

SLOAN WILLIAM N  
Form 4  
January 21, 2005

**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 \*  
SLOAN WILLIAM N

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)  
P.O. BOX 161, 149 POSTWOOD PARK ROAD  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
01/19/2005

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

HANNAWA FALLS, NY 13647

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

(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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                | (A)<br>or<br>(D)  | 4,976.938 <sup>(1)</sup>  | D  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 984   | I  | By Spouse                         |

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

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SEC 1474 (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 (Stock Balance Plan)         | \$ 0   | 01/19/2005                           |  | A                              | 470.12  | (2) (2)  | Common Stock  | 470.12                        |
| Deferred Stock (Deferred Comp.)            | \$ 0   | 01/19/2005                           |  | A                              | 534.12  | (3) (3)  | Common Stock  | 534.12                        |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| SLOAN WILLIAM N<br>P.O. BOX 161<br>149 POSTWOOD PARK ROAD<br>HANNAWA FALLS, NY 13647 |               | X         |         |       |

## Signatures

Donna J. Drengel, as attorney-in-fact, pursuant to a power of attorney 01/21/2005

\*\*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) Includes 11.958, 11.915 and 12.056 shares acquired on July 9, 2004, October 11, 2004 and January 10, 2005, respectively, under the Community Bank System, Inc. Dividend Reinvestment Plan.
  - (2) Phantom Stock (Stock Balance Plan) may be exercised upon the later of the reporting person's attainment of age 55 or termination of service on Community Bank System, Inc.'s Board of Directors.
  - (3) Awards relating to the Deferred Stock units (Deferred Comp. Plan) may be exercised upon the reporting person's attainment of age 64.
- 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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