

COMMUNITY BANCORP /VT
Form 10-K
March 28, 2013

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549

FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF
1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF
1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File No. 000-16435

Vermont
(State of Incorporation)

03-0284070
(IRS Employer Identification
Number)

Address of Principal Executive Offices: 4811 US Route 5, Derby, Vermont 05829

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (802) 334-7915

| Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act: | |
|---|---|
| Title of Each Class | Name of each exchange on which registered |
| NONE | NONE |

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

Common Stock - \$2.50 par value per share

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.
YES NO

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the
Act. YES NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was
required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. YES NO

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANCORP /VT - Form 10-K

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). YES NO

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definition of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Large accelerated filer | <input type="checkbox"/> | Accelerated filer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Non-accelerated filer | <input type="checkbox"/> | Smaller reporting company | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). YES NO
As of June 30, 2012 the aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was \$43,111,072, based on a per share trade price on June 26, 2012 of \$10.07, as reported on the OTC Link® system maintained by the OTC Markets Group Inc. For purposes of the calculation, all directors and executive officers were deemed to be affiliates of the registrant. However, such assumption is not intended as an admission of affiliate status as to any such individual.

There were 4,810,735 shares outstanding of the issuer's class of common stock as of the close of business on March 14, 2013.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2012 are incorporated by reference to Part I of this Report.

Portions of the Annual Report to Shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2012 are incorporated by reference to Part II of this report.

Portions of the Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held May 14, 2013 are incorporated by reference to Part III of this report.

FORM 10-K ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

| <u>PART I</u> | Page |
|---|------|
| <u>Item 1</u> <u>The Business</u> | 3 |
| <u>Item 1A</u> <u>Risk Factors</u> | 13 |
| <u>Item 1B</u> <u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u> | 13 |
| <u>Item 2</u> <u>Properties</u> | 13 |
| <u>Item 3</u> <u>Legal Proceedings</u> | 15 |
| <u>Item 4</u> <u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u> | 15 |
| <u>PART II</u> | |
| <u>Item 5</u> <u>Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u> | 15 |
| <u>Item 6</u> <u>Selected Financial Data</u> | 15 |
| <u>Item 7</u> <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> | 15 |
| <u>Item 7A</u> <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u> | 15 |
| <u>Item 8</u> <u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u> | 15 |
| <u>Item 9</u> <u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u> | 15 |
| <u>Item 9A</u> <u>Controls and Procedures</u> | 16 |
| <u>Item 9B</u> <u>Other Information</u> | 16 |
| <u>PART III</u> | |
| <u>Item 10</u> <u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u> | 17 |
| <u>Item 11</u> <u>Executive Compensation</u> | 17 |
| <u>Item 12</u> <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Shareholder Matters</u> | 18 |
| <u>Item 13</u> <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u> | 18 |
| <u>Item 14</u> <u>Principal Accounting Fees and Services</u> | 18 |
| <u>PART IV</u> | |
| <u>Item 15</u> <u>Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u> | 19 |
| <u>Signatures</u> | 21 |

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

PART I

ITEM 1. THE BUSINESS

Organization and Operation

Community Bancorp. (the "Company") was organized under the laws of the State of Vermont in 1982 and became a registered bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, in October 1983 when it acquired all of the voting shares of Community National Bank (the "Bank"). The Bank is the only subsidiary of the Company and principally all of the Company's business operations are presently conducted through it. Therefore, the following narrative and the other information contained in this report are based primarily on the Bank's operations.

Community National Bank was organized in 1851 as the Peoples Bank, and was subsequently reorganized as the National Bank of Derby Line in 1865. In 1975, after 110 continuous years of operation as the National Bank of Derby Line, the Bank acquired the Island Pond National Bank and changed its name to "Community National Bank." On December 31, 2007, the Company completed its acquisition of LyndonBank, a Vermont bank headquartered in Lyndonville, Vermont, in a cash merger transaction. As a result of the merger, the Company added three office locations in Caledonia County and one office location in each of Orleans, Lamoille and Franklin Counties.

Community National Bank provides a broad range of retail banking services to the residents, businesses and municipalities in northeastern and central Vermont. These services include checking, savings and time deposit accounts, mortgage, consumer, municipal and commercial loans, safe deposit and night deposit services, ACH, wire transfer services, automatic teller machine (ATM) facilities, credit card services, 24 hour telephone banking, remote deposit and mobile and internet banking. Additionally, the Bank maintains cash machines at 10 third party business locations in the counties of Orleans, Washington, Caledonia and Franklin. The Company focuses on establishing and maintaining long-term relationships with customers and is committed to providing for the financial services needs of the communities it serves. In particular, the Company continues to emphasize its relationships with individual customers and small-to-medium-sized businesses. The Company actively evaluates the banking needs of its markets, including low- and moderate-income areas, and offers products that are responsive to the needs of its customer base. The markets served by the Company provide a mix of real estate, commercial and industrial, municipal and consumer lending opportunities, as well as a stable core deposit base. Additional information about our business, including the Company's deposit-taking activities, lending activities and credit and risk management policies, is set forth under the caption "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" contained in the Annual Report to Shareholders for 2012 filed as Exhibit 13 to this Report and is incorporated herein by reference.

In 2002, the Bank transferred its trust operations to a newly formed Vermont-chartered nondepository trust and investment management affiliate, Community Financial Services Group, LLC, based in Newport, Vermont ("CFSG"). The Bank's ownership interest in CFSG is held indirectly, through Community Financial Services Partners, LLC, a Vermont limited liability company ("Partners"), which owns 100% of the limited liability company equity interests of CFSG. Immediately following transfer of its trust operations to CFSG, the Bank sold a two-thirds interest in Partners, equally to the National Bank of Middlebury, headquartered in Middlebury, Vermont and Guaranty Bancorp Inc., the bank holding company parent of Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank, headquartered in Woodsville, New Hampshire. CFSG offers fiduciary services throughout the market areas of the three owner financial institutions.

In 2007, the Company formed CMTV Statutory Trust I (the "Trust"), a Delaware statutory business trust, for the purpose of issuing \$12.5 million of trust preferred securities and lending the proceeds to the Company. This funding provided a portion of the cash consideration paid by the Company in the acquisition of LyndonBank and provided additional regulatory capital. The Trust is a variable interest entity for which the Company is not the primary beneficiary, within the meaning of applicable accounting standards. Accordingly, the Trust is not consolidated with the Company for financial reporting purposes.

In 2011, the Company formed a limited liability company (“LLC”) to facilitate its purchase of federal New Markets Tax Credits (“NMTCs”) under an investment structure designed by a local community development entity. The LLC is a variable interest entity for which, in the context of the overall NMTC structure, the Company is not the primary beneficiary, within the meaning of applicable accounting standards. Accordingly, the LLC is not consolidated with the Company for financial reporting purposes.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Competition

All of the Bank's offices are located in northern and central Vermont. The Bank's main office is located in Derby, in Orleans County. In addition to its main office, the Bank has four other banking offices in Orleans County, one office in Essex County, four offices in Caledonia County, two offices in Washington County and one office each in Franklin and Lamoille Counties.

The Bank competes in all aspects of its business with other banks and credit unions in northern and central Vermont, including three of the largest banks in the state, which maintain branch offices throughout the Bank's service area. Historically, competition in Orleans and Essex Counties has come primarily from two of the largest banks in the state, People's United Bank, FSB based in Bridgeport, Connecticut and TD Bank, N.A., a subsidiary of Toronto Dominion (based in Toronto, Ontario), based in Portland, Maine and Cherry Hill, New Jersey. People's United Bank (formerly Chittenden Bank) maintains a branch office in Newport, and TD Bank, N.A. maintains branch offices in Barton, Orleans, and St. Johnsbury. The Bank also competes in Orleans County with one local bank, Passumpsic Savings Bank, based in St. Johnsbury with a branch in Newport, and with two local credit unions, Orlex Credit Union, based in Newport and North Country Federal Credit Union, based in South Burlington. The Bank's primary competitors in Caledonia County are Passumpsic Savings Bank, Union Bank based in Morrisville, TD Bank, N.A., Northern Lights Federal Credit Union, based in St. Johnsbury, Vermont State Employees Credit Union, based in Montpelier, Burlington-based Merchants Bank, the largest Vermont-based bank, and North Country Federal Credit Union. In Washington County, the Bank competes with Merchants Bank, People's United Bank and TD Bank, N.A. as well as Northfield Savings Bank, based in Northfield, Key Bank, based in Ohio, Citizens Bank Vermont, based in Rhode Island, Vermont State Employees Credit Union, North Country Federal Credit Union, and Granite Hills Credit Union, based in Barre. In Franklin County, the Bank competes with Peoples Trust Company, based in St. Albans, TD Bank, N.A., People's United Bank, Citizens Bank Vermont, Key Bank, Merchants Bank, and Union Bank. In Lamoille County the Bank's competitors are Union Bank, TD Bank, People's United Bank and Merchants Bank.

Changes in the regulatory framework of the banking industry during the past decade have broadened the competition for commercial bank products, such as deposits and loans, to include not only traditional rivals such as the mutual savings banks, stock savings banks, and credit unions, but also many non-traditional rivals such as insurance companies, brokerage firms, mutual funds and consumer and commercial finance and leasing companies. In addition, many out-of-market nationwide banks, nonbank lenders and other financial service firms operate in the Company's market areas through mass marketing solicitations by mail, radio, television, the internet and email. At the same time, technological changes have facilitated remote delivery of financial services by bank and nonbank competitors outside the context of a traditional branch bank network, thereby intensifying competition from out-of-market firms.

Competition from the tax-exempt credit union industry has also intensified in recent years. Three of the Bank's credit union competitors, including the largest state-chartered Vermont credit union, Vermont State Employees Credit Union, have converted in recent years from an employment based common bond to a community common bond, thereby significantly increasing their fields of membership in the Bank's market areas. Similarly, another of the Bank's credit union competitors, which previously had an employment based common bond, merged in 2009 into a much larger credit union which has a community common bond. At the same time, regulatory changes in the credit union industry, including passage in 2005 of a comprehensive Vermont credit union modernization statute, have steadily increased the financial services and products that credit unions are authorized to offer, such as small business lending and products for non-profit organizations. Because federal law subsidizes credit unions by giving them a general exemption from federal income taxes, they have a significant pricing advantage over commercial banks for their deposit and loan products. This pricing advantage, coupled with the relaxing of membership and product restrictions, has resulted in increased competition for the Bank from this tax exempt sector of the financial services industry.

In order to compete with other bank and non-bank service providers, the Company stresses the community orientation of its banking operations and relies to a large extent upon personal relationships established by its officers, directors and employees with their customers and on their strong ties to the local community. In addition, management's knowledge of the local community assists it in tailoring the Company's products and services to meet the needs of its customer base. Although competition is strong throughout the Company's market area, management believes that the Company can continue to compete effectively, in view of its local market knowledge and community ties and its understanding of customer needs.

Employees

As of December 31, 2012, the Company did not have any employees at the holding company level. However, as of such date, the Bank employed 130 full-time employees and 24 part-time employees. Management of the Bank considers its employee relations to be good.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Regulation and Supervision

The following discussion describes elements of an extensive regulatory framework applicable to bank holding companies and banks, to which the Company and the Bank are subject. Regulation of banks and bank holding companies is intended primarily for the protection of depositors and the Deposit Insurance Fund (the “DIF”) of the FDIC, rather than for the protection of shareholders and creditors.

The Company’s earnings are affected by general economic conditions, management policies, changes in state and federal laws and regulations and actions of various regulatory authorities, including those referred to below. Banking is a highly regulated business and proposals to change the laws and regulations to which the Company and the Bank are subject are frequently introduced at both the federal and state levels. The likelihood and timing of any such changes and the impact such changes may have on the Company and the Bank is impossible to predict with any certainty.

The following summary does not purport to be complete and is qualified by reference to the particular statutes and regulations.

Dodd–Frank Act. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (the “Dodd-Frank Act”) represents a comprehensive revision and restructuring of many aspects of financial services industry regulation and impacts practically all aspects of a banking organization. Implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act continued throughout 2012, including through various agency rulemakings. Many of the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act are designed to reduce systemic risk from large, complex “systemically significant” financial institutions, and thus do not apply to a smaller banking organization such as the Company. Nevertheless, certain of its provisions do directly apply to the Company and others will indirectly impact its operations, as the Dodd-Frank Act continues to reshape the financial services environment. Among other things, the Act:

Granted new powers to the Federal Reserve to monitor the systemic safety of the financial system and to take proactive steps to reduce or eliminate threats, including imposing strict controls on large, systemically significant bank and non-bank financial holding companies;

Established a new independent agency, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (“CFPB”), with centralized responsibility for implementing and (with respect to large organizations) enforcing and examining compliance with federal consumer financial laws. Although the CFPB does not have enforcement or examination authority over smaller banking organizations such as the Company, its regulatory standards and mandates will ultimately affect all financial service providers;

Applies the same leverage and risk-based capital requirements that apply to insured depository institutions to most bank holding companies, savings and loan holding companies and systemically important non-bank financial companies on a consolidated basis. These changes prohibit the use of additional trust preferred securities as Tier 1 capital, but the Company’s existing trust preferred securities are grandfathered;

Requires debit card interchange transaction fees charged by large financial institutions to be reasonable and proportional to the cost incurred by the issuer for the transaction. The Federal Reserve adopted regulations during 2011 establishing such fee standards, eliminating exclusivity arrangements between issuers and networks for debit card transactions and limiting restrictions on merchant discounting for use of certain payment forms and minimum or maximum amount thresholds as a condition for acceptance of credit cards. Although smaller institutions such as the Company are not subject to the interchange fee restrictions, it is possible that, over time, competitive pricing pressures in the marketplace may operate to make the restrictions applicable to them by default;

Requires public companies to periodically seek “say on executive pay” and “say on frequency” votes of shareholders, and in some circumstances, a “say on golden parachute” vote of shareholders. As a smaller reporting company, these vote requirements first become applicable for the Company’s 2013 annual meeting of shareholders;

Allows depository institutions to pay interest on demand deposits effective July 21, 2011;

Established by statute the Federal Reserve’s “source of strength” doctrine mandating holding company financial support of subsidiary insured depository institutions;

Eliminated state restrictions on de novo interstate branching;

Established new requirements related to mortgage lending, including prohibitions against payment of steering incentives and provisions relating to underwriting standards, disclosures, appraisals and escrows. Many of these provisions have been implemented through CFPB rulemakings;

Weakened federal preemption standards for national banks and federal savings associations and their operating subsidiaries by granting states greater authority to enforce consumer protection laws against them;

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Provided permanent relief for smaller reporting companies, such as the Company, from the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act for auditor attestation of management's assessment of internal controls and their effectiveness;

Requires a bank holding company to be well capitalized and well managed to receive regulatory approval of an interstate bank acquisition; and

Permanently increases the FDIC's standard maximum deposit insurance amount to \$250,000, changes the FDIC insurance assessment base to assets rather than deposits and increases the reserve ratio for the deposit insurance fund to ensure the future strength of the fund. A temporary extension of unlimited deposit insurance on non-interest bearing transaction accounts expired on December 31, 2012.

While significant elements of the Dodd-Frank Act have been implemented through agency rulemakings, additional rulemakings and further studies are required for implementation of other provisions of the Act. The Company will continue to monitor the impact of implementation of this significant legislation.

Bank Holding Company Act. As a registered bank holding company, the Company is subject to on-going regulation, supervision and examination by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System ("Federal Reserve"), under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the "Act"). A bank holding company for example, must generally obtain the prior approval of the Federal Reserve before it acquires all or substantially all of the assets of any bank, or acquires ownership or control of more than 5% of the voting shares of a bank. Federal Reserve approval is also generally required before a bank holding company may acquire more than 5% of any outstanding class of voting securities of a company other than a bank or a more than 5% interest in its property.

The Act generally limits the activity in which the Company and its subsidiaries may engage to certain specified activities, including those activities which the Federal Reserve may find, by order or regulation, to be so closely related to banking or managing or controlling banks as to be a proper incident thereto. Some of the activities that the Federal Reserve has determined to be closely related to banking are: (1) making and servicing loans that could be made by mortgage, finance, credit card or factoring companies; (2) performing the functions of a trust company; (3) certain leasing of real or personal property; (4) providing certain financial, banking or economic data processing services; (5) except as otherwise prohibited by law, acting as an insurance agent or broker with respect to insurance that is directly related to the extension of credit or the provision of other financial services or, under certain circumstances, with respect to insurance that is sold in certain small communities in which the bank holding company system maintains banking offices; (6) acting as an underwriter for credit life insurance and credit health and accident insurance directly related to extensions of credit by the holding company system; (7) providing certain kinds of management consulting advice to unaffiliated banks and non-bank depository institutions; (8) performing real estate appraisals; (9) issuing and selling money order and similar instruments and travelers checks and selling U.S. Savings Bonds; (10) providing certain securities brokerage and related services for the account of bank customers; (11) underwriting and dealing in certain government obligations and other obligations such as bankers' acceptances and certificates of deposit; (12) providing consumer financial counseling; (13) providing tax planning and preparation services; (14) providing check guarantee services to merchants; (15) operating a collection agency; and (16) operating a credit bureau. Trust and investment management activities conducted through a nondepository trust company such as the Company's affiliate, CFSG, are also considered by the Federal Reserve to be permissible nonbanking activities that are closely related to banking.

Except for CFSG's trust and investment management operations, the Company does not presently engage, directly or indirectly, in any other permissible non-banking activities.

A bank holding company must also obtain prior Federal Reserve approval in order to purchase or redeem its own stock if the gross consideration to be paid, when added to the net consideration paid by the company for all purchases or redemptions by the company of its equity securities within the preceding 12 months, will equal 10% or more of the company's consolidated net worth.

The Company is required to file with the Federal Reserve Board annual and parent company quarterly reports and such additional information as the Board may require pursuant to the Act. The Board may also make examinations of the Company and any direct or indirect subsidiary of the Company.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Community Bancorp. and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Community National Bank, as well as its non-subsidiary affiliates, Partners and CFSG, are all considered "affiliates" of each other for the purposes of Section 18(j) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act ("FDIA"), as amended, and Sections 23A and 23B of the Federal Reserve Act, as amended. In particular, section 23A limits loans or other extensions of credit to, asset purchases with and investments in affiliates of the Bank to 10% of the Bank's capital and surplus. In addition, such loans and extensions of credit and certain other transactions must be collateralized in specified amounts. Section 23B requires, among other things, that certain transactions between the Bank and its affiliates must be on terms substantially the same, or at least as favorable to the Bank, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with or involving non-affiliated persons. Further, the Company is prohibited from engaging in certain tie-in arrangements in connection with any extension of credit or lease or sale of any property or the furnishing of services.

Bank Holding Company Consolidated Capital Requirements. Under the Dodd-Frank Act and longstanding Federal Reserve policy, a bank holding company is expected to act as a source of financial strength to its subsidiary banks and to commit resources to support them. In implementing this requirement, the Federal Reserve could require the Company to provide such support when the Company otherwise would not consider it advisable to do so.

The Company is subject to Federal Reserve's risk-based capital requirements for assessing bank holding company capital adequacy. These standards define regulatory capital and establish minimum ratios in relation to assets, both on an aggregate basis and as adjusted for credit risks and off-balance sheet exposures. Bank holding companies are required to maintain a minimum ratio of qualifying total capital to risk-weighted assets of 8%, of which one-half must be in the form of Tier 1 capital (as defined). The Federal Reserve also requires a minimum leverage ratio of Tier 1 capital to total average assets of 3% for strong bank holding companies, defined as those bank holding companies rated a composite "1" under the rating system used by the Federal Reserve. For all other bank holding companies, the minimum ratio of Tier 1 capital to total assets is 4.0 percent. Bank holding companies with supervisory, financial, operational, or managerial weaknesses, as well as those that are anticipating or experiencing significant growth, are expected to maintain capital ratios well above the minimum levels.

The Federal Reserve's capital guidelines classify bank holding company capital into two categories. Tier 1 or "core capital" generally is defined as the sum of eligible core capital elements, less any amounts of goodwill and other items that are required to be deducted in accordance with the Federal Reserve capital guidelines. Eligible Tier 1 or core capital elements include qualifying common stockholders' equity, qualifying preferred stock (such as the Company's Series A preferred stock), and qualifying trust preferred securities (such as those of the Company), subject to certain limitations. Tier 1 capital must represent at least 50% of a bank holding company's qualifying total capital. Eligible Tier 2, or "supplementary capital" includes the allowance for loan and lease losses (subject to limitations), preferred stock that does not qualify as Tier 1 capital, certain hybrid capital instruments, and certain subordinated and mandatory convertible debt securities.

The Federal Reserve capital guidelines limit the amount of restricted core elements that a bank holding company may include in Tier 1 capital. Until March 31, 2011, the aggregate amount of restricted core elements consisting of certain preferred stock and qualifying trust preferred securities that were includable in Tier 1 capital was limited to 25%. Beginning March 31, 2011, the aggregate amount of all restricted core capital elements that may be included by a bank holding company as Tier 1 capital may not exceed 25% of the sum of all core capital elements, including restricted core capital elements, net of goodwill less any associated deferred tax liability.

The excess of restricted core capital not included in Tier 1 may generally be included in the Tier 2 capital calculation. However, beginning March 31, 2011, the aggregate of excess qualifying trust preferred securities and other excess restricted core capital elements that may be treated as Tier 2 capital is limited to 50% of Tier 1 capital. Amounts of these instruments in excess of this limit, although not included in Tier 2 capital, will be taken into account by the Federal Reserve in its overall assessment of a bank holding company's funding and financial condition.

As of December 31, 2012, the Company had consolidated regulatory capital at the level required to be considered well capitalized. As of such date, the Company had a total consolidated capital to risk-weighted assets ratio of 12.57%, a Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets ratio of 10.80%, and a leverage ratio of 7.27%.

As noted above, the Dodd-Frank Act requires the Federal Reserve to establish minimum capital levels for bank holding companies on a consolidated basis that are as stringent as those required for insured depository institutions, as in effect on the enactment date of the Act. After a three year phase-in period which begins January 1, 2013, existing trust preferred securities for holding companies with consolidated assets greater than \$15 billion and all new issuances of trust preferred securities are removed as a permitted component of a holding company's Tier 1 capital. Trust preferred securities outstanding as of May 19, 2010 that were issued by bank holding companies with total consolidated assets of less than \$15 billion, such as the Company, will continue to count as Tier 1 capital. However, as a result of the Dodd-Frank Act, in the future the Company will not be able to raise additional Tier 1 capital through the issuance of new trust preferred securities.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Basel III. In December 2010, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (the “Basel Committee”), an international forum for cooperation on banking supervisory matters, announced the “Basel III” capital rules, which set new capital requirements for banking organizations. In June 2012, the Federal Reserve requested comment on three proposed rules that, taken together, would establish an integrated regulatory capital framework implementing the Basel III regulatory capital reforms for United States banking institutions, including community banks. As proposed, the U.S. implementation of Basel III would lead to significantly higher capital requirements and more restrictive leverage and liquidity ratios than those currently in place. One of the rule proposals addresses the components of capital and other issues affecting the numerator in banking institutions’ regulatory capital ratios, while another of the proposals addresses risk weights and other issues affecting the denominator in banking institutions’ regulatory capital ratios and would replace the existing risk weighting approach with a more risk-sensitive approach. Among other things, the proposed rules would revise the definition of various regulatory capital components and related calculation methods, add a new regulatory capital component (common equity tier 1 capital), increase the minimum required tier 1 capital, implement a new capital conservation buffer and restrictions on dividends and certain discretionary bonus payments when the buffer is not maintained. The revisions most troubling to the Company are the changes to risk-weighting of assets, the inclusion of unrealized gains and losses on available-for-sale securities in regulatory capital and the exclusion of trust preferred securities from regulatory capital accomplished over a 10 year phase out period. The proposed rules indicated that the final rule would become effective on January 1, 2013, and the changes set forth in the final rules would be phased in from January 1, 2013 through January 1, 2019. However, due to the volume of public comments received, the Federal Reserve delayed the proposed January 1, 2013 effective date as it continues to study the potential effects of the proposed changes. In March 2013, the Basel Committee announced that it will examine whether the Basel III capital rules should be simplified in light of the criticism that they are too complex to be effective. Management is evaluating the potential impact of the proposed Basel III capital standards on the Company and the Bank and will continue to monitor related regulatory action on the rules. However, the ultimate effects will depend on the terms of the final regulations and cannot be predicted with certainty at this time. In addition, important questions remain as to how the numerous capital and liquidity mandates of the Dodd-Frank Act will be integrated with the requirements of Basel III.

Financial Modernization. In 1999 Congress enacted the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley financial modernization act (“Gramm-Leach-Bliley”), which repealed provisions of the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933 that required separation of banking and commercial entities. Under Gramm-Leach-Bliley, eligible bank holding companies may elect to become financial holding companies and thereby affiliate with securities firms and insurance companies and engage in a broader range of activities than is otherwise permissible for bank holding companies. A bank holding company is eligible to elect to become a “financial holding company” and to engage in activities that are “financial in nature” if each of its subsidiary banks is well capitalized for regulatory capital purposes, is well managed and has at least a satisfactory rating under the Community Reinvestment Act (“CRA”). Activities which are deemed “financial in nature” under Gramm-Leach-Bliley would include activities generally permitted to bank holding companies as described above, and in addition securities underwriting, dealing and market making; sponsoring mutual funds and investment companies; insurance underwriting and agency; and merchant banking. Gramm-Leach-Bliley also contains similar provisions authorizing eligible national banks to engage indirectly through a “financial subsidiary” in activities that are financial in nature, other than insurance underwriting, insurance company portfolio investment, real estate development and real estate investment. In order to be considered eligible for these expanded activities, the bank must be well capitalized, well managed and have at least a satisfactory CRA rating. A national bank’s investment in financial subsidiaries is subject to certain limitations under Gramm-Leach-Bliley.

As of the date of filing this report with the SEC, the Company had not elected to become a financial holding company, nor had the Bank created any financial subsidiaries.

Implementation of Gramm-Leach-Bliley has resulted in an increase in the number and type of institutions engaging in the same or similar financial activities as those of the Company and the Bank, thereby creating a more competitive

financial services environment generally. However, management of the Company believes that Gramm-Leach-Bliley has thus far had a more significant competitive impact on larger institutions, such as regional and national holding companies and banks, than on community-based institutions serving largely rural populations, such as the Company and the Bank, which are engaged primarily in traditional banking activities and have a stronger local marketing focus.

USA Patriot Act. In response to the terrorist events of September 11, 2001, Congress enacted the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 (the "USA Patriot Act" or the "Act"). The USA Patriot Act is intended to strengthen the ability of U.S. law enforcement and the intelligence community to work cooperatively to combat terrorism on a variety of fronts. The impact of the USA Patriot Act on financial institutions is significant and wide ranging. The Act contains sweeping anti-money laundering and financial transparency laws and imposes various regulations, including standards for verifying client identification at account opening, and rules to promote cooperation among financial institutions, regulators and law enforcement entities in identifying parties that may be involved in terrorism or money laundering. The Secretary of the Treasury and banking regulators have adopted several regulations to implement these provisions. The Act also amended the federal Bank Holding Company Act and the Bank Merger Act to require the federal banking regulatory authorities to consider the effectiveness of a bank holding company or a financial institution's anti-money laundering activities when reviewing an application to expand operations. As required by law, Community National Bank has in place a Bank Secrecy Act and Anti-Money Laundering compliance program, as well as a customer identification program.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Sarbanes-Oxley Act. The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (the “Act”) was enacted to increase corporate responsibility, to provide for enhanced penalties for accounting and auditing improprieties at publicly traded companies and to protect investors by improving the accuracy and reliability of corporate disclosures pursuant to the securities laws. The Act is the most far-reaching U.S. securities legislation enacted in decades, and generally applies to companies that file or are required to file periodic reports with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”). The SEC has engaged in extensive rulemaking to implement the Act's provisions.

The Act includes provisions addressing, among other matters, the duties, functions and qualifications of audit committees for all public companies; certification of financial statements by the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer; the forfeiture of bonuses or other incentive-based compensation and profits from the sale of an issuer’s securities by directors and senior officers in the twelve month period following initial publication of any financial statements that later require restatement; disclosure of off-balance sheet transactions; a prohibition on personal loans to directors and officers, except (in the case of banking companies) loans in the normal course of business; expedited filing requirements for reports of beneficial ownership of company stock by insiders; disclosure of a code of ethics for senior officers, and of any change or waiver of such code; the formation of a public accounting oversight board; auditor independence; disclosure of fees paid to the company's auditors for non-audit services and limitations on the provision of such services; attestation requirements for company management and external auditors, relating to internal controls and procedures; and various increased criminal penalties for violations of federal securities laws.

In response to Sarbanes-Oxley, the Board of Directors of the Company approved a series of actions to strengthen and improve its already strong corporate governance practices. Among other measures, the Board adopted a Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers and the Principal Executive Officer, adopted an Insider Trading Policy, adopted amendments to the Audit Committee Charter, appointed a Compensation Committee and a Corporate Governance/Nominating Committee and adopted charters for those committees.

Since 2007 Section 404 of Sarbanes-Oxley has required management of the Company to undertake a periodic assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Company’s internal controls over financial reporting. Management's report on internal control over financial reporting for 2012 is contained in Item 9A of this Report. The Company has incurred, and expects to continue to incur, costs in connection with its on-going compliance with Section 404.

As enacted in 2002 and implemented by the SEC, Sarbanes-Oxley provided that, beginning with annual financial statements for 2010, the Company’s external auditors would be required to attest to, and report on, management’s assessment of the Company’s internal controls and the operating effectiveness of these controls. As noted above, however, the Dodd-Frank Act included permanent relief from this requirement for smaller reporting companies such as the Company.

More information on the Company’s corporate governance practices, including committee charters, is available on the Company’s website at www.communitybancorpvt.com.

SEC Regulatory Relief for Smaller Reporting Companies. In December 2007, the SEC adopted amendments to its disclosure and reporting rules to extend to more public companies the benefits of the simplified and less rigorous disclosure requirements previously applicable only to “small business issuers.” The amendments established a new category of “smaller reporting companies” with a public float of less than \$75 million. The Company continues to qualify as a smaller reporting company as of its last measurement date (June 30, 2012). Under the amendments, smaller reporting companies are able to elect whether to comply with specified financial and nonfinancial disclosure requirements on an item by item basis. The amendments were effective February 4, 2008 and the Company has elected to avail itself of some of the relief provided in the amendments in connection with preparation of the

Company's annual meeting proxy statement and its periodic reports, including this annual report on Form 10-K.

Interstate Banking and Branching. The Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act of 1994 authorized interstate mergers and permitted a bank holding company to acquire banks in states other than its home state, without regard to the permissibility of such acquisitions under state law, but subject to certain state law requirements. As noted above, the Dodd-Frank Act effectively eliminated the remaining state law limitations on de novo interstate banking. Interstate branching generally heightens the competitive environment for financial services and, although it is difficult to predict with any certainty, it is likely that the trend toward increasing competition will continue in the future. As of December 31, 2012, the Company did not maintain any interstate branches.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Prompt Corrective Action. Community National Bank is subject to regulatory capital requirements established under the Federal Deposit Insurance Company Improvement Act of 1991 ("FDICIA"). Among other things, FDICIA identifies five capital categories for insured depository institutions (well capitalized, adequately capitalized, undercapitalized, significantly undercapitalized and critically undercapitalized) and requires the respective U.S. federal regulatory agencies to implement systems for "prompt corrective action" for insured depository institutions that do not meet minimum capital requirements within such categories. FDICIA imposes progressively more restrictive constraints on operations, management and capital distributions, depending on the category in which an institution is classified. Failure to meet the capital guidelines could also subject a banking institution to capital raising requirements. An "undercapitalized" bank must develop a capital restoration plan and its parent holding company must guarantee that bank's compliance with the plan. The liability of the parent holding company under any such guarantee is limited to the lesser of 5% of the bank's assets at the time it became undercapitalized or the amount needed to comply with the plan. Furthermore, in the event of the bankruptcy of the parent holding company, such guarantee would take priority over the parent's general unsecured creditors. In addition, FDICIA requires the various regulatory agencies to prescribe certain non-capital standards for safety and soundness related generally to operations and management, asset quality and executive compensation and permits regulatory action against a financial institution that does not meet such standards.

The various federal bank regulatory agencies have adopted substantially similar regulations that define the five capital categories identified by FDICIA, using the total risk-based capital, Tier 1 risk-based capital and leverage capital ratios as the relevant capital measures. Such regulations establish various degrees of corrective action to be taken when an institution is considered undercapitalized. Under the regulations, a "well capitalized" institution must have a Tier 1 capital ratio to risk weighted assets of at least 6%, a total capital ratio to risk weighted assets of at least 10% and a leverage ratio of at least 5% and not be subject to a capital directive order. An "adequately capitalized" institution must have a Tier 1 capital ratio to risk weighted assets of at least 4%, a total capital ratio to risk weighted assets of at least 8% and a leverage ratio of at least 4%, or 3% in some cases.

As noted above, the Dodd-Frank Act mandates similar capital requirements for bank and thrift holding companies on a consolidated basis to those applicable to insured depository institutions under the Prompt Corrective Action provisions of FDICIA.

As of December 31, 2012, Community National Bank was considered "well capitalized" under FDICIA's regulatory capital requirements.

Dividends. The Company derives funds for payment of dividends to its shareholders primarily from dividends received from its subsidiary, Community National Bank. Under the National Bank Act, prior approval from the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) is required if the total of all dividends declared by a national bank in any calendar year will exceed the sum of such bank's net profits for that last year and its retained net profits for the preceding two calendar years, less any required transfers to surplus. Federal law also prohibits national banks from paying dividends greater than the bank's undivided profits after deducting statutory bad debt in excess of the bank's allowance for loan losses.

In addition, the Company and the Bank are subject to various general regulatory policies and requirements relating to the payment of dividends, including requirements to maintain adequate capital above regulatory minimums. The appropriate federal or state banking agency is authorized to determine under certain circumstances relating to the financial condition of a bank or bank holding company that the payment of dividends would be an unsafe or unsound practice and to prohibit such payment.

In February 2009, the Federal Reserve issued supervisory guidance on the payment of dividends and redemption and repurchases of stock by bank holding companies. The guidance heightened expectations that a bank holding company

will inform and consult with Federal Reserve supervisory staff in advance of declaring and paying any dividend that could raise safety and soundness concerns, such as a dividend exceeding current period earnings; redeeming or repurchasing regulatory capital instruments when the bank holding company is experiencing financial weaknesses; or redeeming or repurchasing common stock or perpetual preferred stock that would result in a net reduction in the amount of such equity instruments outstanding compared with the beginning of the quarter in which the redemption or repurchase occurred. The guidance provides that a bank holding company should eliminate, defer or severely limit dividends if net income for the past four quarters is not sufficient to fully fund dividends; the prospective rate of earnings retention is not consistent with the holding company's capital needs and overall current and prospective financial condition; or the holding company will not meet, or is in danger of not meeting, its minimum regulatory capital ratios. The Company would be required in future periods to consult with, and obtain the approval of, the Federal Reserve for payment of any dividends, including regular quarterly cash dividends, that are in excess of earnings for the applicable quarterly period.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

OCC Supervision. The Bank is a national banking association and subject to the provisions of the National Bank Act and federal and state statutes and rules and regulations applicable to national banks. The primary supervisory authority for the Bank is the OCC. The OCC's examinations are designed for the protection of the Bank's depositors and not its shareholders. The Bank is subject to periodic examination by the OCC and must file periodic reports with the OCC containing a complete statement of its financial condition and results of operations.

Deposit Insurance. The deposits of the Bank are insured by the Deposit Insurance Fund ("DIF") of the FDIC up to the limits set forth under applicable law and are subject to the deposit insurance premium assessments of the DIF. The FDIC imposes a risk-based deposit premium assessments system, which was amended pursuant to the Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Act of 2005 (the "Reform Act") and further amended by the Dodd-Frank Act. Under this system, as amended, the assessment rates for an insured depository institution vary according to the level of risk incurred in its activities. To arrive at an assessment rate for a banking institution, the FDIC places it in one of four risk categories determined by reference to its capital levels and supervisory ratings. In addition, in the case of those institutions in the lowest risk category, the FDIC further determines its assessment rate based on certain specified financial ratios or, if applicable, its long-term debt ratings. The assessment rate schedule can change from time to time, at the discretion of the FDIC, subject to certain limits. On November 12, 2009, the FDIC adopted a rule requiring banks to prepay deposit insurance premiums through 2012 to replenish the depleted insurance fund. In addition, all FDIC insured depository institutions are required to pay a pro rata portion of the interest due on the obligations issued by the Financing Corporation ("FICO") to fund the closing and disposal of failed thrift institutions by the Resolution Trust Corporation.

The Dodd-Frank Act changed the assessment formula for determining deposit insurance premiums and modified certain insurance coverage provisions of the FDIA. The FDIC's implementing rules, which redefined the base for FDIC insurance assessments from the amount of insured deposits to "average consolidated total assets less average tangible equity," became effective April 1, 2011. The Bank's total FDIC insurance assessment for 2012 was \$389,909.

The Dodd-Frank Act also permanently increased from \$100,000 to \$250,000 the maximum per depositor FDIC insurance amount and extended to December 31, 2012 the temporary unlimited deposit insurance coverage on noninterest bearing transaction accounts.

Brokered Deposits. Under FDICIA, an FDIC-insured bank is prohibited from accepting brokered deposits without prior approval of the FDIC unless it is well capitalized under the FDICIA's prompt corrective actions guidelines. In January of 2003, the Company entered into an agreement with Promontory Interfinancial Network (PIN) making it possible to offer our customers insurance protection for their deposits in excess of FDIC limits. This Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service (CDARS) uses a deposit-matching engine to match CDARS deposits in other participating banks, dollar-for-dollar. This product is designed to enhance customer attraction and retention, build deposits and improve net interest margins, while providing additional FDIC coverage to customers. Promontory also offers member banks an opportunity to participate with one-way orders. Banks can either accept deposits as a surplus bank or place deposits in CDARS offered by banks seeking funding without matching funds. In June of 2010, the Company added Promontory's Insured Cash Sweep (ICS) account to the deposit-matching products available to customers through PIN. The PIN provides the Company an alternative source of funding or investment opportunities, while at the same time increasing the level of FDIC insurance available to deposit customers. The Company's Asset, Liability and Funds Management Policy limits the use of brokered deposits to 5% of total assets.

As of December 31, 2012 the Company had \$1,028,152 in CDARS deposits, all of which were exchanged deposits, and ICS deposits of \$13,529,424. CDARS are considered brokered deposits for certain purposes under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and FDIC regulations.

Financial Privacy. Under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (discussed above) all financial institutions, including the Company, are required to adopt privacy policies, restrict the sharing of nonpublic consumer customer data with

nonaffiliated parties, and establish procedures and practices to protect customer data from unauthorized access. The Company is also subject to similar, but more stringent, requirements under state law, including the Vermont Financial Privacy Act. In addition, the Company is subject to the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, including the amendments adopted in the federal Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 (FACT Act). The FACT Act includes many provisions concerning national credit reporting standards and permits consumers to opt out of information sharing among affiliated companies for marketing purposes. It also requires financial institutions to notify their customers if they report negative information about them to a credit bureau or if they are granted credit terms less favorable than those generally available. The Federal Reserve and the OCC have extensive rulemaking authority under the FACT Act and have promulgated rules implementing the Act, including rules limiting information sharing for affiliate marketing and rules requiring programs to identify, detect and mitigate certain identity theft red flags. The Company is also subject to the requirements of the Vermont Fair Credit Reporting Act, which generally requires an individual's consent in order to obtain a credit report, and to data security standards and data breach notice requirements.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Other Consumer Protection and Community Reinvestment Laws. The Bank is subject to a variety of federal and state laws intended to protect borrowers, depositors and other Bank customers and to promote lending to various sectors of the economy and population. These laws include, but are not limited to, the Federal Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, the Federal Truth In Lending Act, the Federal and Vermont Equal Credit Opportunity Acts, the Federal Right to Financial Privacy Act, the Federal Truth in Savings Act, the Federal Electronic Funds Transfer Act, and the Federal Community Reinvestment Act ("CRA").

The CRA requires banks to define the communities they serve, identify the credit needs of those communities, collect and maintain data for each small business or small farm loan originated or purchased by the Bank, and maintain a Public File at each location. The federal banking regulators examine the institutions they regulate for compliance with the CRA and assign one of the following four ratings: "outstanding," "satisfactory," "needs to improve" or "substantial noncompliance". The rating assigned reflects the bank's record of helping to meet the credit needs of its entire community, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, consistent with the safe and sound operation of the bank. As of the Bank's last CRA examination, completed during 2011, it received a rating of "outstanding".

Home Mortgage Disclosure Act. The federal Home Mortgage Disclosure Act ("HMDA"), which is implemented by Federal Reserve Board Regulation C, requires mortgage lenders that maintain offices within Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) to report and make available to the public specified information regarding their residential mortgage lending activities, such as the pricing of home mortgage loans, including the "rate spread" between the interest rate on loans and certain treasury securities and other benchmarks. Community National Bank became subject to HMDA reporting requirements as a result of its merger with LyndonBank in 2007, as the former LyndonBank branch in Enosburg Falls in Franklin County is included within the Burlington, Vermont MSA.

Reserve Requirements. Federal Reserve Board Regulation D requires all depository institutions to maintain reserves against their transaction accounts (generally, demand deposits, NOW accounts and certain other types of accounts that permit payments or transfers to third parties) or non-personal time deposits (generally, money market deposit accounts or other savings deposits held by corporations or other depositors that are not natural persons, and certain other types of time deposits), subject to certain exemptions. Because required reserves must be maintained in the form of either vault cash, a non-interest bearing account at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston or a pass through account (as defined by the Federal Reserve Board), the effect of these reserve requirements is to reduce the amount of the Company's interest-bearing assets.

Management reviewed and reclassified the Company's deposits during 2012 and 2011, to the extent permissible under Regulation D, resulting in a reduction in required reserves compared to reserve levels in prior years.

Federal Home Loan Bank System. Community National Bank is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank System, which consists of 12 regional Federal Home Loan Banks. The Federal Home Loan Bank provides a central credit facility primarily for member institutions. Member institutions are required to purchase and hold shares of capital stock in the applicable regional Federal Home Loan Bank (the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, in the case of Community National Bank), in an amount at least equal to the sum of 0.35% of the aggregate principal amount of its unpaid residential mortgage loans and similar obligations at the beginning of each year and 4.5% of its advances (borrowings) from the Federal Home Loan Bank. Community National Bank was in compliance with this requirement with an investment in Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston (FHLBB) stock at December 31, 2012 of approximately \$3.4 million. During 2009, the FHLBB experienced significant net operating losses, and as a result temporarily ceased paying dividends on its stock and instituted a moratorium on stock repurchases and redemptions. In 2011, the FHLBB resumed paying dividends, but at a more modest rate than previous years and in February 2012 it lifted the moratorium on stock redemptions. As a member, the Bank is subject to future capital calls by the FHLBB in order to maintain compliance with its capital plan.

Executive Compensation Guidelines. In October 2009, the Federal Reserve issued comprehensive guidance on executive compensation policies, intended to ensure that the incentive compensation practices of banking organizations do not undermine their safety and soundness by encouraging excessive risk-taking. The guidance covers all employees that have the ability to affect materially an institution's risk profile, either individually or as part of a group, and establishes that incentive compensation arrangements should (1) provide incentives that do not encourage risk-taking beyond the institution's ability to identify and manage effectively; (2) be compatible with effective internal controls and risk management; and (3) be supported by strong corporate governance, including active and effective oversight by the board of directors. The guidance instructed institutions to begin an immediate review of their incentive compensation policies to ensure that they do not encourage excessive risk-taking and implement corrective programs as needed. Where deficiencies in incentive compensation arrangements exist, they must be immediately addressed. For institutions such as the Company that are not "large, complex banking organizations" as defined in the guidance, the Federal Reserve will review the incentive compensation arrangements as part of its regular, risk-focused examination process and not in a separate examination. These examinations will be tailored to the scope and complexity of the institution's activity and compensation arrangements. The findings will be included in the Federal Reserve's examination report and deficiencies will be incorporated into the institution's supervisory ratings. Enforcement actions may be taken against an institution if its incentive compensation arrangements, or related risk management control or governance processes, pose a risk to the institution's safety and soundness and the institution fails to take prompt and effective measures to correct the deficiencies.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act, in February 2011, the federal banking agencies issued a joint proposed rulemaking imposing various restrictions on incentive compensation arrangements for institutions with over \$1 billion in assets. Although not directly applicable to smaller institutions such as the Company, the proposal will likely help set “best practices” at financial institutions of all sizes.

In addition to the statutes, regulations and regulatory initiatives described above, new legislation and regulations affecting financial institutions are frequently proposed. If enacted or adopted, these measures could change banking statutes and the Company's operating environment in substantial and unpredictable ways and could further increase reporting and compliance requirements, governance structures and costs of doing business. The Company cannot predict whether any such additional legislation or other regulatory initiatives will be adopted or the effect they may have on the Company's business, results of operations or financial condition.

Effects of Government Monetary Policy

The earnings of the Company are affected by general and local economic conditions and by the policies of various governmental regulatory authorities. In particular, the Federal Reserve Board regulates money supply, credit conditions and interest rates in order to influence general economic conditions, primarily through open market operations in United States Government Securities, varying the discount rate on member bank borrowings, setting reserve requirements against member and nonmember bank deposits, regulating interest rates payable by member banks on time and savings deposits and expanding or contracting the money supply. Federal Reserve Board monetary policies have had a significant effect on the operating results of commercial banks, including the Company, in the past and are expected to continue to do so in the future.

Other Available Information

This annual report on Form 10-K is on file with SEC. The Company also files with the SEC quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K, as well as proxy materials for its annual meetings of shareholders. You may obtain copies of these documents by visiting the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549-0213, by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 or by accessing the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. The Company's SEC-filed reports and proxy statements are also available through a link on the Company's website at www.communitybancorpvt.com. The Company has also posted on its website the Company's Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers and the Principal Executive Officer; the Insider Trading Policy and the charters of the Audit, Compensation, and Nominating Committees. The information and documents contained on the Company's website do not constitute part of this report. Copies of the Company's reports filed with the SEC (other than exhibits) can also be obtained by contacting Chris Bumps, Corporate Secretary, at our principal offices, which are located at 4811 U.S. Route 5, Derby, Vermont 05829 or by calling (802) 334-7915.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Omitted, in accordance with the regulatory relief available to smaller reporting companies in SEC Release Nos. 33-8876 and 34-56994 (effective February 4, 2008).

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

Not Applicable

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

Although Community Bancorp. does not itself own or lease real property, the Bank owns and leases various properties for its banking operations. The Company's administrative offices are located at the main offices of the Bank in Derby, Vermont. All of the Bank's offices are located in Vermont. In addition to the main office in Derby, the Bank maintains branches in the Cities of Newport, Montpelier and Barre; the Towns of Barton, Troy, Lyndon, Enosburg, Morristown and St. Johnsbury, and the Villages of Island Pond, Derby Line, and Lyndonville.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

The Bank's main offices are located on U.S. Route 5 in Derby, Vermont, with total office space of approximately 34,000 square feet, including an operations center as well as a community room used by the Bank for meetings and various functions. This community room has a secure outside access making it possible for the Bank to offer it to non-profit organizations after banking hours free of charge. This office is equipped with a remote drive-up facility and a drive-up ATM as well as an inside lobby ATM.

The Bank owns the Derby Line office located on Main Street in a renovated bank building. The facility consists of a small banking lobby of approximately 200 square feet with additional office space on the first and second floor. This office is also equipped with a walk-up ATM.

The Bank's Island Pond office is located in the renovated "Railroad Station" acquired by the town of Brighton in 1993. The Bank leases approximately two-thirds of the downstairs including a banking lobby, a drive-up window, and an ATM. The other portion of the downstairs is occupied by an information center, and the upstairs section houses the Island Pond Historical Society.

The Bank's Barton office is located on Church Street, in a renovated facility. This office is equipped with a banking lobby, a drive-up window, and an ATM. The lease was entered into in 1985 with an initial fifteen-year term, and was most recently renewed in 2000 for an additional 10 years. This lease is currently on a month to month basis, with negotiations on renewal terms in process.

The Bank owns condominium space in the state office building on Main Street in Newport to house its Newport office. The Bank occupies approximately 3,084 square feet on the first floor of the building for a full service banking facility equipped with an ATM and a remote drive-up facility. In addition, the Bank owns approximately 4,400 square feet on the second floor, a portion of which is leased to the Company's Trust Company affiliate, CFSG, with another portion leased to a law firm.

The Bank owns the Troy office located in the town of Troy. This building was built in 1986 and acquired by the Bank in 1992. This office is also equipped with an ATM to provide the same type of limited 24-hour accessibility as all of the other offices. The marketing department is also located at this facility.

One of the Company's two St. Johnsbury offices is located at the corner of the I-91 Access Road and Route 5 in the town of St. Johnsbury. The Bank occupies approximately 2,250 square feet in the front of the Price Chopper building. Fully equipped with an ATM and a drive-up window, this office operates as a full service banking facility. This space is leased on market terms from St. Johnsbury Properties, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Murphy Realty Co. Inc. of St. Johnsbury. Peter Murphy, President of Murphy Realty, is a director of the Company and the Bank.

The second St. Johnsbury office is located on the southern end of Railroad Street, which consists of approximately 1,600 square feet. The Company leases the building that houses one office, customer service areas and a small meeting room. This is a full service facility consisting of a walk-up ATM in the front vestibule and a two-lane drive-up window.

The Bank leases approximately 1,500 square feet of office space for the Montpelier office located at 95 State Street in Montpelier. This office opened at the end of May, 2001, operating as a full service banking facility. Additional space is leased nearby at 99 State Street to accommodate a stand-alone drive-up ATM in a Kiosk building.

The Barre office is a two-story, 8,000 square foot building located at 316 North Main Street. The Bank owns this building which houses a full-service branch, a two-lane drive-up window, including a drive-up ATM, as well as an inside lobby ATM. The branch also includes an office leased to CFSG and a Community Room that is made available as a public service to outside non-profit groups to be used for meetings and gatherings at no charge.

The Bank owns an office located on Broad Street in Lyndonville. The building is approximately 6,200 square feet. The first floor is used for customer services and the second floor has clerical offices and a meeting room. The building is primarily constructed of brick with a front exterior of polished red granite. A walk-up ATM is located in the front entry vestibule.

The Memorial Drive office in the town of Lyndon is a full service banking facility consisting of approximately 2,600 square feet with a 3-lane drive-up, one of which is exclusively for night drops and ATM usage. This facility is leased on market terms from a neighboring business, 48 Broad Street, LLC, owned by David Stahler who is a member of Community National Bank's Caledonia County advisory board. CFSG leases office space in this building as well.

The Bank owns a full service banking office in Enosburg consisting of approximately 3,056 square feet and houses offices and customer service areas. The office has a drive-up ATM plus two additional drive-through banking lanes.

The Bank leases approximately 2,688 square feet of space for the Morrisville office located on Route 15 West in Morristown. It is a one story building with a walk-up ATM in the front vestibule and a two-lane drive-up window.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

There are no pending legal proceedings to which the Company or the Bank is a party or of which any of its property is the subject, other than routine litigation incidental to its banking business, none of which is material to the Company's consolidated operations or financial condition.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not Applicable

PART II.

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Information on the trading market in, market price of, and dividends paid on, the Company's common stock is incorporated by reference to the section of the Annual Report to Shareholders for 2012 under the caption "Common Stock Performance by Quarter" immediately following the "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations", filed as Exhibit 13 to this report. The balance of the information required by item 201 of Regulation S-K is omitted in accordance with the regulatory relief available to smaller reporting companies in SEC Release Nos. 33-8876 and 34-56994 (effective February 4, 2008).

During the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2012, there were no purchases of the Company's common stock by the Company or by any affiliated purchaser (as defined in SEC Rule 10b-18):

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

Omitted, in accordance with the regulatory relief available to smaller reporting companies in SEC Release Nos. 33-8876 and 34-56994 (effective Feb. 4, 2008).

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Incorporated by reference to the section of the Annual Report to Shareholders for 2012 under the caption "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," immediately following the "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements", filed as Exhibit 13 to this report.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Incorporated by reference to the subsection labeled "Risk Management" of Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, contained in the Annual Report to Shareholders for 2012, filed as Exhibit 13 to this report.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

The audited consolidated financial statements and related notes of Community Bancorp. and Subsidiary and the report thereon of the independent registered accounting firm of Berry Dunn McNeil & Parker, LLC are incorporated herein by reference from the Annual Report to Shareholders for 2012, filed as Exhibit 13 to this report.

In accordance with the regulatory relief available to smaller reporting companies in SEC Release Nos. 33-8876 and 34-56994 (effective Feb. 4, 2008), the Company has elected to present audited statements of income, cash flows and changes in shareholders' equity for each of the preceding two, rather than three, fiscal years.

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None

15

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”). As of December 31, 2012, an evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of management, including the principal executive officer and principal financial officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company’s disclosure controls and procedures. Based on that evaluation, management concluded that its disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2012 were effective in ensuring that material information required to be disclosed in the reports it files with the Commission under the Exchange Act was recorded, processed, summarized, and reported on a timely basis.

Management’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls over financial reporting, as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act. As of December 31, 2012, an evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of management, including the principal executive officer and principal financial officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company’s internal controls over financial reporting. Management assessed the Company’s system of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012, in relation to criteria for effective internal control over financial reporting as described in “Internal Control – Integrated Framework,” issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on this assessment, management believes that, as of December 31, 2012, its system of internal control over financial reporting met those criteria and is effective.

This Annual Report does not include an attestation report of the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm regarding internal control over financial reporting. Management’s report is not subject to attestation by the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm pursuant to permanent relief accorded to smaller reporting companies in the Dodd-Frank Act.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There were no changes in the Company’s internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the quarter ended December 31, 2012 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company’s internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

Not Applicable

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

PART III.

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The following is incorporated by reference to the Company's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 14, 2013.

Listing of the names, ages, principal occupations, business experience and specific qualifications of the incumbent directors and nominees under the caption "PROPOSAL I AND 2 - ELECTION OF DIRECTORS."

Listing of the names, ages, titles and business experience of the executive officers under the caption EXECUTIVE OFFICERS."

Information regarding compliance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 under the caption "SHARE OWNERSHIP INFORMATION -Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance."

Information regarding changes in the Company's procedures for submission of director nominations by shareholders under the caption "SHAREHOLDER NOMINATIONS AND OTHER PROPOSALS."

Information regarding whether a member of the Audit Committee qualifies as an audit committee financial expert under applicable SEC rules, under the caption "CORPORATE GOVERNANCE - Board Committees."

The Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers and the Principal Executive Officer is available on the Company's website at www.communitybancorpvt.com. The Code is also listed as Exhibit 14 to this report and incorporated by reference to a prior filing with the SEC. There were no waivers of any provision of the Code during 2012.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The following is incorporated by reference to the Company's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 14, 2013:

Information regarding compensation of directors under the captions "PROPOSAL I AND 2 - ELECTION OF DIRECTORS - Directors' Fees and Other Compensation" and "-Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan."

Information regarding executive compensation and benefit plans under the caption "EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION."

Information regarding management interlocks and certain transactions under the caption "CORPORATE GOVERNANCE - Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation."

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The following is incorporated by reference to the Company's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 14, 2013:

Information regarding the share ownership of management and principal shareholders under the caption "SHARE OWNERSHIP INFORMATION."

The Company does not maintain any equity compensation plans for which disclosure is required under Item 201(d) of SEC Regulation S-K.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

The following is incorporated by reference to the Company's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 14, 2013:

Information regarding transactions with management under the caption "CORPORATE GOVERNANCE -Transactions with Management."

Information regarding the independence of directors under the caption "CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – Director Independence."

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES

The following is incorporated by reference to the Company's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 14, 2013 under the caption "PROPOSAL 5- RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS - Fees Paid to Independent Auditors":

Fees paid to the principal accountant for various audit functions including, but not limited to, the audit of the annual financial statements in the Company's Form 10-K Report and review of the financial statements in the Company's Form 10-Q Reports.

Description of the audit committee's pre-approval policies and procedures required by paragraph (c) (7)(I) of rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

PART IV.

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) Financial Statements

The Company's audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto and the report of Berry Dunn McNeil & Parker, LLC thereon, are incorporated by reference to the Annual Report to Shareholders for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, filed as Exhibit 13 to this report.

(b) Exhibits

The following exhibits, previously filed with the Commission, are incorporated by reference:

Exhibit 3(i) - Amended and Restated Articles of Association, filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Form 8-K Report filed on July 12, 2010.

Exhibit 3(ii) – Certificate of Creation, Designation, Powers, Preferences, Rights, Privileges, Qualifications, Limitations, Restrictions, Terms and Conditions of the Series A Fixed-to-Floating Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, filed as Exhibit 3(i) to the Company's Form 8-K Report filed on December 31, 2007.

Exhibit 3(iii) - Amended and Restated By-laws of Community Bancorp. as amended and restated through March 12, 2013, filed as Exhibit 3.1 in the Company's Form 8-K Report filed on March 14, 2013.

Exhibit 4(i) – Indenture dated as of October 31, 2007 between Community Bancorp., as issuer and Wilmington Trust Company, as indenture trustee, filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Form 8-K Report filed on November 2, 2007.

Exhibit 4(ii) – Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust dated as of October 31, 2007 among Community Bancorp., as sponsor, Wilmington Trust Company, as Delaware and institutional Trustee, and the administrators named therein, filed as Exhibit 4.2 to the Company's Form 8-K Report filed on November 2, 2007.

Exhibit 10(i) – Guarantee Agreement dated as of October 31, 2007 between Community Bancorp., as guarantor and Wilmington Trust Company, as guarantee trustee, filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Form 8-K Report filed on November 2, 2007.

Exhibit 10(ii)* - Amended and Restated Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors, filed as Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Form 8-K Report filed on December 15, 2008.

Exhibit 10(iii)* - Amended and Restated Supplemental Retirement Plan, filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Form 8-K Report filed on December 15, 2008.

Exhibit 10(iv)* - Amended and Restated Officer Incentive Plan, filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Form 8-K Report filed on February 14, 2011.

Exhibit 10(v)* - Description of the Directors Retirement Plan, filed as Exhibit 10(iv) to the Company's Form 10-K Report filed on March 30, 2005; plan terminated in 2005 with respect to future accruals, as disclosed in the Company's Form 8-K Report filed on December 19, 2005.

Exhibit 14 – Amended Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers and the Principal Executive Officer, filed as Exhibit 14 to the Company’s Form 8-K Report on July 12, 2010.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

The following exhibits are filed as part of this report:**

Exhibit 13 - Portions of the Annual Report to Shareholders of Community Bancorp. for 2012, specifically incorporated by reference into this report.

Exhibit 21 - Subsidiaries of Community Bancorp.

Exhibit 23 - Consent of Berry Dunn McNeil & Parker, LLC

Exhibit 31(i) - Certification from the Chief Executive Officer of the Company pursuant to section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

Exhibit 31(ii) - Certification from the Chief Financial Officer of the Company pursuant to section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

Exhibit 32(i) - Certification from the Chief Executive Officer of the Company pursuant to section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

Exhibit 32(ii) - Certification from the Chief Financial Officer of the Company pursuant to section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

Exhibit 101--The following materials from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 formatted in eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL): (i) the audited consolidated balance sheets, (ii) the audited consolidated statements of income, (iii) the audited consolidated statements of comprehensive income; (iv) the audited consolidated statements of changes in shareholders' equity, (v) the audited consolidated statements of cash flows and (vi) related notes, for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011.***

* Denotes compensatory plan or arrangement.

** Exhibit 12 (Statement re Computation of Ratios) is omitted in accordance with the regulatory relief available to smaller reporting companies in SEC Release Nos. 33-8876 and 34-56994 (effective February 4, 2008).

***This exhibit shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or otherwise subject to the liability of that section, and shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. As provided in Rule 406T of Regulation S-T, this information is furnished and not filed for purposes of Sections 11 and 12 of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

COMMUNITY BANCORP.

By: /s/ Stephen P. Marsh
Stephen P. Marsh, President
and Chief Executive Officer
Date: March 28, 2013

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By: /s/ Stephen P. Marsh
Stephen P. Marsh, President
and Chief Executive Officer
Date: March 28, 2013

By: /s/ Louise M. Bonvechio
Louise M. Bonvechio, Treasurer
(Principal Financial Officer)
Date: March 28, 2013

By: /s/ Candace A. Patenaude
Candace A. Patenaude
(Principal Accounting Officer)
Date: March 28, 2013

COMMUNITY BANCORP. DIRECTORS

/s/ Thomas E. Adams
Thomas E. Adams
Date: March 28, 2013

/s/ Charles W. Bucknam, Jr.
Charles W. Buckman, Jr.
Date: March 28, 2013

/s/ Aminta K. Conant
Aminta K. Conant
Date: March 28, 2013

/s/ Jacques R. Couture
Jacques R. Couture
Date: March 28, 2013

/s/ Elwood G. Duckless
Elwood G. Duckless
Date: March 28, 2013

/s/ Rosemary M. Lalime
Rosemary M. Lalime
Date: March 28, 2013

/s/ Stephen P. Marsh
Stephen P. Marsh
Date: March 28, 2013

/s/ Dorothy R. Mitchell
Dorothy R. Mitchell

Date: March 28, 2013

/s/ Anne T. Moore
Anne T. Moore

Date: March 28, 2013

/s/ Peter J. Murphy
Peter J. Murphy

Date: March 28, 2013

/s/ Frederic Oeschger
Frederic Oeschger

Date: March 28, 2013

/s/James G. Wheeler, Jr.
James G. Wheeler, Jr.

Date: March 28, 2013