Gruseke Christopher R Form 4 May 14, 2018

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287

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if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

obligations

may continue.

See Instruction

Check this box

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

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Gruseke Christopher R			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Bankwell Financial Group, Inc. [BWFG]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)			
(Last) (First) (Middle) C/O BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC., 220 ELM STREET			3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 05/10/2018	Director 10% Owner Other (specify below) President & CEO			
	(Street)		4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person			
NEW CANAAN, CT 06840				Form filed by More than One Reporting Person			

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Tabl	e I - Non-D	Derivative	Secui	ities Acq	uired, Disposed o	f, or Beneficial	ly Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)			4. Securities Acquired on(A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (A) or			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock			Code V	Amount	(D)	Price	(Instr. 3 and 4) 10,000	D (1)	
Common Stock	05/10/2018		P	5,000	A	\$ 31.31 (4)	101,795 (2)	D	
Common Stock							5,000	I	IRA
Common Stock							5,000	D (3)	
							5.000	D (3)	

Common Stock

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)	4. Transact Code (Instr. 8)	5. iofNumber of Derivativ Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	Expiration D (Month/Day/e			le and unt of rlying ities . 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Nu Deriv Secur Bene Owne Follo Repo Trans (Instr
			Code V	7 (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		

Reporting Owners

Relationships Reporting Owner Name / Address

> Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Gruseke Christopher R C/O BANKWELL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 220 ELM STREET NEW CANAAN, CT 06840

President & CEO

Signatures

/s/ Christopher R. Gruseke 05/14/2018 by POA

**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).
- 40,000 shares of restricted stock granted pursuant to the 2012 Bankwell Financial Group, Inc. Stock Plan and will vest in four equal (1) installments of 25%, with the first installment to vest on December 1, 2015 and an additional 25% to vest on the anniversary of the vesting date thereafter. As of the Transaction Date, 30,000 Shares have vested.
- (2) 71,795 Shares reported are owned jointly with Spouse.

Reporting Owners 2

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- (3) 10,000 shares of Bankwell Financial Group, Inc. stock granted pursuant to the 2012 Bankwell Financial Group, Inc. Stock Plan. 5,000 of those shares are restricted stock that will vest in three substantially equal annual installments, with the first installment to vest on February 7, 2019 and the second and third installments to vest on each annual anniversary of the vesting date thereafter. 5,000 of those shares are performance restricted stock and may vest when and if the performance goal is achieved.
- (4) Range of reported purchase price is \$30.95 \$31.75. Reporting person agrees to provide individual transaction information to SEC upon request.

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.