

CANTWELL PAUL M JR  
 Form 4  
 January 18, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 CANTWELL PAUL M JR

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC [CBU]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 01/13/2012

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

37 CONSTABLE STREET

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

MALONE, NY 12953

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |   |           |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-----------|
|                                 |                                      |                                                    |                                | (A) or (D)                                                        | Price                                                                                         |                                                          |                                   |   |           |
|                                 |                                      |                                                    |                                | Code V                                                            | Amount                                                                                        |                                                          |                                   |   |           |
| Common Stock                    | 01/13/2012                           |                                                    | M                              | 895                                                               | A                                                                                             | \$ 0<br>(1)                                              | 103,662                           | D |           |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |                                                    |                                |                                                                   |                                                                                               |                                                          | 10,450                            | I | By Spouse |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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 (9-02)

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**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Phantom Stock (Deferred Compensation)      | (2)                                                    | 01/13/2012                           |                                                    | M                              | 895 (3)                                                                                 | (2) (2)                                                  | Common Stock                                                  | 895 (3)                       |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                | Relationships |           |         |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|                                                               | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| CANTWELL PAUL M JR<br>37 CONSTABLE STREET<br>MALONE, NY 12953 |               | X         |         |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Donna J. Drengel, as attorney-in-fact, pursuant to a power of attorney for Paul M. Cantwell, Jr. 01/18/2012

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
  - \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Each phantom stock unit relating to the Deferred Compensation Plan entitles the reporting person to receive one share of Community Bank System, Inc. common stock. On January 13, 2012, the reporting person's phantom stock units were settled for an equal number of shares and cash for .5305 share at \$27.80 per share.
- (2) Each unit of phantom stock is the economic equivalent of one share of Community Bank System, Inc. common stock. The units of phantom stock relating to the Deferred Compensation Plan will be settled in Community Bank System, Inc. common stock at future dates selected by the reporting person.
- (3) 895.5305 phantom stock units were settled for 895 shares of common stock and cash for .5305 share at \$27.80.

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.