RUSNAK PATRICK J

Form 4

February 06, 2012

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL

Number: 3235-0287

Expires: January 31, 2005

0.5

Estimated average burden hours per response...

if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

obligations

Check this box

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

may continue.

See Instruction

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person ** RUSNAK PATRICK J	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer			
	STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/ [STSA]	(Check all applicable)			
(Last) (First) (Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)	Director 10% OwnerX_ Officer (give title Other (specification) below)			
111 NORTH WALL STREET	01/31/2012	Chief Financial Officer			
(Street)	4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person			
SPOKANE, WA 99201		Form filed by More than One Reporting Person			
(City) (State) (Zip)	Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acq	uired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Own			

(City)	(State) (Table	e I - Non	1-De	erivative S	Securi	ties Acqu	uired, Disposed of	f, or Beneficial	ly Owned
1.Title of	2. Transaction Date	2A. Deemed	3.		4. Securi	ties A	equired	5. Amount of	6.	7. Nature of
Security	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transac	Transaction(A) or Disposed of (D)			Securities	Ownership	Indirect	
(Instr. 3)		any	Code		(Instr. 3,	4 and	5)	Beneficially	Form: Direct	Beneficial
		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8	. 8)		Owned	(D) or	Ownership		
								Following	Indirect (I)	(Instr. 4)
						(4)		Reported	(Instr. 4)	
						(A)		Transaction(s)		
			Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price	(Instr. 3 and 4)		
Common							\$			
Stock	01/31/2012		Α	V	282	Α	15.61	282	D	
(ESPP) (1)							(2)			
(_~							_			

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

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

SEC 1474

(9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

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1. Title o	f 2.	3. Transaction Date	3A. Deemed	4.	5.	6. Date Exer	cisable and	7. Titl	e and	8. Price of	9. Nu
Derivativ	e Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transacti	orNumber	Expiration D	ate	Amou	nt of	Derivative	Deriv
Security	or Exercise		any	Code	of	(Month/Day/	Year)	Under	lying	Security	Secui
(Instr. 3)	Price of		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Derivativ	e		Securi	ities	(Instr. 5)	Bene
	Derivative				Securities	S		(Instr.	3 and 4)		Owne
	Security				Acquired						Follo
					(A) or						Repo
					Disposed						Trans
					of (D)						(Instr
					(Instr. 3,						
					4, and 5)						
									Amount		
									Amount		
						Date	Expiration	Title	or Namelana		
						Exercisable D	Date	ritte	Number of		
				Codo V	(A) (D)				Shares		
				Code v	(A) (D)				Shares		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships							
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other				
RUSNAK PATRICK J			Chief					
111 NORTH WALL STREET			Financial					
SPOKANE, WA 99201			Officer					

Signatures

/s/ Karla J. Gehlen, attorney-in-fact 02/06/2012

**Signature of Reporting Person Da

Explanation of Responses:

transaction is also exempt under Rule 16b-3(c).

- * 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).
- The reporting person is voluntarily reporting the acquisition of shares of the issuer's common stock pursuant to the Sterling Financial (1) Corporation Employee Stock Purchase Plan ("ESPP"), for the ESPP offering period of August 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012. This
- (2) In accordance with the ESPP, the purchase price of these shares was based on 85% of the closing price of the issuer's common stock on January 31, 2012.

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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