

COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC  
 Form 4  
 October 02, 2008

**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 \*  
**DEMPSEY WILLIAM M**

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)  
**09/30/2008**

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

**3003 GULFSHORE BLVD.,  
 NORTH, APT. #202**

(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

**NAPLES, FL 34103**

(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) Code V Amount Price                                    |   |  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 09/30/2008                           |  | S                              | 100 D \$ 25.38  | 16,468.247  | D  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 09/30/2008                           |  | S                              | 100 D \$ 25.39  | 16,368.247  | D  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 09/30/2008                           |  | S                              | 100 D \$ 25.28  | 16,268.247  | D  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 09/30/2008                           |  | S                              | 100 D \$ 25.34  | 16,168.247  | D  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 09/30/2008                           |  | S                              | 100 D \$ 25.25  | 16,068.247  | D  |                                   |

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|              |            |   |       |   |          |            |   |
|--------------|------------|---|-------|---|----------|------------|---|
| Common Stock | 09/30/2008 | S | 100   | D | \$ 25.27 | 15,968.247 | D |
| Common Stock | 09/30/2008 | S | 100   | D | \$ 25.16 | 15,868.247 | D |
| Common Stock | 09/30/2008 | S | 100   | D | \$ 25.1  | 15,768.247 | D |
| Common Stock | 09/30/2008 | S | 100   | D | \$ 25.08 | 15,668.247 | D |
| Common Stock | 09/30/2008 | S | 200   | D | \$ 25.12 | 15,468.247 | D |
| Common Stock | 09/30/2008 | S | 800   | D | \$ 25.13 | 14,668.247 | D |
| Common Stock | 09/30/2008 | S | 100   | D | \$ 25.15 | 14,568.247 | D |
| Common Stock | 09/30/2008 | S | 400   | D | \$ 25.33 | 14,168.247 | D |
| Common Stock | 09/30/2008 | S | 200   | D | \$ 25.55 | 13,968.247 | D |
| Common Stock | 09/30/2008 | S | 72    | D | \$ 25.71 | 13,896.247 | D |
| Common Stock | 09/30/2008 | S | 800   | D | \$ 25.69 | 13,096.247 | D |
| Common Stock | 09/30/2008 | S | 100   | D | \$ 25.59 | 12,996.247 | D |
| Common Stock | 09/30/2008 | S | 300   | D | \$ 25.56 | 12,696.247 | D |
| Common Stock | 09/30/2008 | S | 401   | D | \$ 25.51 | 12,295.247 | D |
| Common Stock | 09/30/2008 | S | 1,727 | D | \$ 25.5  | 10,568.247 | D |

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

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(9-02)

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

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned |
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|---|
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|---|

Derivative  
Security

Securities  
Acquired  
(A) or  
Disposed  
of (D)  
(Instr. 3,  
4, and 5)

(Instr. 3 and 4)

Own  
Follo  
Repo  
Trans  
(Instr

| Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date | Title | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |
|------|---|-----|-----|---------------------|--------------------|-------|--|
|------|---|-----|-----|---------------------|--------------------|-------|--|

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |         |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| DEMPSEY WILLIAM M<br>3003 GULFSHORE BLVD., NORTH<br>APT. #202<br>NAPLES, FL 34103 |               | X         |         |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Donna J. Drengel, as attorney-in-fact, pursuant to a power of attorney for William M. Dempsey

10/02/2008

\_\_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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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