

PENNS WOODS BANCORP INC

Form 10-K

March 10, 2017

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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, 2016

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 (NO FEE REQUIRED)

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 0-17077

PENNS WOODS BANCORP, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Pennsylvania 23-2226454
(State or other jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer
incorporation or organization) Identification No.)

300 Market Street, P.O. Box 967 17703-0967
Williamsport, Pennsylvania

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (570) 322-1111

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

Title of each class	Name of each exchange which registered
Common Stock, par value \$8.33 per share	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

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

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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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T 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. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).
Yes No

State the aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant \$198,763,192 at June 30, 2016.

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

Class	Outstanding at March 1, 2017
Common Stock, \$8.33 Par Value	4,734,952 Shares

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's definitive proxy statement prepared in connection with its annual meeting of shareholders to be held on April 25, 2017 are incorporated by reference in Part III hereof.

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PART I

ITEM 1 BUSINESS

A. General Development of Business and History

On January 7, 1983, Penns Woods Bancorp, Inc. (the "Company") was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a bank holding company. In connection with the organization of the Company, Jersey Shore State Bank ("JSSB"), a Pennsylvania state-chartered bank, became a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company. On June 1, 2013 the Company acquired Luzerne Bank ("Luzerne") with Luzerne operating as a subsidiary of the Company (JSSB and Luzerne are collectively referred to as the "Banks"). The Company's two other wholly-owned subsidiaries are Woods Real Estate Development Company, Inc. and Woods Investment Company, Inc. The Company's business has consisted primarily of managing and supervising the Banks, and its principal source of income has been dividends paid by the Banks and Woods Investment Company, Inc.

The Banks are engaged in commercial and retail banking which includes the acceptance of time, savings, and demand deposits, the funding of commercial, consumer, and mortgage loans, and safe deposit services. Utilizing a branch office network, ATMs, Internet, and telephone banking delivery channels, the Banks deliver their products and services to the communities they reside in.

In October 2000, JSSB acquired The M Group, Inc. D/B/A The Comprehensive Financial Group ("The M Group"). The M Group, which operates as a subsidiary of JSSB, offers insurance and securities brokerage services. Securities are offered by The M Group through Voya Financial a registered broker-dealer.

Neither the Company nor the Banks anticipate that compliance with environmental laws and regulations will have any material effect on capital expenditures, earnings, or their competitive position. The Banks are not dependent on a single customer or a few customers, the loss of whom would have a material effect on the business of the Banks.

JSSB employed 229 persons, Luzerne employed 63 persons, and The M Group employed 4 persons as of December 31, 2016 in either a full-time or part-time capacity. The Company does not have any employees. The principal officers of the Banks also serve as officers of the Company.

Woods Investment Company, Inc., a Delaware holding company, maintains an investment portfolio that is managed for total return and to fund dividend payments to the Company.

Woods Real Estate Development Company, Inc. serves the Company through its acquisition and ownership of certain properties utilized by the Bank.

We post publicly available reports required to be filed with the SEC on our website, www.jssb.com, as soon as reasonably practicable after filing such reports with the SEC. The required reports are available free of charge through our website. Information available on our website is not part of or incorporated by reference into this Report or any other report filed by this Company with the SEC.

B. Regulation and Supervision

The Company is a registered bank holding company and, as such is subject to the provisions of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended (the "BHCA") and to supervision and examination by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the "FRB"). The Banks are also subject to the supervision and examination by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the "FDIC"), as their primary federal regulator and as the insurer of the Banks' deposits.

The Banks are also regulated and examined by the Pennsylvania Department of Banking and Securities (the “Department”).

The insurance activities of The M Group are subject to regulation by the insurance departments of the various states in which The M Group, conducts business including principally the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance. The securities brokerage activities of The M Group are subject to regulation by federal and state securities commissions.

The FRB has issued regulations under the BHCA that require a bank holding company to serve as a source of financial and managerial strength to its subsidiary banks. As a result, the FRB, pursuant to such regulations, may require the Company to stand ready to use its resources to provide adequate capital funds to the Banks during periods of financial stress or adversity. The BHCA requires the Company to secure the prior approval of the FRB before it can acquire all or substantially all of the assets of any bank, or acquire ownership or control of 5% or more of any voting shares of any bank. Such a transaction would also require approval of the Department.

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A bank holding company is prohibited under the BHCA from engaging in, or acquiring direct or indirect control of, more than 5% of the voting shares of any company engaged in non-banking activities unless the FRB, by order or regulation, has found such activities to be so closely related to banking or managing or controlling banks as to be a proper incident thereto. Under the BHCA, the FRB has the authority to require a bank holding company to terminate any activity or relinquish control of a non-bank subsidiary (other than a non-bank subsidiary of a bank) upon the FRB's determination that such activity or control constitutes a serious risk to the financial soundness and stability of any bank subsidiary of the bank holding company.

In July 2013, the federal bank regulatory agencies adopted revisions to the agencies' capital adequacy guidelines and prompt corrective action rules, which were designed to enhance such requirements and implement the revised standards of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, commonly referred to as Basel III. The final rules generally implement higher minimum capital requirements, add a new common equity tier 1 capital requirement, and establish criteria that instruments must meet to be considered common equity tier 1 capital, additional tier 1 capital or tier 2 capital. The new minimum capital to risk-adjusted assets requirements are a common equity tier 1 capital ratio of 4.5% (6.5% to be considered "well capitalized") and a tier 1 capital ratio of 6.0%, increased from 4.0% (and increased from 6.0% to 8.0% to be considered "well capitalized"); the total capital ratio remains at 8.0% under the new rules (10.0% to be considered "well capitalized"). Under the new rules, in order to avoid limitations on capital distributions (including dividend payments and certain discretionary bonus payments to executive officers), a banking organization must hold a capital conservation buffer comprised of common equity tier 1 capital above its minimum risk-based capital requirements in an amount greater than 2.5% of total risk-weighted assets. The new minimum capital requirements became effective on January 1, 2015. The capital contribution buffer requirements phase in over a three-year period that began on January 1, 2016.

In addition to the risk-based capital guidelines, the FRB requires each bank holding company to comply with the leverage ratio, under which the bank holding company must maintain a minimum level of Tier 1 capital to average total consolidated assets of 4.0% (5.0% to be considered "well capitalized"). The Banks are subject to similar capital requirements adopted by the FDIC.

Dividends

Federal and state laws impose limitations on the payment of dividends by the Banks. The Pennsylvania Banking Code restricts the availability of capital funds for payment of dividends by the Banks to their additional paid-in capital.

In addition to the dividend restrictions described above, the banking regulators have the authority to prohibit or to limit the payment of dividends by the Banks if, in the banking regulator's opinion, payment of a dividend would constitute an unsafe or unsound practice in light of the financial condition of the Banks.

Under Pennsylvania law, the Company may not pay a dividend, if, after giving effect thereto, it would be unable to pay its debts as they become due in the usual course of business and, after giving effect to the dividend, the total assets of the Company would be less than the sum of its total liabilities plus the amount that would be needed, if the Company were to be dissolved at the time of distribution, to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of shareholders whose rights are superior to those receiving the dividend.

It is also the policy of the FRB that a bank holding company generally only pay dividends on common stock out of net income available to common shareholders over the past twelve months and only if the prospective rate of earnings retention appears consistent with a bank holding company's capital needs, asset quality, and overall financial condition. In the current financial and economic environment, the FRB has indicated that bank holding companies should carefully review their dividend policy and has discouraged dividend pay-out ratios at the 100% level unless

both asset quality and capital are very strong. A bank holding company also should not maintain a dividend level that places undue pressure on the capital of such institution's subsidiaries, or that may undermine the bank holding company's ability to serve as a source of strength for such subsidiaries.

C. Regulation of the Banks

The Banks are highly regulated by the FDIC and the Department. The laws that such agencies enforce limit the specific types of businesses in which the Banks may engage, and the products and services that the Banks may offer to customers. Generally, these limitations are designed to protect the insurance fund of the FDIC and/or the customers of the Banks, and not the Banks or its shareholders. From time to time, various types of new federal and state legislation have been proposed that could result in additional regulation of, and restrictions on, the business of the Banks. It cannot be predicted whether any such legislation will be adopted or how such legislation would affect business of the Banks. As a consequence of the extensive regulation of commercial banking activities in the United States, the Banks' business is particularly susceptible to being affected by federal legislation and regulations

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that may increase the costs of doing business. Some of the major regulatory provisions that affect the business of the Banks are discussed briefly below.

Prompt Corrective Action

The FDIC has specified the levels at which an insured institution will be considered “well-capitalized,” “adequately capitalized,” “undercapitalized,” and “critically undercapitalized.” In the event an institution’s capital deteriorates to the “undercapitalized” category or below, the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (the “FDIA”) and FDIC regulations prescribe an increasing amount of regulatory intervention, including: (1) the institution of a capital restoration plan by a bank and a guarantee of the plan by a parent institution and liability for civil money damages for failure to fulfill its commitment on that guarantee; and (2) the placement of a hold on increases in assets, number of branches, or lines of business. If capital has reached the significantly or critically undercapitalized levels, further material restrictions can be imposed, including restrictions on interest payable on accounts, dismissal of management and (in critically undercapitalized situations) appointment of a receiver. For well-capitalized institutions, the FDIA provides authority for regulatory intervention where the institution is deemed to be engaging in unsafe or unsound practices or receives a less than satisfactory examination report rating for asset quality, management, earnings or liquidity.

Deposit Insurance

The FDIC maintains the Deposit Insurance Fund (“DIF”) by assessing depository institutions an insurance premium. The FDIC has set the amount of deposits it insures to \$250,000.

As mandated by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”), the assessment base that the FDIC uses to calculate assessment premiums is a bank’s average assets minus average tangible equity. The range of assessment rates is a low of 2.5 basis points to a high of 45 basis points, per \$100 of assets.

The FDIC is required under the Dodd-Frank Act to establish assessment rates that will allow the DIF to achieve a reserve ratio of 1.35% of insured deposits by September 2020. In addition, the FDIC has established a “designated reserve ratio” of 2.0%, a target ratio that, until it is achieved, will not likely result in the FDIC reducing assessment rates. In attempting to achieve the mandated 1.35% ratio, the FDIC is required to implement assessment formulas that charge banks over \$10 billion in asset size more than banks under that size. Under the Dodd-Frank Act, the FDIC is authorized to make reimbursements from the insurance fund to banks if the reserve ratio exceeds 1.50%, but the FDIC has adopted the “designated reserve ratio” of 2.0% and has announced that any reimbursements from the fund are indefinitely suspended.

Federal Home Loan Bank System

The Banks are a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh (the “FHLB”), which is one of 12 regional Federal Home Loan Banks. Each Federal Home Loan Bank serves as a reserve or central bank for its members within its assigned region. It is funded primarily from funds deposited by member institutions and proceeds from the sale of consolidated obligations of the Federal Home Loan Bank System. It makes loans to members (i.e., advances) in accordance with policies and procedures established by the board of directors of the Federal Home Loan Bank. At December 31, 2016, the Banks had \$85,625,000 in FHLB advances.

As a member, the Banks are required to purchase and maintain stock in the FHLB. The amount of required stock varies based on the FHLB products utilized by the Banks and the amount of the products utilized. At December 31, 2016, the Banks had \$8,344,300 in stock of the FHLB which was in compliance with this requirement.

Other Legislation

The Dodd-Frank Act was enacted on July 21, 2010 and significantly changed the bank regulatory structure and affected the lending, deposit, investment, trading and operating activities of financial institutions and their holding companies. The federal agencies are given significant discretion in drafting rules and regulations to implement the Dodd-Frank Act, and consequently, much of the impact of the Dodd-Frank Act may not be known for some time.

Certain provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act have already impacted the Company. For example, effective July 21, 2011, a provision of the Dodd-Frank Act eliminated the federal prohibitions on paying interest on demand deposits, thus allowing businesses to have interest bearing checking accounts. Depending on competitive responses, this significant change to existing law could have an adverse impact on the Company's interest expense. The Dodd-Frank Act also permanently increased the maximum amount of deposit insurance for banks, savings institutions and credit unions to \$250,000 per depositor, retroactive to January 1, 2008.

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Bank and thrift holding companies with assets of less than \$15 billion as of December 31, 2009, such as the Company, will be permitted to include trust preferred securities that were issued before May 19, 2010, as Tier 1 capital; however, trust preferred securities issued by a bank or thrift holding company (other than those with assets of less than \$500 million) after May 19, 2010, will no longer count as Tier 1 capital. Trust preferred securities still will be entitled to be treated as Tier 2 capital.

The Dodd-Frank Act requires publicly traded companies to give shareholders a non-binding vote on executive compensation and so-called “golden parachute” arrangements, and may allow greater access by shareholders to the company’s proxy material by authorizing the SEC to promulgate rules that would allow shareholders to nominate their own candidates using a company’s proxy materials. The legislation also directs the FRB to promulgate rules prohibiting excessive compensation paid to bank holding company executives, regardless of whether the company is publicly traded.

The Dodd-Frank Act created a new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau with broad powers to supervise and enforce consumer protection laws. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has broad rule-making authority for a wide range of consumer protection laws that apply to all banks and savings institutions, including the authority to prohibit “unfair, deceptive or abusive” acts and practices. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has examination and enforcement authority over all banks and savings institutions with more than \$10 billion in assets. Banks and savings institutions with \$10 billion or less in assets such as the Banks will continue to be examined for compliance with the consumer laws by their primary bank regulators. The Dodd-Frank Act also weakens the federal preemption rules that have been applicable for national banks and federal savings associations, and gives state attorneys general the ability to enforce federal consumer protection laws.

It is difficult to predict at this time the specific impact the Dodd-Frank Act and the yet to be written implementing rules and regulations will have on community banks. Given the uncertainty associated with the manner in which the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act will be implemented by the various regulatory agencies and through regulations, the full extent of the impact such requirements will have on financial institutions’ operations is presently unclear. The changes resulting from the Dodd-Frank Act may impact the profitability of our business activities, require changes to certain of our business practices, or otherwise adversely affect our business. These changes may also require us to invest significant management attention and resources to evaluate and make necessary changes in order to comply with new statutory and regulatory requirements.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 was enacted to enhance penalties for accounting and auditing improprieties at publicly traded companies and to protect investors by improving the accuracy and reliability of corporate disclosures under the federal securities laws. The Sarbanes-Oxley Act generally applies to all companies, including the Company, that file or are required to file periodic reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or the Exchange Act. The legislation includes provisions, among other things, governing the services that can be provided by a public company’s independent auditors and the procedures for approving such services, requiring the chief executive officer and principal accounting officer to certify certain matters relating to the company’s periodic filings under the Exchange Act, requiring expedited filings of reports by insiders of their securities transactions and containing other provisions relating to insider conflicts of interest, increasing disclosure requirements relating to critical financial accounting policies and their application, increasing penalties for securities law violations, and creating a new public accounting oversight board, a regulatory body subject to SEC jurisdiction with broad powers to set auditing, quality control, and ethics standards for accounting firms. In response to the legislation, the national securities exchanges and NASDAQ have adopted new rules relating to certain matters, including the independence of members of a company’s audit committee as a condition to listing or continued listing.

Congress is often considering some financial industry legislation, and the federal banking agencies routinely propose new regulations. The Company cannot predict how any new legislation, or new rules adopted by federal or state

banking agencies, may affect the business of the Company and its subsidiaries in the future. Given that the financial industry remains under stress and severe scrutiny, and given that the U.S. economy has not yet fully recovered to pre-crisis levels of activity, the Company expects that there will be significant legislation and regulatory actions that may materially affect the banking industry for the foreseeable future.

Environmental Laws

Environmentally related hazards have become a source of high risk and potential liability for financial institutions relating to their loans. Environmentally contaminated properties owned by an institution's borrowers may result in a drastic reduction in the value of the collateral securing the institution's loans to such borrowers, high environmental clean up costs to the borrower affecting its ability to repay the loans, the subordination of any lien in favor of the institution to a state or federal lien securing clean up costs, and liability to the institution for clean up costs if it forecloses on the contaminated property or becomes involved in the management of the borrower. The Company is not aware of any borrower who is currently subject to any environmental investigation or clean up proceeding which is likely to have a material adverse effect on the financial condition or results of operations of the Company.

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Effect of Government Monetary Policies

The earnings of the Company are and will be affected by domestic economic conditions and the monetary and fiscal policies of the United States Government and its agencies. The monetary policies of the FRB have had, and will likely continue to have, an important impact on the operating results of commercial banks through its power to implement national monetary policy in order, among other things, to curb inflation or combat a recession. The FRB has a major effect upon the levels of bank loans, investments, and deposits through its open market operations in the United States Government securities and through its regulation of, among other things, the discount rate on borrowings by member banks and the reserve requirements against member bank deposits. It is not possible to predict the nature and impact of future changes in monetary and fiscal policies.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BANKS

History and Business

JSSB was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a state bank in 1934 and became a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company on July 12, 1983.

As of December 31, 2016, JSSB had total assets of \$986,486,000; total shareholders' equity of \$84,020,000; and total deposits of \$770,937,000. JSSB's deposits are insured by the FDIC for the maximum amount provided under current law.

Luzerne was acquired by the Company on June 1, 2013. As of December 31, 2016, Luzerne had total assets of \$387,695,000; total shareholders' equity of \$45,401,000; and total deposits of \$328,812,000. Luzerne's deposits are insured by the FDIC for the maximum amount provided under current law.

The Banks engage in business as commercial banks, doing business at locations in Lycoming, Clinton, Centre, Montour, Union and Luzerne Counties, Pennsylvania. The Banks offer insurance, securities brokerage services, annuity and mutual fund investment products, and financial planning through the M Group.

Services offered by the Banks include accepting time, demand and savings deposits including Super NOW accounts, statement savings accounts, money market accounts, and fixed rate certificates of deposit. Their services also include making secured and unsecured business and consumer loans that include financing commercial transactions as well as construction and residential mortgage loans and revolving credit loans with overdraft protection.

The Banks' loan portfolio mix can be classified into three principal categories. These are commercial and agricultural, real estate, and consumer. Real estate loans can be further segmented into residential, commercial, and construction. Qualified borrowers are defined by our loan policy and our underwriting standards. Owner provided equity requirements range from 0% to 35%, depending on the collateral offered for the loan. Terms are generally restricted to 30 years or less with the exception of construction and land development, which are generally limited to one and five years, respectively. Real estate appraisals, property construction verifications, and site visitations comply with our loan policy and with industry regulatory standards.

Prospective residential mortgage customer's repayment ability is determined from information contained in the application and recent income tax returns, or other verified income sources. Emphasis is on credit, employment, income, and residency verification. Broad hazard insurance is always required and flood insurance where applicable. In the case of construction mortgages, builders risk insurance is requested.

Agricultural loans for the purchase or improvement of real estate must meet the Banks' real estate underwriting criteria. Agricultural loans made for the purchase of equipment are usually payable in five years, but never more than ten, depending upon the useful life of the purchased asset. Minimum borrower equity ranges from 0% to 35% depending on the purpose. Livestock financing criteria depends upon the nature of the operation. Agricultural loans are also made for crop production purposes. Such loans are structured to repay within the production cycle and not carried over into a subsequent year.

Commercial loans are made for the acquisition and improvement of real estate, purchase of equipment, and for working capital purposes on a seasonal or revolving basis. General purpose working capital loans are also available with repayment expected within one year. Equipment loans are generally amortized over three to ten years. Insurance coverage with the Banks as loss payee is required, especially in the case where the equipment is rolling stock. It is also a general policy to collateralize non-real estate loans with the asset purchased and, dependant upon loan terms, junior liens are filed on other available assets. Financial information required on all commercial mortgages includes the most current three years balance sheets and income statements and projections on income to be developed through the project. In the case of corporations and partnerships, the principals are often asked to personally guaranty the entity's debt.

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Seasonal and revolving lines of credit are offered for working capital purposes. Collateral for such a loan may vary but often includes the pledge of inventory and/or receivables. Drawing availability is usually 50% of inventory and 80% of eligible receivables. Eligible receivables are defined as invoices less than 90 days delinquent. Exclusive reliance is very seldom placed on such collateral; therefore, other lienable assets are also taken into the collateral pool. Where reliance is placed on inventory and accounts receivable, the applicant must provide financial information including agings on a specified basis. In addition, the guaranty of the principals is usually obtained.

Letter of credit availability is usually limited to standby or performance letters of credit where the customer is well known to the Banks. The credit criteria is the same as that utilized in making a direct loan. Collateral is obtained in most cases.

Consumer loan products include residential mortgages, home equity loans and lines, automobile financing, personal loans and lines of credit, overdraft and check lines. Our policy includes standards used in the industry on debt service ratios and terms are consistent with prudent underwriting standards and the use of proceeds. Verifications are made of employment and residency, along with credit history.

Second mortgages are confined to equity borrowing and home improvements. Terms are generally fifteen years or less. Loan to collateral value criteria is 90% or less and verifications are made to determine values. Automobile financing is generally restricted to five years and done on both an indirect and direct basis. The Banks, as a practice, do not floor plan and therefore do not discount dealer paper. Small loan requests are to accommodate personal needs such as debt consolidation or the purchase of small appliances. Overdraft check lines are usually limited to \$5,000 or less.

The Banks' investment portfolios are analyzed and priced on a monthly basis. Investments are made in U.S. Treasuries, U.S. Agency issues, bank qualified tax-exempt municipal bonds, taxable municipal bonds, corporate bonds, and corporate stocks which consist of Pennsylvania bank stocks. Bonds with BBB or better ratings are used, unless a local issue is purchased that has a lesser or no rating. Factors taken into consideration when investments are purchased include liquidity, the Company's tax position, tax equivalent yield, third party investment ratings, and the policies of the Asset/Liability Committee.

The banking environment in Lycoming, Clinton, Centre, Montour, Union and Luzerne Counties, Pennsylvania is highly competitive. The Banks operate twenty-three full service offices in these markets and compete for loans and deposits with numerous commercial banks, savings and loan associations, and other financial institutions. The economic base of the region is developed around small business, health care, educational facilities (college and public schools), light manufacturing industries, and agriculture.

The Banks have a relatively stable deposit base and no material amount of deposits is obtained from a single depositor or group of depositors, excluding public entities that account for approximately 15% of total deposits. Although the Banks have regular opportunities to bid on pools of funds of \$100,000 or more in the hands of municipalities, hospitals, and others, it does not rely on these monies to fund loans or intermediate or longer-term investments.

The Banks have not experienced any significant seasonal fluctuations in the amount of deposits. The Banks have experienced an outflow of deposits related to municipalities and school districts due to the ongoing Commonwealth of Pennsylvania budget impasse.

Supervision and Regulation

As referenced elsewhere, the banking business is highly regulated, and the Banks are only able to engage in business activities, and to provide products and services, that are permitted by applicable law and regulation. In addition, the earnings of the Banks are affected by the policies of regulatory authorities including the FDIC and the FRB. An important function of the FRB is to regulate the money supply and interest rates. Among the instruments used to implement these objectives are open market operations in U.S. Government Securities, changes in reserve requirements against member bank deposits, and limitations on interest rates that member banks may pay on time and savings deposits. These instruments are used in varying combinations to influence overall growth and distribution of bank loans, and their use may also affect interest rates charged on loans or paid for deposits.

The policies and regulations of the FRB have had and will probably continue to have a significant effect on the Banks' deposits, loans and investment growth, as well as the rate of interest earned and paid, and are expected to affect the Banks' operation in the future. The effect of such policies and regulations upon the future business and earnings of the Banks cannot accurately be predicted.

ITEM 1A RISK FACTORS

The following sets forth several risk factors that may affect the Company's financial condition or results of operations.

Changes in interest rates could reduce our income, cash flows and asset values.

Our income and cash flows and the value of our assets depend to a great extent on the difference between the interest rates we earn on interest-earning assets, such as loans and investment securities, and the interest rates we pay on interest-bearing liabilities such as deposits and borrowings. These rates are highly sensitive to many factors which are beyond our control, including general economic conditions and policies of various governmental and regulatory agencies and, in particular, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Changes in monetary policy, including changes in interest rates, will influence not only the interest we receive on our loans and investment securities and the amount of interest we pay on deposits and borrowings but will also affect our ability to originate loans and obtain deposits and the value of our investment portfolio. If the rate of interest we pay on our deposits and other borrowings increases more than the rate of interest we earn on our loans and other investments, our net interest income, and therefore our earnings, could be adversely affected. Our earnings also could be adversely affected if the rates on our loans and other investments fall more quickly than those on our deposits and other borrowings.

Economic conditions either nationally or locally in areas in which our operations are concentrated may adversely affect our business.

Deterioration in local, regional, national, or global economic conditions could cause us to experience a reduction in deposits and new loans, an increase in the number of borrowers who default on their loans, and a reduction in the value of the collateral securing their loans, all of which could adversely affect our performance and financial condition. Unlike larger banks that are more geographically diversified, we provide banking and financial services locally. Therefore, we are particularly vulnerable to adverse local economic conditions.

Our financial condition and results of operations would be adversely affected if our allowance for loan losses is not sufficient to absorb actual losses or if we are required to increase our allowance.

Despite our underwriting criteria, we may experience loan delinquencies and losses. In order to absorb losses associated with nonperforming loans, we maintain an allowance for loan losses based on, among other things, historical experience, an evaluation of economic conditions, and regular reviews of delinquencies and loan portfolio quality. Determination of the allowance inherently involves a high degree of subjectivity and requires us to make significant estimates of current credit risks and future trends, all of which may undergo material changes. At any time there are likely to be loans in our portfolio that will result in losses but that have not been identified as nonperforming or potential problem credits. We cannot be sure that we will be able to identify deteriorating credits before they become nonperforming assets or that we will be able to limit losses on those loans that are identified. We may be required to increase our allowance for loan losses for any of several reasons. Federal regulators, in reviewing our loan portfolio as part of a regulatory examination, may request that we increase our allowance for loan losses. Changes in economic conditions affecting borrowers, new information regarding existing loans, identification of additional problem loans and other factors, both within and outside of our control, may require an increase in our allowance. In addition, if charge-offs in future periods exceed our allowance for loan losses, we will need additional increases in our allowance for loan losses. Any increases in our allowance for loan losses will result in a decrease in our net income and, possibly, our capital, and may materially affect our results of operations in the period in which the allowance is increased.

Many of our loans are secured, in whole or in part, with real estate collateral which is subject to declines in value.

In addition to considering the financial strength and cash flow characteristics of a borrower, we often secure our loans with real estate collateral. Real estate values and the real estate market are generally affected by, among other things, changes in local, regional or national economic conditions, fluctuations in interest rates and the availability of loans to potential purchasers, changes in tax laws and other governmental statutes, regulations and policies, and acts of nature.

The real estate collateral provides an alternate source of repayment in the event of default by the borrower. If real estate prices in our markets decline, the value of the real estate collateral securing our loans could be reduced. If we are required to liquidate real estate collateral securing loans during a period of reduced real estate values to satisfy the debt, our earnings and capital could be adversely affected.

Our information systems may experience an interruption or breach in security.

We rely heavily on communications and information systems to conduct our business. Any failure, interruption or breach in security of these systems could result in failures or disruptions in our customer-relationship management, general ledger, deposit, loan and other systems. While we have policies and procedures designed to prevent or limit the effect of the failure, interruption or security breach of our information systems, there can be no assurance that any such failures, interruptions or security breaches will not occur; or, if they do occur, that they will be adequately addressed. The occurrence of any failures, interruptions or security breaches of our information systems could damage our reputation, result in a loss of customer business, subject us to additional

regulatory scrutiny or expose us to civil litigation and possible financial liability; any of which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

We face the risk of cyber-attack to our computer systems.

Our computer systems, software and networks have been and will continue to be vulnerable to unauthorized access, loss or destruction of data (including confidential client information), account takeovers, unavailability of service, computer viruses or other malicious code, cyber-attacks and other events. These threats may derive from human error, fraud or malice on the part of employees or third parties, or may result from accidental technological failure. If one or more of these events occurs, it could result in the disclosure of confidential client information, damage to our reputation with our clients and the market, additional costs to us (such as repairing systems or adding new personnel or protection technologies), regulatory penalties and financial losses, to both us and our clients and customers. Such events could also cause interruptions or malfunctions in our operations (such as the lack of availability of our online banking system), as well as the operations of our clients, customers or other third parties. Although we maintain safeguards to protect against these risks, there can be no assurance that we will not suffer losses in the future that may be material in amount.

Competition may decrease our growth or profits.

We face substantial competition in all phases of our operations from a variety of different competitors, including commercial banks, savings and loan associations, mutual savings banks, credit unions, consumer finance companies, factoring companies, leasing companies, insurance companies, and money market mutual funds. There is very strong competition among financial services providers in our principal service area. Our competitors may have greater resources, higher lending limits, or larger branch systems than we do. Accordingly, they may be able to offer a broader range of products and services as well as better pricing for those products and services than we can.

In addition, some of the financial services organizations with which we compete are not subject to the same degree of regulation as is imposed on federally insured financial institutions. As a result, those non-bank competitors may be able to access funding and provide various services more easily or at less cost than we can, adversely affecting our ability to compete effectively.

The value of certain investment securities is volatile and future declines or other-than-temporary impairments could materially adversely affect our future earnings and regulatory capital.

Continued volatility in the market value for certain of our investment securities, whether caused by changes in market perceptions of credit risk, as reflected in the expected market yield of the security, or actual defaults in the portfolio could result in significant fluctuations in the value of the securities. This could have a material adverse impact on our accumulated other comprehensive income/loss and shareholders' equity depending on the direction of the fluctuations. Furthermore, future downgrades or defaults in these securities could result in future classifications of investment securities as other than temporarily impaired. This could have a material impact on our future earnings.

We may be adversely affected by government regulation.

The banking industry is heavily regulated. Banking regulations are primarily intended to protect the federal deposit insurance funds and depositors, not shareholders. Changes in the laws, regulations, and regulatory practices affecting the banking industry may increase our costs of doing business or otherwise adversely affect us and create competitive advantages for others. Regulations affecting banks and financial services companies undergo continuous change, and we cannot predict the ultimate effect of these changes, which could have a material adverse effect on our profitability or financial condition.

In response to the financial crisis that commenced in 2008, Congress has taken actions that are intended to strengthen confidence and encourage liquidity in financial institutions, and the FDIC has taken actions to increase insurance coverage on deposit accounts. The Dodd-Frank Act provides for the creation of a consumer protection division at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System that will have broad authority to issue regulations governing the services and products we provide consumers. This additional regulation could increase our compliance costs and otherwise adversely impact our operations. That legislation also contains provisions that, over time, could result in higher regulatory capital requirements (including through the implementation of the capital standards of Basel III) and loan loss provisions for the Banks, and may increase interest expense due to the ability granted in July 2011 to pay interest on all demand deposits. In addition, there have been proposals made by members of Congress and others that would reduce the amount delinquent borrowers are otherwise contractually obligated to pay under their mortgage loans and limit an institution's ability to foreclose on mortgage collateral. These proposals could result in credit losses or increased expense in pursuing our remedies as a creditor. Recent regulatory changes impose limits on our ability to charge overdraft fees, which may decrease our non-interest income as compared to more recent prior periods.

The potential exists for additional federal or state laws and regulations, or changes in policy, affecting many aspects of our operations, including capital levels, lending and funding practices, and liquidity standards. New laws and regulations may increase our costs of regulatory compliance and of doing business and otherwise affect our operations, and may significantly affect the markets in which we do business, the markets for and value of our loans and investments, the fees we can charge and our ongoing operations, costs and profitability.

We rely on our management and other key personnel, and the loss of any of them may adversely affect our operations.

We are and will continue to be dependent upon the services of our executive management team. In addition, we will continue to depend on our ability to retain and recruit key commercial loan officers. The unexpected loss of services of any key management personnel or commercial loan officers could have an adverse effect on our business and financial condition because of their skills, knowledge of our market, years of industry experience, and the difficulty of promptly finding qualified replacement personnel.

Environmental liability associated with lending activities could result in losses.

In the course of our business, we may foreclose on and take title to properties securing our loans. If hazardous substances were discovered on any of these properties, we could be liable to governmental entities or third parties for the costs of remediation of the hazard, as well as for personal injury and property damage. Many environmental laws can impose liability regardless of whether we knew of, or were responsible for, the contamination. In addition, if we arrange for the disposal of hazardous or toxic substances at another site, we may be liable for the costs of cleaning up and removing those substances from the site even if we neither own nor operate the disposal site. Environmental laws may require us to incur substantial expenses and may materially limit use of properties we acquire through foreclosure, reduce their value or limit our ability to sell them in the event of a default on the loans they secure. In addition, future laws or more stringent interpretations or enforcement policies with respect to existing laws may increase our exposure to environmental liability.

Failure to implement new technologies in our operations may adversely affect our growth or profits.

The market for financial services, including banking services and consumer finance services is increasingly affected by advances in technology, including developments in telecommunications, data processing, computers, automation, Internet-based banking, and telebanking. Our ability to compete successfully in our markets may depend on the extent to which we are able to exploit such technological changes. However, we can provide no assurance that we will be able to properly or timely anticipate or implement such technologies or properly train our staff to use such technologies. Any failure to adapt to new technologies could adversely affect our business, financial condition, or operating results.

An investment in our common stock is not an insured deposit.

Our common stock is not a bank deposit and, therefore, is not insured against loss by the FDIC, any other deposit insurance fund, or by any other public or private entity. Investment in our common stock is subject to the same market forces that affect the price of common stock in any company.

ITEM 1B UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 2 PROPERTIES

The Company owns and leases its properties. Listed herewith are the locations of properties owned or leased as of December 31, 2016, in which the banking offices are located; all properties are in good condition and adequate for the Company's purposes:

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Jersey Shore State Bank & Subsidiaries

Office	Address	Ownership
Main Street	115 South Main Street, PO Box 5098 Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania 17740	Owned
Bridge Street	112 Bridge Street Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania 17740	Owned
DuBoistown	2675 Euclid Avenue Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17702	Owned
Williamsport	300 Market Street P.O. Box 967 Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17703-0967	Owned
Montgomery	9094 Rt. 405 Highway Montgomery, Pennsylvania 17752	Owned
Lock Haven	4 West Main Street Lock Haven, Pennsylvania 17745	Owned
Mill Hall	(Inside Wal-Mart), 173 Hogan Boulevard Mill Hall, Pennsylvania 17751	Under Lease
Spring Mills	3635 Penns Valley Road, P.O. Box 66 Spring Mills, Pennsylvania 16875	Under Lease
Centre Hall	2842 Earlstown Road Centre Hall, Pennsylvania 16828	Land Under Lease
Zion	100 Cobblestone Road Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823	Under Lease
State College	2050 North Atherton Street State College, Pennsylvania 16803	Land Under Lease
Montoursville	820 Broad Street Montoursville, Pennsylvania 17754	Under Lease
Danville	606 Continental Boulevard Danville, Pennsylvania 17821	Under Lease
Loyalsock	1720 East Third Street Williamsport, PA 17701	Owned
Lewisburg	550 North Derr Drive Lewisburg, PA 17837	Land Under Lease
The M Group, Inc.	705 Washington Boulevard	Under Lease

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Luzerne Bank

Office	Address	Ownership
Dallas	509 Main Road Memorial Highway Dallas, PA 18612	Owned
Lake	Corners of Rt. 118 & 415 Dallas, PA 18612	Owned
Hazle Twp.	10 Dessen Drive Hazle Twp., PA 18202	Owned
Luzerne	118 Main Street Luzerne, PA 18709	Owned
Plains	1077 Hwy. 315 Wilkes Barre, PA 18702	Under Lease
Swoyersville	801 Main Street Swoyersville, PA 18704	Owned
Wilkes-Barre	67 Public Square Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701	Under Lease
Wyoming	324 Wyoming Ave. Wyoming, PA 18644	Owned

ITEM 3 LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The Company is subject to lawsuits and claims arising out of its business in the ordinary course. In the opinion of management, after review and consultation with counsel, there are no legal proceedings currently pending or threatened that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the consolidated financial position or results of operations of the Company.

ITEM 4 MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

PART II

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

The Company's common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "PWOD". The following table sets forth (1) the quarterly high and low closing sale prices for a share of the Company's Common Stock during the periods indicated, and (2) quarterly dividends on a share of the common stock with respect to each quarter since January 1, 2014.

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	Price Range		Dividends
	High	Low	Declared
2016			
First quarter	\$41.32	\$36.73	\$ 0.47
Second quarter	44.70	37.82	0.47
Third quarter	44.75	40.34	0.47
Fourth quarter	52.03	41.00	0.47
2015			
First quarter	\$48.91	\$44.41	\$ 0.47
Second quarter	48.28	41.84	0.47
Third quarter	44.56	40.41	0.47
Fourth quarter	45.28	40.47	0.47
2014			
First quarter	\$50.95	\$43.19	\$ 0.47
Second quarter	48.37	43.21	0.47
Third quarter	48.79	42.25	0.47
Fourth quarter	49.26	42.18	0.47

The Company has paid dividends since the effective date of its formation as a bank holding company. It is the present intention of the Company's board of directors to continue the dividend payment policy; however, further dividends must necessarily depend upon earnings, financial condition, appropriate legal restrictions, and other factors relevant at the time the board of directors of the Company considers dividend policy. Cash available for dividend distributions to shareholders of the Company primarily comes from dividends paid by Jersey Shore State Bank and Luzerne Bank to the Company. Therefore, the restrictions on the Banks' dividend payments are directly applicable to the Company. See also the information appearing in Note 20 to "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for additional information related to dividend restrictions.

Under the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988 a corporation may not pay a dividend, if after giving effect thereto, the corporation would be unable to pay its debts as they become due in the usual course of business and after giving effect thereto the total assets of the corporation would be less than the sum of its total liabilities plus the amount that would be needed, if the corporation were to be dissolved at the time of the distribution, to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of the shareholders whose preferential rights are superior to those receiving the dividend.

As of March 1, 2017, the Company had approximately 1,317 shareholders of record.

Following is a schedule of the shares of the Company's common stock purchased by the Company during the fourth quarter of 2016.

Period	Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased	Average Price Paid per Share (or Units) Purchased	Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares (or Units) that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
Month #1 (October 1 - October 31, 2016)	—	\$ —	—	390,144
Month #2 (November 1 - November 30, 2016)	—	—	—	390,144
Month #3 (December 1 - December 31, 2016)	—	—	—	390,144

Set forth below is a line graph comparing the yearly dollar changes in the cumulative shareholder return on the Company's common stock against the cumulative total return of the S&P 500 Stock Index, NASDAQ Bank Index,

NASDAQ Composite, Russell 2000, and SNL U.S. Bank NASDAQ for the period of five fiscal years assuming the investment of \$100.00 on December 31, 2011 and assuming the reinvestment of dividends. The shareholder return shown on the graph below is not necessarily indicative of future performance.

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Index	Period Ending					
	12/31/2011	12/31/2012	12/31/2013	12/31/2014	12/31/2015	12/31/2016
Penns Woods Bancorp, Inc.	100.00	101.28	144.89	145.77	131.18	162.89
S&P 500	100.00	116.00	153.57	174.60	177.01	198.18
NASDAQ Composite	100.00	117.45	164.57	188.84	201.98	219.89
NASDAQ Bank	100.00	118.69	168.21	176.48	192.08	265.02
Russell 2000	100.00	116.35	161.52	169.43	161.95	196.45
SNL U.S. Bank NASDAQ	100.00	119.19	171.31	177.42	191.53	265.56

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ITEM 6 SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following table sets forth certain financial data for each of the years in the five-year period ended December 31, 2016:

(In Thousands, Except Per Share Data Amounts)	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	
Consolidated Statement of Income Data:						
Interest income	\$46,813	\$46,124	\$45,606	\$43,299	\$37,107	
Interest expense	5,567	5,219	4,962	5,264	6,211	
Net interest income	41,246	40,905	40,644	38,035	30,896	
Provision for loan losses	1,196	2,300	2,850	2,275	2,525	
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	40,050	38,605	37,794	35,760	28,371	
Non-interest income	12,113	12,765	14,508	12,042	10,100	
Non-interest expense	35,091	33,736	33,890	30,267	22,023	
Income before income tax provision	17,072	17,634	18,412	17,535	16,448	
Income tax provision	4,597	3,736	3,804	3,451	2,598	
Net income	\$12,475	\$13,898	\$14,608	\$14,084	\$13,850	
Consolidated Balance Sheet at End of Period:						
Total assets	\$1,348,590	\$1,320,057	\$1,245,011	\$1,211,995	\$856,535	
Loans	1,093,681	1,045,207	915,579	818,344	512,232	
Allowance for loan losses	(12,896)	(12,044)	(10,579)	(10,144)	(7,617)	
Deposits	1,095,214	1,031,880	981,419	973,002	642,026	
Long-term debt	85,998	91,025	71,176	71,202	76,278	
Shareholders' equity	138,249	136,279	135,967	127,815	93,726	
Per Share Data:						
Earnings per share - basic	\$2.64	\$2.91	\$3.03	\$3.19	\$3.61	
Earnings per share - diluted	2.64	2.91	3.03	3.19	3.61	
Cash dividends declared	1.88	1.88	1.88	2.13	1.88	
Book value	29.20	28.71	28.30	26.52	24.42	
Number of shares outstanding, at end of period	4,734,657	4,747,132	4,804,815	4,819,333	3,838,516	
Weighted average number of shares outstanding - basic and diluted	4,735,457	4,772,239	4,816,149	4,410,626	3,837,751	
Selected Financial Ratios:						
Return on average shareholders' equity	8.96	% 10.11	% 10.79	% 12.36	% 15.36	%
Return on average total assets	0.93	% 1.08	% 1.19	% 1.32	% 1.70	%
Net interest margin	3.44	% 3.61	% 3.81	% 4.13	% 4.45	%
Dividend payout ratio	71.37	% 64.52	% 61.99	% 67.88	% 52.08	%
Average shareholders' equity to average total assets	10.38	% 10.68	% 11.05	% 10.70	% 11.04	%
Loans to deposits, at end of period	99.86	% 101.29	% 93.29	% 84.11	% 79.78	%

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

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

NET INTEREST INCOME

Net interest income is determined by calculating the difference between the yields earned on interest-earning assets and the rates paid on interest-bearing liabilities. To compare the tax-exempt asset yields to taxable yields, amounts are adjusted to taxable equivalents based on the marginal corporate federal tax rate of 34%. The tax equivalent adjustments to net interest income for 2016, 2015, and 2014 were \$1,402,000, \$2,011,000, and \$2,219,000, respectively.

2016 vs. 2015

Reported net interest income increased \$341,000 to \$41,246,000 for the year ended December 31, 2016 compared to the year ended December 31, 2015, as the growth in the earning asset portfolio offset the impact of the yield on earning assets decreasing to 3.88% from 4.04%. Total interest income increased \$689,000 as the impact of growth in the average balance of the loan portfolio was limited by a decline in the average balance of the investment portfolio as the portfolio is actively managed to reduce interest rate and market risk. Interest income on a tax equivalent basis recognized on the loan portfolio increased \$2,981,000 due to a \$81,592,000 increase in the average balance in the loan portfolio. Interest and dividend income generated from the investment portfolio on a tax equivalent basis decreased \$3,076,000 due to a \$61,820,000 decrease in the average balance in the investment portfolio and a 40 basis point ("bp") reduction in the average rate. The decrease in the portfolio was driven by a strategic plan that started in 2014 to sell off long-term municipal bonds with a maturity date greater than 10 years and securities with a call date within the next five years, in order to reduce interest rate risk and market risk.

Interest expense increased \$348,000 to \$5,567,000 for the year ended December 31, 2016 compared to 2015. The increase in interest expense was driven by growth in total deposits and borrowings that funded the earning asset portfolio growth. The impact of the growth in interest-bearing liabilities was limited by minimal increase of 2 bp in cost of funds. The average rate paid on time deposits increased 16 bp as the time deposit portfolio was lengthened in preparation for a rising rate environment.

2015 vs. 2014

Reported net interest income increased \$261,000 to \$40,905,000 for the year ended December 31, 2015 compared to the year ended December 31, 2014, as the yield on earning assets decreased to 4.04% from 4.25% offsetting the growth in the earning asset portfolio. On a tax equivalent basis, the change in net interest income was an increase of \$53,000 to \$42,916,000 for the year ended December 31, 2015 compared to the year ended December 31, 2014. Total interest income increased \$518,000 as the impact of growth in the average balance of the loan portfolio was limited by a decline in the average balance of the investment portfolio as the portfolio is actively managed to reduce interest rate and market risk. Interest income growth was also limited by the portfolio yields caused by the prolonged low interest rate cycle enacted by the Federal Open Markets Committee ("FOMC"). Interest income on a tax equivalent basis recognized on the loan portfolio increased \$2,770,000 due to a \$117,317,000 increase in the average balance in the loan portfolio which was partially offset by interest rates repricing downward. Interest and dividend income generated from the investment portfolio on a tax equivalent basis decreased \$2,440,000 due to a \$46,232,000 decrease in the average balance in the investment portfolio and a 23 basis point ("bp") reduction in the average rate. The decrease in the portfolio was driven by a strategic plan that started in 2014 to sell off long-term municipal bonds with a maturity date of 2025 or later and securities with a call date within the next five years, in order to reduce interest rate

risk and market risk.

Interest expense increased \$257,000 to \$5,219,000 for the year ended December 31, 2015 compared to 2014. The increase in interest expense was driven by growth in total deposits and borrowings that funded the earning asset portfolio growth. The impact of the growth in interest-bearing liabilities was limited by minimal increase of 1 bp in cost of funds. The average rate paid on time deposits increased 13 bp as efforts were undertaken to lengthen the time deposit portfolio in preparation for a rising rate environment.

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AVERAGE BALANCES AND INTEREST RATES

The following tables set forth certain information relating to the Company's average balance sheet and reflect the average yield on assets and average cost of liabilities for the periods indicated and the average yields earned and rates paid. Such yields and costs are derived by dividing income or expense by the average balance of assets or liabilities, respectively, for the periods presented.

(In Thousands)	2016			2015			2014			
	Average Balance	Interest	Average Rate	Average Balance	Interest	Average Rate	Average Balance	Interest	Average Rate	
Assets:										
Tax-exempt loans	\$47,782	\$1,852	3.87 %	\$43,395	\$1,679	3.87 %	\$29,461	\$1,295	4.40 %	
All other loans	1,009,384	40,834	4.05 %	932,179	38,026	4.08 %	828,796	35,640	4.30 %	
Total loans	1,057,166	42,686	4.04 %	975,574	39,705	4.07 %	858,257	36,935	4.30 %	
Fed funds sold	—	—	— %	—	—	— %	170	—	— %	
Taxable securities	94,887	3,072	3.24 %	127,052	4,183	3.29 %	161,889	5,626	3.48 %	
Tax-exempt securities	53,638	2,270	4.23 %	83,293	4,235	5.08 %	94,688	5,232	5.53 %	
Total securities	148,525	5,342	3.60 %	210,345	8,418	4.00 %	256,577	10,858	4.23 %	
Interest-bearing deposits	36,592	187	0.51 %	4,238	12	0.28 %	9,318	32	0.34 %	
Total interest-earning assets	1,242,283									