

Eckhardt Ezra  
 Form 4  
 February 17, 2011

**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 \*  
 Eckhardt Ezra

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 STERLING FINANCIAL CORP  
 /WA/ [STSA]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 111 N. WALL STREET  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
 02/16/2011

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 COO - Sterling Financial Corp.

SPOKANE, WA 99201

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

(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 Price (D)		
Common Stock	02/16/2011		P		500 A \$ 17.49	D	
Common Stock	02/16/2011		P		1,000 A \$ 17.5	D	
Common Stock	02/16/2011		P		500 A \$ 17.6	D	
Common Stock	02/16/2011		P		500 A \$ 17.4	I	401k
Common Stock	02/16/2011		P		500 A \$ 17.5	I	401k

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Common Stock	02/16/2011	P	500	A	\$ 17.54	8,397	I	401k
Common Stock	02/16/2011	P	500	A	\$ 17.59	8,897	I	401k
Common Stock						925	I	Spouse IRA

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

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(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. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Owned Following Reporting Transaction (Instr. 6)
									Amount or Number of Shares
						Date Exercisable	Expiration Date		
					Code	V	(A)	(D)	

## Reporting Owners

### Reporting Owner Name / Address

Eckhardt Ezra  
111 N. WALL STREET  
SPOKANE, WA 99201

### Relationships

Director    10% Owner    Officer    Other

COO - Sterling Financial Corp.

## Signatures

/s/ Daniel G. Byrne,  
attorney-in-fact

02/17/2011

\*\*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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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