Gruseke Christopher R Form 4

December 06, 2018 **OMB APPROVAL** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION OMB 3235-0287 Washington, D.C. 20549 Number: Check this box January 31, Expires: if no longer 2005 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF subject to Estimated average **SECURITIES** Section 16. burden hours per Form 4 or response... 0.5 Form 5 Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, obligations Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction 1(b). (Print or Type Responses) 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Gruseke Christopher R Issuer Symbol Bankwell Financial Group, Inc. (Check all applicable) [BWFG] (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title _ Other (specify (Month/Day/Year) below) C/O BANKWELL FINANCIAL 12/03/2018 President & CEO GROUP, INC., 220 ELM STREET (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting NEW CANAAN, CT 06840

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Tab	le I - Non-l	Derivative	Secu	rities Acqui	red, Disposed of,	or Beneficiall	y 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)		sed of	Price	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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	12/03/2018		F	3,150 (1)	D	\$ 29.5223 (2)	108,645 (3)	D (4)	
Common Stock							5,000	I	IRA
Common Stock							5,000	D (5)	
Common Stock							5,000	D (5)	

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

9. Nu Deriv Secur Bene Own Follo Repo Trans

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

1. Title of	2.	3. Transaction Date	3A. Deemed	4.	5.	•	6. Date Exerc	cisable and	7. Tit	le and	8. Price of	
Derivative	Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transac	ctionN	umber	Expiration Date		Amount of		Derivative	
Security	or Exercise		any	Code	of	f	(Month/Day/	Year)	Under	rlying	Security	
(Instr. 3)	Price of		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8	3) D	erivative			Secur	ities	(Instr. 5)	
	Derivative				Securities				(Instr. 3 and 4)			
	Security				A	cquired						
					(A	A) or						
					D	isposed						
					of	f (D)						
					(I	nstr. 3,						
					4,	and 5)						
										Amount		
										Amount		
							Date	Expiration Date	Title Number of			
							Exercisable					
				C 1	3 7 ()	4) (D)						
				Code	V (A	A) (D)				Shares		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

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

President & CEO

Signatures

/s/ Christopher R. Gruseke by POA

12/06/2018

**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) On 12/3/18 3,150 shares were withheld and sold through the Company sponsored cashless stock exercise program, to cover tax liability with respect to the vesting of restricted stock previously reported.
- (2) Range of reported sale price is \$29.22 \$29.65. Reporting person agrees to provide individual transaction information to SEC upon request.
- (3) 71,795 Shares reported are owned jointly with Spouse.
- (4) 40,000 shares of restricted stock granted pursuant to the 2012 Bankwell Financial Group, Inc. Stock Plan and will vest in four equal installments of 25%, with the first installment to vest on December 1, 2015 and an additional 25% to vest on the anniversary of the

Reporting Owners 2

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vesting date thereafter. As of the Transaction Date, all of the Shares have vested.

10,000 shares of Bankwell Financial Group, Inc. stock granted pursuant to the 2012 Bankwell Financial Group, Inc. Stock Plan. 5,000 of those shares are restricted stock that will vest in three substantially equal annual installments, with the first installment to vest on February 7, 2019 and the second and third installments to vest on each annual anniversary of the vesting date thereafter. 5,000 of those shares are performance restricted stock and may vest when and if the performance goal is achieved.

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.