HEARTLAND FINANCIAL USA INC Form 8-K October 19, 2017

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 FORM 8-K CURRENT REPORT Pursuant to Section 13 of 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report: October 17, 2017 (Date of earliest event reported)

Heartland Financial USA, Inc. (Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or jurisdiction of incorporation) 001-15393 42-1405748 (Commission File Number) (I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

1398 Central Avenue, Dubuque, Iowa52001(Address of principal executive offices)(Zip Code)(563) 589-2100(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable (Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2 below):

- o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter). Emerging growth company o

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. o

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Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure

On October 17, 2017, Heartland Financial USA, Inc. (NASDAQ: HTLF), announced that its board of directors approved a regular quarterly cash dividend of \$0.11 per share on the company's common stock. The dividend is payable December 1, 2017, to stockholders of record at the close of business on November 17, 2017. At September 30, 2017, there were 29,946,069 common shares outstanding listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol HTLF.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits

(a) Financial Statements of Business Acquired.

None.

(b)Pro Forma Financial Information.

None.

(c)Exhibits.

99.1 Press Release dated October 19, 2017.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: October 19, 2017 HEARTLAND FINANCIAL USA, INC.

> By:/s/ Bryan R. McKeag Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

99.1 Press Release dated October 19, 2017.