

Howes Robert S Jr
 Form 4
 May 25, 2012

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 *
 Howes Robert S Jr

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 ESSA Bancorp, Inc. [ESSA]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 200 PALMER STREET
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 05/23/2012

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Senior Vice President

STROUDSBURG, PA 18360

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 (D) Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 05/23/2012 | | F | 4,161 D \$ 10.42 | 26,062 (2) | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | 25,531 (1) | I | By 401(k) |
| Common Stock | | | | | 150 | I | By child |
| Common Stock | | | | | 121 | I | By spouse's IRA |
| Common Stock | | | | | 820 | I | By IRA |

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Common Stock 6,486 ⁽¹⁾ I By ESOP

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. P... Der... Sec... (Ins... | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Stock Options | \$ 12.35 | | | | | 05/23/2009 | 05/23/2018 | Common Stock | 123,799 ⁽³⁾ |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Howes Robert S Jr 200 PALMER STREET STROUDSBURG, PA 18360 | | | Senior Vice President | |

Signatures

/s/ Marc Levy, Pursuant to Power of Attorney 05/25/2012
 **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).
- (1) Reflects transactions not required to be reported pursuant to Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
- (2) Includes shares of restricted stock that vest at a rate of 20% per year commencing on May 23, 2009.
- (3) Reflects stock options that vest at a rate of 20% per year commencing on May 23, 2009.

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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