

HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS INC  
 Form 4  
 March 02, 2006

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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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 \*  
 PALMER JONATHAN J

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS INC [HPY]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 02/27/2006

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

C/O HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS, 90 NASSAU ST

(Street)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

PRINCETON, NJ 08542

(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 (D)	Price
Common Stock	02/27/2006		M		20,000	A	\$ 6.25
Common Stock	02/27/2006		F		5,679 (1)	D	\$ 22
					39,321		

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

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SEC 1474  
 (9-02)

**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. Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Option (Right to Buy) <sup>(1)</sup> <sub>(2) (3)</sub>	\$ 6.25	02/27/2006		M	20,000	<sup>(4)</sup> 01/15/2014	Common Stock	20,000

## Reporting Owners

**Reporting Owner Name / Address**

**Relationships**

Director    10% Owner    Officer    Other

PALMER JONATHAN J  
 C/O HEARTLAND PAYMENT SYSTEMS  
 90 NASSAU ST  
 PRINCETON, NJ 08542

X

## Signatures

/s/ Jonathan J. Palmer                      03/02/2006

                                              Date  
 \*\*Signature of Reporting Person

## 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).
- (1) The Reporting Person exercised 20,000 options, and swapped 5,679 shares of Common Stock for the exercise price.
- (2) The Option was granted under Issuer's 2000 Equity Incentive Plan.
- (3) The exercise price and the number of stock options beneficially owned by the Reporting Person following the reported transaction are adjusted to reflect the 2-for-1 split that became effective as of July 26, 2005.
- (4) The options were granted on January 15, 2004 and vested over two years. They are fully vested.

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.