

Eckhardt Ezra
 Form 4
 December 16, 2010

FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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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)
 12/14/2010

___ 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)
				(A) or (D) Code V Amount Price			
Common Stock	12/15/2010		P	2,000 A \$ 16.8	5,232	D	
Common Stock	12/15/2010		P	228 A \$ 16.75	5,460	D	
Common Stock	12/15/2010		P	104 A \$ 16.85	5,564	D	
Common Stock	12/14/2010		P	1,000 A \$ 16.31	8,564	D	
Common Stock	12/14/2010		P	1,000 A \$ 16.48	9,564	D	

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Common Stock	12/14/2010	P	1,000	A	\$ 16.47	10,564	D	
Common Stock	12/15/2010	P	3,000	A	\$ 16.89	13,564	D	
Common Stock	12/15/2010	P	300	A	\$ 16.84	13,864	D	
Common Stock	12/15/2010	P	1,000	A	\$ 16.88	14,864	D	
Common Stock	12/15/2010	P	600	A	\$ 16.94	15,464	D	
Common Stock	12/15/2010	P	1,600	A	\$ 16.99	17,064	D	
Common Stock						4,042	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 Beneficially Owned (Instr. 6)
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Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
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Code V (A) (D)

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other

Eckhardt Ezra
111 N. WALL STREET
SPOKANE, WA 99201

COO - Sterling Financial Corp.

Signatures

/s/ Robert G. Butterfield,
attorney-in-fact

12/16/2010

__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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