       Director       Director         (Month/Day/Year)       (Month/Day/Year)	low)			
Filed(Month/Day/Year)       Applicable Line)         _X_ Form filed by One Report	<ul> <li>6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check</li> <li>Applicable Line)</li> <li>_X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person</li> <li> Form filed by More than One Reporting</li> </ul>			
SPOKANE, WA 99201 Form filed by More than Person	One Reporting			
(City) (State) (Zip) <b>Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Ben</b>	neficially Owned			
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any3.4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Ode5. Amount of Securities6. Owner Form: II Form: II Form: II Code(Instr. 3)anyCodeDisposed of (D)Beneficially Following(D) or Indirect Following(Instr. 4)(Month/Day/Year)(Instr. 8)(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)OwnedIndirect Following(A) or CodeOr 	Beneficial t (I) Ownership			
Common Stock $07/08/2011$ $A_{(1)}$ $733 (2)$ $A$ $\$$ $0$ $33,279$ $D$				
Common Stock 8,897 I	401k			
Common 925 I Stock	Spouse IRA			

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

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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 Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transacti (Month/Day	y/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, any (Month/Day/Yea	Code	5. ionNumber of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	(Month/Day/Year) ve ss 1		Amor Unde Secur	tle and unt of crlying rities r. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Nu Deriv Secu Bene Owna Follo Repo Trans (Instr
Repor	rting O	wners	5		Code V	7 (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		
Reporting	Owner Name	: / Address	Director	r 10% Owner	<b>Relation</b> Officer	nships		Other				

Eckhardt Ezra 111 N. WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201 <b>Signatures</b>	COO - Sterling Financial Corp.	
/s/ Daniel G. Byrne, attorney-in-fact	07/11/2011	
**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 on December
 (1) 8, 2010. 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.