

SI Financial Group, Inc.  
Form S-4/A  
May 24, 2013  
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 24, 2013.

Registration No. 333-188016

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

**PRE-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO**  
**FORM S-4**  
**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**  
*UNDER*  
*THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933*

**SI FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Edgar Filing: SI Financial Group, Inc. - Form S-4/A

<b>Maryland</b> (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	<b>6035</b> (Primary Standard Industrial Classification Code Number) <b>803 Main Street</b>	<b>80-0643149</b> (I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)
--	--	---

**Willimantic, Connecticut 06226**

**(860) 423-4581**

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

**Rheo A. Brouillard**

**President and Chief Executive Officer**

**803 Main Street**

**Willimantic, Connecticut 06226**

**(860) 423-4581**

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

*Copies to:*

**Scott A. Brown, Esq.**

**Victor L. Cangelosi, Esq.**

**Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP**

**607 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 900**

**Washington, DC 20005**

**(202) 508-5800**

**Facsimile: (202) 204-5600**

**Lawrence M.F. Spaccasi, Esq.**

**Luse Gorman Pomerenk & Schick, P.C.**

**5335 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Suite 780**

**Washington, DC 20015**

**(202) 274-2000**

**Facsimile: (202) 362-2902**

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Registration Statement and upon consummation of the merger described in the enclosed proxy statement/prospectus.

## Edgar Filing: SI Financial Group, Inc. - Form S-4/A

If the securities being registered on this Form are being offered in connection with the formation of a holding company and there is compliance with General Instruction G, check the following box. "

## Edgar Filing: SI Financial Group, Inc. - Form S-4/A

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

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 the definitions 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 "

If applicable, place an X in the box to designate the appropriate rule provision relied upon in conducting this transaction:

Exchange Act Rule 13e-4(i) (Cross-Border Issuer Tender Offer) "

Exchange Act Rule 14d-1(d) (Cross-Border Third-Party Tender Offer) "

**The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.**

---

**Table of Contents**

**MERGER PROPOSAL YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT**

Newport Bancorp, Inc. and SI Financial Group, Inc. have entered into an agreement and plan of merger under which Newport Bancorp will merge into SI Financial with SI Financial as the surviving entity. This transaction is referred to in this document as the merger. Newport Federal Savings Bank, the subsidiary of Newport Bancorp, and Savings Institute Bank and Trust Company, the subsidiary of SI Financial, have entered into a plan of bank merger under which Newport Federal will merge into Savings Institute, with Savings Institute as the surviving entity. This transaction is referred to in this document as the bank merger.

If the merger is completed, each share of Newport Bancorp common stock will be converted into the right to receive either \$17.55 in cash or 1.5129 shares of SI Financial common stock. Based on the number of shares of Newport Bancorp outstanding on [Record Date], SI Financial expects to issue approximately 2,572,000 shares of SI Financial common stock.

You will be able to elect to receive cash, SI Financial common stock, or a combination of cash and SI Financial common stock for your shares of Newport Bancorp common stock. Regardless of your choice, however, elections will be limited by the requirement that 50% of the total shares of Newport Bancorp common stock is exchanged for SI Financial common stock and 50% is exchanged for cash. Therefore, all allocations of SI Financial common stock and cash that you receive will depend on the elections of other Newport Bancorp shareholders. The federal income tax consequences of the merger to you will depend on whether you receive cash, stock or a combination of cash and stock in exchange for your shares of Newport Bancorp common stock.

The common stock of SI Financial is listed on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol SIFI. The closing price of SI Financial common stock on March 5, 2013, the day the agreement and plan of merger was signed, was \$11.58, which, based on the 1.5129 exchange ratio, represented a value of \$17.52 per share of Newport Bancorp common stock. The closing price of SI Financial common stock on [Redacted], 2013, the most recent practicable trading day before the date of this document, was \$ [Redacted], which represented a value of \$ [Redacted] per share of Newport Bancorp common stock based on the exchange ratio. The market prices for both Newport Bancorp common stock and SI Financial common stock will fluctuate before the merger. We urge you to obtain current market quotations for both the Newport Bancorp common stock and SI Financial common stock.

We cannot complete the merger unless we obtain all applicable shareholder and regulatory approvals.

The places, dates and times of the shareholders meetings are as follows:

**For SI Financial shareholders:**

[SI Meeting Place]  
[SI Meeting Address]  
Willimantic, Connecticut  
[Meeting Date]  
: .m., local time

**For Newport Bancorp shareholders:**

[NBI Meeting Place]  
[NBI Meeting Address]  
Newport, Rhode Island  
[Meeting Date]  
: .m., local time

**The board of directors of each of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp has unanimously determined that the merger is in the best interests of its respective shareholders and recommends that its respective shareholders vote FOR the proposal to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger.**

**Table of Contents**

This document contains information that you should consider in evaluating the proposed merger. **In particular, you should carefully read the section captioned Risk Factors beginning on page 13 for a discussion of certain risk factors relating to the merger.**

We look forward to seeing you at the shareholder meetings and we appreciate your continued support.

Rheo A. Brouillard  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
SI Financial Group, Inc.

Kevin M. McCarthy  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Newport Bancorp, Inc.

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or completeness of this proxy statement/prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense. The securities to be issued in connection with the merger are not savings or deposit accounts or other obligations of any bank or nonbank subsidiary of any of the parties, and they are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.**

Proxy statement/prospectus dated [Proxy Date]

and first mailed to shareholders of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp

on or about [Mail Date].

**Table of Contents**

This document incorporates important business and financial information about SI Financial from documents filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission or SEC that have not been included in or delivered with this document. You may read and copy these documents at the SEC's public reference facilities. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for information about these facilities. This information is also available at the Internet site the SEC maintains at <http://www.sec.gov>. See *Where You Can Find More Information* on page .

You also may request copies of these documents from SI Financial. SI Financial will provide you with copies of these documents, without charge, upon written or oral request to:

SI Financial Group, Inc.

803 Main Street

Willimantic, Connecticut 06226

Attention: Diane Phillips

Telephone: (860) 456-6514

***If you are a SI Financial or Newport Bancorp shareholder and would like to request documents from SI Financial, please do so by , 2013 to receive them before the shareholder meetings.***

**Table of Contents**

**SI FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.**

**803 Main Street**

**Willimantic, Connecticut 06226**

**Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held [Meeting Date]**

To the Shareholders of SI Financial:

The annual meeting of shareholders of SI Financial Group, Inc. will be held at : .m., local time, on [Meeting Date] at the , Willimantic, Connecticut. Any adjournments or postponements of the annual meeting will be held at the same location.

The purpose of the annual meeting is to:

1. Consider and vote upon a proposal to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger, dated as of March 5, 2013, by and between SI Financial Group, Inc. and Newport Bancorp, Inc. pursuant to which Newport Bancorp will merge with and into SI Financial. A copy of the agreement and plan of merger is included as Annex A to the accompanying proxy statement/prospectus;
2. Consider and vote upon a proposal to adjourn the special meeting to a later date or dates, if necessary, to permit further solicitation of proxies if there are not sufficient votes at the time of the annual meeting to approve the agreement and plan of merger;
3. Elect two directors for a term of three years or until their respective successors are elected and qualified;
4. Ratify the appointment of Wolf & Company, P.C. as independent auditors for SI Financial for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013; and
5. Vote on a non-binding advisory resolution approving the compensation payable to the named executive offices of SI Financial;
6. Transact such other business as may be properly presented at the annual meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting.

The enclosed document describes the proposed merger in detail. We urge you to read these materials carefully. The enclosed document forms a part of this notice.

**The board of directors of SI Financial unanimously recommends that SI Financial shareholders vote FOR each of the proposals and FOR each of the director nominees.**

Shareholders of record as of the close of business on [Record Date] are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the annual meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the annual meeting.

**Your vote is very important.** Your proxy is being solicited by the SI Financial board of directors. For the proposed merger to be consummated, the proposal to approve the agreement and plan of merger must be approved by the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of SI Financial common stock entitled to vote. Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting in person, we urge you to complete and



**Table of Contents**

mail the enclosed proxy card, in the accompanying envelope, which requires no postage if mailed in the United States. You may revoke your proxy at any time before the special meeting. If you attend the special meeting and vote in person, your proxy vote will not be used. Attendance at the meeting, however, will not by itself revoke a proxy. If you are the beneficial owner of shares held in street name through a broker, bank or other nominee you should instruct your broker, bank or other nominee how to vote on your behalf, or if you plan to attend the special meeting and wish to vote in person, you should bring a signed proxy from your broker, bank or nominee confirming your right to vote the shares.

If you have any questions or need assistance voting your shares, please contact our proxy solicitor, AST Phoenix Advisors, toll free at (877) 478-5038.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Laurie L. Gervais  
Corporate Secretary

Willimantic, Connecticut

[Mail Date]

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Shareholder Meeting to be held on [Meeting Date]: This proxy statement/prospectus and our 2012 Annual Report on Form 10-K are available at <http://www.cfpproxy.com/6954>.**

**Table of Contents**

**NEWPORT BANCORP, INC.**

**100 Bellevue Avenue**

**Newport, Rhode Island 02840**

**Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held [Meeting Date]**

To the shareholders of Newport Bancorp:

The annual meeting of shareholders of Newport Bancorp, Inc. will be held at : .m., local time, on [Meeting Date] at the [NBI Meeting Place], [NBI Meeting Address], Newport, Rhode Island. Any adjournments or postponements of the annual meeting will be held at the same location.

The purpose of the annual meeting is to:

1. Consider and vote upon a proposal to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger, dated as of March 5, 2013, by and between SI Financial Group, Inc. and Newport Bancorp, Inc. pursuant to which Newport Bancorp will merge with and into SI Financial. A copy of the agreement and plan of merger is included as Annex A to the accompanying proxy statement/prospectus;
2. Consider and vote upon a proposal to adjourn the annual meeting to a later date or dates, if necessary, to permit further solicitation of proxies if there are not sufficient votes at the time of the meeting to approve the agreement and plan of merger;
3. Vote on a non-binding advisory resolution approving the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp in connection with the merger;
4. Elect two directors (the nominees to be elected at the annual meeting will serve until the consummation of the merger, or if the merger is not consummated, for a term of three years and until their respective successors are elected and qualified);
5. Ratify the appointment of Wolf & Company, P.C. as independent auditors for Newport Bancorp for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013;
6. Vote on a non-binding advisory resolution approving the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp;
7. Vote on the frequency of the advisory vote of the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp; and
8. Transact such other business as may be properly presented at the annual meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the special meeting.

The enclosed document describes the agreement and plan of merger and the proposed merger in detail. We urge you to read these materials carefully. The enclosed document forms a part of this notice.

**The board of directors of Newport Bancorp unanimously recommends that Newport Bancorp shareholders vote FOR each of the director nominees, FOR holding a non-binding advisory resolution approving the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp every year, and FOR each of the other proposals listed.**

**Table of Contents**

Shareholders of record as of the close of business on [Record Date] are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the annual meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the annual meeting.

**Your vote is very important.** Your proxy is being solicited by the Newport Bancorp board of directors. For the proposed merger to be consummated, the proposal to approve the agreement and plan of merger must be approved by the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Newport Bancorp common stock entitled to vote. Whether or not you plan to attend the annual meeting in person, we urge you to complete and mail the enclosed proxy card, in the accompanying envelope, which requires no postage if mailed in the United States. You may revoke your proxy at any time before the annual meeting. If you attend the annual meeting and vote in person, your proxy vote will not be used. Attendance at the meeting, however, will not by itself revoke a proxy. If you are the beneficial owner of shares held in street name through a broker, bank or other nominee you should instruct your broker, bank or other nominee how to vote on your behalf, or if you plan to attend the annual meeting and wish to vote in person, you should bring a signed proxy from your broker, bank or other nominee confirming your right to vote the shares.

If you have any questions or need assistance voting your shares, please contact our proxy solicitor, Regan & Associates, at (212) 587-3005.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Judy Tucker  
Corporate Secretary

Newport, Rhode Island

[Mail Date]

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Shareholder Meeting to be held on [Meeting Date]: This proxy statement/prospectus and our 2012 Annual Report on Form 10-K are available at <http://www.cfpproxy.com/6028>.**

**Table of Contents**

**ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT**

This document, which forms part of a registration statement on Form S-4 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by SI Financial, constitutes a prospectus of SI Financial under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, which we refer to in this document as the Securities Act, with respect to the shares of SI Financial common stock to be issued to Newport Bancorp's shareholders, as required by the agreement and plan of merger. This document also constitutes a proxy statement under Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which we refer to in this document as the Exchange Act, and a notice of meeting with respect to the annual meeting of shareholders of SI Financial and the annual meeting of shareholders of Newport Bancorp.

You should rely only on the information contained in this document. No one has been authorized to provide you with information that is different from the information contained in this document. This document is dated [Proxy Date]. You should not assume that the information contained in this document is accurate as of any date other than that date. Neither the mailing of this document to either SI Financial shareholders or Newport Bancorp shareholders nor the issuance by SI Financial of its common stock in connection with the merger will create any implication to the contrary.

**This document does not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any securities, or the solicitation of a proxy, in any jurisdiction to or from any person to whom it is unlawful to make any such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. Information contained in this document regarding SI Financial has been provided by SI Financial and information contained in this document regarding Newport Bancorp has been provided by Newport Bancorp.**

**Table of Contents****TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>PAGE</b>
<u><i>QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE MERGER AND THE SHAREHOLDER MEETINGS</i></u>	1
<u><i>SUMMARY</i></u>	6
<u>The Companies</u>	6
<u>Annual Meeting of SI Financial Shareholders: Required Vote</u>	6
<u>Annual Meeting of Newport Bancorp Shareholders: Required Vote</u>	7
<u>The Merger and the Agreement and Plan of Merger</u>	7
<u>What Newport Bancorp Shareholders Will Receive in the Merger</u>	7
<u>Comparative Market Prices</u>	8
<u>Recommendation of SI Financial Board of Directors</u>	8
<u>SI Financial's Financial Advisors Believe the Merger Consideration is Fair to SI Financial</u>	8
<u>Recommendation of Newport Bancorp Board of Directors</u>	8
<u>Newport Bancorp's Financial Advisor Believes the Merger Consideration is Fair to Shareholders</u>	9
<u>Regulatory Approvals</u>	9
<u>Conditions to the Merger</u>	9
<u>Termination</u>	9
<u>Termination Fee</u>	10
<u>Interests of Certain Persons in the Merger that are Different from Yours</u>	10
<u>Accounting Treatment of the Merger</u>	11
<u>Certain Differences in Shareholder Rights</u>	12
<u>Tax Consequences of the Merger</u>	12
<u><i>RISK FACTORS</i></u>	13
<u><i>CAUTION ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</i></u>	16
<u><i>SELECTED HISTORICAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION</i></u>	17
<u>Selected Historical Financial Data of SI Financial</u>	17
<u>Selected Historical Financial Data of Newport Bancorp</u>	18
<u><i>SUMMARY SELECTED PRO FORMA COMBINED DATA</i></u>	19
<u><i>COMPARATIVE PER SHARE DATA</i></u>	20
<u><i>MARKET PRICE AND DIVIDEND INFORMATION</i></u>	21
<u><i>ANNUAL MEETING OF SI FINANCIAL SHAREHOLDERS</i></u>	22
<u>Date, Time and Place of Meeting</u>	22
<u>Purpose of the Meeting</u>	22
<u>Who Can Vote at the Meeting</u>	22
<u>Quorum: Vote Required</u>	22
<u>Shares Held by SI Financial Officers and Directors and by Newport Bancorp</u>	23
<u>Voting and Revocability of Proxies</u>	23
<u>Solicitation of Proxies</u>	25
<u>Proposal No. 1 Approval and Adoption of the Agreement and Plan of Merger</u>	25
<u>Proposal No. 2 Adjournment of the Special Meeting</u>	25
<u>Proposal No. 3 Election of Directors</u>	25
<u>Proposal No. 4 Ratification of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	27
<u>Proposal No. 5 Non-Binding Advisory Vote to Approve the Compensation Payable to the Named Executive Officers of SI Financial</u>	30
<u><i>ANNUAL MEETING OF NEWPORT BANCORP SHAREHOLDERS</i></u>	30
<u>Date, Time and Place of Meeting</u>	30
<u>Purpose of the Meeting</u>	30
<u>Who Can Vote at the Meeting</u>	31
<u>Quorum: Vote Required</u>	31
<u>Shares Held by Newport Bancorp Officers and Directors and by SI Financial</u>	32
<u>Voting and Revocability of Proxies</u>	32
<u>Solicitation of Proxies</u>	33
<u>Proposal No. 1 Approval and Adoption of the Agreement and Plan of Merger</u>	34

**Table of Contents**

	<b>PAGE</b>
<u>Proposal No. 2 Adjournment of the Special Meeting</u>	34
<u>Proposal No. 3 Non-Binding Advisory Vote to Approve the Compensation Payable to the Named Executive Officers of Newport Bancorp in Connection with the Merger</u>	34
<u>Proposal No. 4 Election of Directors</u>	35
<u>Proposal No. 5 Ratification of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	37
<u>Proposal No. 6 Non-Binding Advisory Vote to Approve the Compensation Payable to the Named Executive Officers of Newport Bancorp</u>	39
<u>Proposal No. 7 Frequency of the Non-Binding Advisory Vote to Approve the Compensation Payable to the Named Executive Officers of Newport Bancorp</u>	40
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE MERGER</u>	40
<u>General</u>	40
<u>Consideration to be Received in the Merger</u>	40
<u>Cash, Stock or Mixed Election</u>	41
<u>Background of and Newport Bancorp's Reasons for the Merger</u>	42
<u>Recommendation of Newport Bancorp's Board of Directors</u>	47
<u>Opinion of Newport Bancorp's Financial Advisor</u>	47
<u>SI Financial's Reasons for the Merger</u>	57
<u>Recommendation of SI Financial's Board of Directors</u>	58
<u>Opinions of SI Financial's Financial Advisors</u>	58
<u>Financial Forecasts</u>	75
<u>Newport Bancorp Stock Options and Restricted Stock Awards</u>	75
<u>Election Procedures; Surrender of Stock Certificates</u>	76
<u>Accounting Treatment</u>	77
<u>Tax Consequences of the Merger</u>	77
<u>Regulatory Matters Relating to the Merger</u>	80
<u>Interests of Certain Persons in the Merger</u>	81
<u>Employee Matters</u>	85
<u>Newport Federal Employee Stock Ownership Plan</u>	86
<u>Operations of Newport Federal After the Merger</u>	86
<u>Restrictions on Resale of Shares of SI Financial Common Stock</u>	86
<u>Time of Completion</u>	86
<u>Conditions to Completing the Merger</u>	87
<u>Conduct of Business Before the Merger</u>	87
<u>Covenants of Newport Bancorp and SI Financial</u>	91
<u>Representations and Warranties Made by SI Financial and Newport Bancorp and Newport Federal</u>	94
<u>Terminating the Agreement and Plan of Merger</u>	94
<u>Termination Fee</u>	95
<u>Expenses</u>	96
<u>Changing the Terms of Agreement and Plan of Merger</u>	96
<u>UNAUDITED COMBINED CONSOLIDATED PRO FORMA FINANCIAL DATA</u>	97
<u>DESCRIPTION OF SI FINANCIAL CAPITAL STOCK</u>	105
<u>COMPARISON OF RIGHTS OF SHAREHOLDERS</u>	106
<u>MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS AFTER THE MERGER</u>	111
<u>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS OF SI FINANCIAL</u>	111
<u>COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF SI FINANCIAL</u>	116
<u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION OF SI FINANCIAL</u>	124
<u>COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT OF SI FINANCIAL</u>	135
<u>OTHER INFORMATION RELATING TO DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF SI FINANCIAL</u>	135
<u>STOCK OWNERSHIP OF SI FINANCIAL</u>	137
<u>INFORMATION ABOUT NEWPORT BANCORP</u>	139
<u>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE OF NEWPORT BANCORP</u>	154

**Table of Contents**

	<b>PAGE</b>
<u>NOMINATING/CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE PROCEDURES OF NEWPORT BANCORP</u>	159
<u>OTHER INFORMATION RELATING TO DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF NEWPORT BANCORP</u>	161
<u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION OF NEWPORT BANCORP</u>	162
<u>MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS OF NEWPORT BANCORP</u>	166
<u>STOCK OWNERSHIP OF NEWPORT BANCORP</u>	192
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	194
<u>EXPERTS</u>	194
<u>SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS AND NOMINATIONS</u>	195
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	195
<u>SI FINANCIAL FILINGS</u>	196
<u>INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF NEWPORT BANCORP</u>	F-1
<u>Annex A Agreement and Plan of Merger</u>	A-1
<u>Annex B Fairness Opinion of Keefe, Bruyette &amp; Woods, a Stifel Company</u>	B-1
<u>Annex C Fairness Opinion of Loomis &amp; Co., Inc.</u>	C-1
<u>Annex D Fairness Opinion of Sandler O'Neill &amp; Partners, L.P.</u>	D-1



**Table of Contents**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE MERGER AND THE SHAREHOLDER MEETINGS**

***Q: Why am I receiving this document?***

A: You are receiving this document because you are either a shareholder of SI Financial as of [Record Date], the record date for the annual meeting of SI Financial, or a shareholder of Newport Bancorp as of [Record Date], the record date for the annual meeting of Newport Bancorp. This document is being used by the boards of directors of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp to solicit your proxy for use at the shareholder meetings. This document also serves as the prospectus for shares of SI Financial common stock to be issued in exchange for shares of Newport Bancorp common stock in the merger.

***Q: What am I being asked to vote on? What is the proposed transaction?***

A: You are being asked to vote on the approval of an agreement and plan of merger that provides for the acquisition of Newport Bancorp by SI Financial. You are also being asked to vote on a proposal to adjourn the shareholder meeting to a later date or dates, if necessary, to permit further solicitation of proxies if there are not sufficient votes at the meeting to approve the agreement and plan of merger. SI Financial shareholders are also being asked to vote on a non-binding advisory resolution approving the compensation payable to the named executive officers of SI Financial, to elect two directors and to ratify the appointment of the independent auditors for the 2013 fiscal year. Newport Bancorp shareholders are also being asked to vote on a non-binding advisory resolution approving the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp in connection with the merger, to elect two directors, to ratify the appointment of the independent auditors for the 2013 fiscal year, to vote on a non-binding resolution approving the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp (without regard to the merger) and to vote on the frequency of the non-binding advisory vote to approve the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp.

***Q: What vote does the SI Financial board of directors recommend?***

A: The SI Financial board of directors has determined that the proposed merger is in the best interests of SI Financial shareholders, has unanimously approved the agreement and plan of merger and recommends that SI Financial shareholders vote FOR the approval and adoption of the agreement and plan of merger, FOR the proposal to adjourn the meeting if necessary to permit further solicitation of proxies on the proposal to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger, FOR the approval of the non-binding resolution approving the compensation payable to the named executive officers of SI Financial, FOR the election of two directors and FOR the ratification of the independent auditors for the 2013 fiscal year.

***Q: What vote does the Newport Bancorp board of directors recommend?***

A: The Newport Bancorp board of directors has determined that the proposed merger is in the best interests of Newport Bancorp shareholders, has unanimously approved the agreement and plan of merger and recommends that Newport Bancorp shareholders vote FOR the approval and adoption of the agreement and plan of merger, FOR the proposal to adjourn the meeting if necessary to permit further solicitation of proxies on the proposal to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger, FOR the approval of the non-binding resolution approving the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp in connection with the merger, FOR the election of two directors, FOR the ratification of the independent auditors for the 2013 fiscal year, FOR the non-binding advisory resolution approving the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp and to hold the non-binding advisory vote to approve the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp every year.

***Q: Why do Newport Bancorp and SI Financial want to merge?***

A: Newport Bancorp believes that the proposed merger will provide Newport Bancorp shareholders with substantial benefits, and SI Financial believes that the merger will further its strategic growth plans. As a

## Table of Contents

larger company, SI Financial can provide the capital and resources that Newport Bancorp needs to compete more effectively and to offer a broader array of products and services to better serve its banking customers. To review the reasons for the merger in more detail, see *Description of the Merger SI Financial's Reasons for the Merger* on page and *Description of the Merger Background of and Newport Bancorp's Reasons for the Merger* on page .

***Q: What will Newport Bancorp shareholders be entitled to receive in the merger?***

A: Under the agreement and plan of merger, each share of Newport Bancorp common stock will be converted into the right to receive either \$17.55 in cash or 1.5129 shares of SI Financial common stock.

You will be able to elect to receive cash, SI Financial common stock or a combination of cash and SI Financial common stock for your shares of Newport Bancorp common stock. Regardless of your choice, however, elections will be limited by the requirement that 50% of Newport Bancorp common stock is converted into SI Financial common stock and 50% is exchanged for cash. Therefore, the allocation of cash and SI Financial common stock that you will receive will depend on the elections of other Newport Bancorp shareholders. The allocation of the consideration payable to Newport Bancorp shareholders will not be known until the exchange agent tallies the results of the cash/stock elections made by Newport Bancorp's shareholders. If you do not make an election, the type of consideration you will receive will depend on the consideration elected by other Newport Bancorp shareholders.

***Q: What will my dividends be after the merger?***

A: SI Financial currently pays a quarterly dividend of \$0.03 per share. Although SI Financial has paid quarterly dividends on its common stock without interruption since 2010, there is no guarantee that SI Financial will continue to pay dividends on its common stock. All dividends on SI Financial common stock are declared at the discretion of the SI Financial board of directors.

***Q: How do I elect to receive cash, stock or a combination of both for my Newport Bancorp stock?***

A: A form for making an election will be sent to you separately on or about the date this proxy statement/prospectus is mailed. For your election to be effective, your properly completed election form, along with your Newport Bancorp stock certificates or an appropriate guarantee of delivery, must be sent to and received by the exchange agent for the merger, Registrar and Transfer Company, on or before 5:00 p.m., Eastern time, on [Election Date]. **Do not send your election form or stock certificates with your proxy card. Instead, use the separate envelope specifically provided for the election form and your stock certificates.** If you own shares of Newport Bancorp common stock in street name through a bank, broker or other nominee and you wish to make an election, you should seek instructions from the bank, broker or other nominee holding your shares. If you do not make a timely or proper election you will be allocated SI Financial common stock and/or cash depending on the elections made by other shareholders.

***Q: How do I exchange my stock certificates?***

A: If you make an election, you must return your Newport Bancorp stock certificates or an appropriate guarantee of delivery with your election form. Shortly after the merger, SI Financial's transfer agent will allocate cash and SI Financial common stock among Newport Bancorp shareholders, consistent with their elections and the allocation and proration procedures in the agreement and plan of merger. If you do not submit an election form, SI Financial's exchange agent will send you instructions on how and where to surrender your Newport Bancorp stock certificates after the merger is completed. **Please do not send your Newport Bancorp stock certificates with your proxy card.**

**Table of Contents**

***Q: What are the tax consequences of the merger to me?***

A: The tax consequence of the merger to you will depend on whether you receive only cash, only SI Financial common stock, or a combination of cash and SI Financial common stock in exchange for your shares of Newport Bancorp common stock. If you exchange your shares solely for SI Financial common stock, you should not recognize gain or loss except with respect to the cash you receive instead of any fractional share of SI Financial common stock. If you exchange your shares solely for cash, you should recognize gain or loss on the exchange. If you exchange your shares for a combination of SI Financial common stock and cash, you should recognize capital gain, but not any loss, on the exchange. Because the allocations of cash and SI Financial common stock that you receive will depend on the elections of other Newport Bancorp shareholders, you will not know the actual tax consequences of the merger to you until the allocations are completed.

You should read *Description of the Merger Tax Consequences of the Merger* beginning on page for a more complete discussion of the United States federal income tax consequences of the merger. Tax matters can be complicated and the tax consequences of the merger to you will depend on your particular tax situation. **You should consult your tax advisor to determine the tax consequences of the merger to you.**

***Q: Are Newport Bancorp's shareholders entitled to appraisal rights?***

A: No. Since the common stock of Newport Bancorp is traded on The Nasdaq Global Market, Maryland law does not provide for appraisal rights. Newport Bancorp is incorporated under Maryland law.

***Q: When is the merger expected to be completed?***

A: We will complete the merger as soon as possible. Before that happens, the agreement and plan of merger must be approved and adopted by SI Financial's shareholders and Newport Bancorp's shareholders and we must obtain the necessary regulatory approvals. Assuming holders of at least a majority of the outstanding shares of SI Financial common stock and of Newport Bancorp common stock both vote in favor of the agreement and plan of merger and we obtain the other necessary approvals, we expect to complete the merger in the third calendar quarter of 2013.

***Q: Is completion of the merger subject to any conditions besides shareholder approval?***

A: Yes. The transaction must receive the required regulatory approvals, and there are other customary closing conditions that must be satisfied. To review the conditions of the merger in more detail, see *Description of the Merger Conditions to Completing the Merger* on page .

***Q: What vote is required to approve the agreement and plan of merger?***

A: Holders of at least a majority of the outstanding shares of each of SI Financial common stock and Newport Bancorp common stock entitled to vote must vote in favor of the proposal to approve the agreement and plan of merger.

***Q: What are the quorum requirements for the shareholder meetings?***

A:

## Edgar Filing: SI Financial Group, Inc. - Form S-4/A

The presence in person or by proxy of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by SI Financial shareholders and by Newport Bancorp shareholders at their respective shareholder meetings will constitute a quorum.

***Q: When and where is the SI Financial annual meeting?***

**A:** The annual meeting of SI Financial shareholders is scheduled to take place at the [SI Meeting Place], [SI Meeting Address], Willimantic, Connecticut at : .m., local time, on [Meeting Date].

**Table of Contents**

***Q: When and where is the Newport Bancorp annual meeting?***

A: The annual meeting of Newport Bancorp shareholders is scheduled to take place at the [NBI Meeting Place], [NBI Meeting Address], Newport, Rhode Island at : .m., local time, on [Meeting Date].

***Q: Who is entitled to vote at the shareholder meetings?***

A: Holders of shares of SI Financial common stock at the close of business on [Record Date], which is the record date, are entitled to vote at the annual meeting. As of the record date, 10,111,757 shares of SI Financial common stock were outstanding and entitled to vote. Holders of shares of Newport Bancorp common stock at the close of business on [Record Date], which is the record date, are entitled to vote at the Newport Bancorp annual meeting. As of the record date, 3,544,722 shares of Newport Bancorp common stock were outstanding and entitled to vote.

***Q: If I plan to attend the shareholder meeting in person, should I still return my proxy?***

A: Yes. Whether or not you plan to attend the shareholder meeting, you should complete and return the enclosed proxy card. The failure of a shareholder to vote in person or by proxy will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST the agreement and plan of merger.

***Q: What do I need to do now to vote my shares of common stock?***

A: After you have carefully read and considered the information contained in this document, please complete, sign, date and mail your proxy card in the enclosed return envelope as soon as possible. This will enable your shares to be represented at the shareholder meeting. If you are a shareholder of record, you may also vote in person at the shareholder meeting. If you do not return a properly executed proxy card and do not vote at the shareholder meeting, this will have the same effect as a vote against the agreement and plan of merger. If you sign, date and send in your proxy card, but you do not indicate how you want to vote, your proxy will be voted in favor of approval and adoption of the agreement and plan of merger.

If you are the beneficial owner of shares held in street name through a broker, bank or other nominee, you should instruct your broker, bank or other nominee how to vote on your behalf. Please follow the voting instructions provided by your record holder to vote your shares. If your shares are held in street name and you want to vote in person at the shareholder meeting, please follow the instructions from your record holder for obtaining a legal proxy enabling you to vote at the meeting.

***Q: How do I change my vote after I have submitted my proxy?***

A: You may change your vote at any time before your proxy is voted at the meeting by revoking your proxy in any of the following ways: (1) filing with the Corporate Secretary a duly executed revocation of proxy, (2) submitting a new proxy card with a later date, or (3) voting in person at the meeting (your attendance at the meeting will not by itself revoke your proxy).

***Q: If my shares are held in street name by my broker, will my broker automatically vote my shares for me?***

A:

## Edgar Filing: SI Financial Group, Inc. - Form S-4/A

No. Your broker will not be able to vote your shares of common stock on the proposal to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger or on the other proposals (except for the proposals to ratify the appointment of the independent auditors) unless you provide instructions on how to vote. Please instruct you broker how to vote your shares, following the directions that your broker provides. If you do not provide instructions to your broker on the proposal to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger, your shares will not be voted, and this will have the effect of voting **AGAINST** the agreement and plan of merger. Please check the voting form used by your broker to see if it offers telephone or Internet voting.

**Table of Contents**

***Q: What are the deadlines for voting?***

A: You may: (1) vote by mail at any time before the meeting as long as your proxy is received before the time of the meeting or (2) if your shares are held in street name, you must vote your shares according to the voting instructions form by the deadline set by your broker or other nominee.

***Q: Why am I being asked to cast a non-binding advisory vote to approve the compensation that Newport Bancorp's named executive officers will receive in connection with the merger?***

A: The SEC adopted rules that require Newport Bancorp to seek a non-binding advisory vote with respect to certain golden parachute compensation that Newport Bancorp's named executive officers will receive in connection with the merger.

***Q: What will happen if the shareholders do not approve the compensation that Newport Bancorp's named executive officers will receive in connection with the merger?***

A: The vote with respect to the golden parachute compensation is an advisory vote and will not be binding on Newport Bancorp or SI Financial. Approval of the compensation that will be payable to Newport Bancorp's named executive officers is not a condition to completion of the merger. Therefore, if the merger is approved by the shareholders and subsequently completed, the compensation will still be paid to the Newport Bancorp named executive officers, whether or not shareholders approve the compensation at the meeting.

***Q: Who can answer my other questions?***

A: If you have more questions about the merger or how to submit your proxy, or if you need additional copies of this proxy statement/prospectus or the enclosed proxy form:

**SI Financial**

Shareholders should contact:

AST Phoenix Advisors  
110 Wall Street 27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10015  
(877) 478-5038  
Banks and Brokers: (212) 493-3910

**Newport Bancorp**

Shareholders should contact:

Regan & Associates  
505 Eight Street Suite 800  
New York, New York 10018  
(212) 587-3005



---

**Table of Contents**

**SUMMARY**

*This summary highlights selected information in this document and may not contain all of the information important to you. To understand the merger more fully, you should read this entire document carefully, including the documents attached to this proxy statement/prospectus.*

**The Companies**

***SI Financial Group, Inc.***

803 Main Street

Willimantic, Connecticut 06226

(860) 423-4581

SI Financial, a Maryland corporation, is a savings and loan holding company headquartered in Willimantic, Connecticut. SI Financial's common stock is listed on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol SIFI. SI Financial conducts its operations primarily through its wholly owned subsidiary, Savings Institute, a federally chartered bank founded in 1842. Savings Institute is independent, community oriented, and conducts a full-service banking business through 20 offices. At March 31, 2013, SI Financial had total assets of \$957.2 million, total deposits of \$713.2 million and shareholders' equity of \$125.7 million.

***Newport Bancorp, Inc.***

100 Bellevue Avenue

Newport, Rhode Island 02840

(401) 847-5500

Newport Bancorp, a Maryland corporation, is a savings and loan holding company headquartered in Newport, Rhode Island. Newport Bancorp's common stock is listed on The Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol NFSB. Newport Bancorp's sole business is operating its subsidiary, Newport Federal, a federally chartered bank originally founded as a Rhode Island institution in 1888. Newport Federal operates as a community-oriented financial institution offering financial services to consumers and businesses through its six full-service banking offices. As of March 31, 2013, Newport Bancorp had total assets of \$430.6 million, total deposits of \$281.5 million and total shareholders' equity of \$54.0 million.

**Annual Meeting of SI Financial Shareholders; Required Vote (page )**

An annual meeting of SI Financial shareholders is scheduled to be held at the [SI Meeting Place], [SI Meeting Address], Willimantic, Connecticut at :00 a.m., local time, on [Meeting Date]. At the annual meeting, you will be asked to vote on the approval of an agreement and plan of merger that provides for the acquisition of Newport Bancorp by SI Financial. You will also be asked to vote on a proposal to adjourn the special meeting to a later date or dates, if necessary, to permit further solicitation of proxies if there are not sufficient votes at the special meeting to approve the agreement and plan of merger, to approve a non-binding advisory resolution approving the compensation payable to the named executive officers of SI Financial, to elect two directors for a term of three years or until their respective successors are elected and qualified, and to ratify the appointment of the independent auditors for the 2013 fiscal year.

Only SI Financial shareholders of record as of the close of business on [Record Date] are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the SI Financial annual meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the meeting.

Approval of the agreement and plan of merger requires the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of SI Financial common stock entitled to vote. As of the record date, there were

---

**Table of Contents**

10,111,757 shares of SI Financial common stock outstanding. The directors and executive officers of SI Financial, and their affiliates, as a group, beneficially owned 429,370 shares of SI Financial common stock, representing 4.2% of the outstanding shares of SI Financial common stock as of the record date.

**Annual Meeting of Newport Bancorp Shareholders; Required Vote (page )**

An annual meeting of Newport Bancorp shareholders is scheduled to be held at the [NBI Meeting Place], [NBI Meeting Address], Newport, Rhode Island at : .m., local time, on [Meeting Date]. At the annual meeting, you will be asked to vote on the approval of an agreement and plan of merger that provides for the acquisition of Newport Bancorp by SI Financial. You will also be asked to vote on a proposal to adjourn the annual meeting to a later date or dates, if necessary, to permit further solicitation of proxies if there are not sufficient votes at the annual meeting to approve the agreement and plan of merger, to approve a non-binding advisory resolution approving the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp in connection with the merger, to elect two directors (the nominees to be elected at the annual meeting will serve until the consummation of the merger, or if the merger is not consummated, for a term of three years or until their respective successors are elected and qualified), to ratify the appointment of the independent auditors for the 2013 fiscal year, to approve a non-binding advisory resolution approving the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp, and to vote on the frequency of the advisory vote on the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp.

Only Newport Bancorp shareholders of record as of the close of business on [Record Date] are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Newport Bancorp annual meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the meeting.

Approval of the agreement and plan of merger requires the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Newport Bancorp common stock entitled to vote. As of the record date, there were 3,544,722 shares of Newport Bancorp common stock outstanding. The directors and executive officers of Newport Bancorp, and their affiliates, as a group, beneficially owned 326,851 shares of Newport Bancorp common stock, representing 9.2% of the outstanding shares of Newport Bancorp common stock as of the record date. All of the directors of Newport Bancorp, who collectively own 251,420 shares of Newport Bancorp common stock, which represents 7.1% of the outstanding shares of Newport Bancorp as of the record date, have agreed to vote their shares in favor of the merger at the annual meeting.

**The Merger and the Agreement and Plan of Merger (page )**

SI Financial's acquisition of Newport Bancorp is governed by an agreement and plan of merger. The agreement and plan of merger provides that, if all of the conditions are satisfied or waived, Newport Bancorp will be merged into SI Financial, with SI Financial as the surviving entity. **We encourage you to read the agreement and plan of merger, which is included as Annex A to this document.**

**What Newport Bancorp Shareholders Will Receive in the Merger (page )**

If the merger is completed, each share of Newport Bancorp common stock will be converted into the right to receive either \$17.55 in cash or 1.5129 shares of SI Financial common stock.

Each holder of Newport Bancorp common stock will be able to elect to receive cash, SI Financial common stock or a combination of cash and Newport Bancorp common stock for their shares of Newport Bancorp common stock. Regardless of your choice, however, elections will be limited by the requirement that 50% of the shares of Newport Bancorp common stock is exchanged for SI Financial common stock and 50% is exchanged for cash. Therefore, the allocation of SI Financial common stock and cash that you receive will depend on the elections of other Newport Bancorp shareholders.

**Table of Contents****Comparative Market Prices**

The following table shows the closing price per share of SI Financial common stock, the closing price per share of Newport Bancorp common stock and the equivalent price per share of Newport Bancorp common stock, giving effect to the merger, on March 5, 2013, which is the last day on which shares of each of SI Financial common stock and Newport Bancorp common stock traded preceding the public announcement of the proposed merger, and on \_\_\_\_\_, 2013, the most recent practicable date before the mailing of this document. The equivalent price per share of Newport Bancorp common stock is computed by multiplying the price of a share of SI Financial common stock by the 1.5129 exchange ratio and does not include the value of any cash received by a Newport Bancorp shareholder. Shareholders who elect to receive, or are allocated, cash consideration in the merger will receive \$17.55 in cash without interest. See *Description of the Merger Consideration to be Received in the Merger* on page \_\_\_\_\_.

	SI Financial Common Stock	Newport Bancorp Common Stock	Equivalent Price Per Share of Newport Bancorp Common Stock
March 5, 2013	\$ 11.58	\$ 15.77	\$ 17.52
_____, 2013	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

**Recommendation of SI Financial Board of Directors (page \_\_\_\_\_)**

The SI Financial board of directors has unanimously approved the agreement and plan of merger. The SI Financial board believes that the agreement and plan of merger, including the plan of bank merger under which Newport Federal will merge with and into Savings Institute, is fair to, and in the best interests of, SI Financial and its shareholders, and therefore **unanimously recommends that SI Financial shareholders vote FOR the proposal to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger.** In its reaching this decision, SI Financial's board of directors considered many factors, which are described in the section captioned *Description of the Merger SI Financial's Reasons for the Merger* beginning on page \_\_\_\_\_.

**SI Financial's Financial Advisors Believe the Merger Consideration is Fair to SI Financial (page \_\_\_\_\_)**

In deciding to approve the merger, SI Financial's board of directors considered the opinions of Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, a Stifel Company (KBW), and Loomis & Co., Inc. KBW and Loomis & Co. each delivered its opinion dated March 5, 2013 that the merger consideration to be paid by SI Financial to holders of Newport Bancorp common stock in connection with the merger pursuant to merger agreement is fair to SI Financial from a financial point of view. Copies of these opinions are included as Annexes B and C to the document. You should read the opinions carefully to understand the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered and limitations of the review conducted by KBW and Loomis & Co. SI Financial has agreed to pay KBW fees totaling approximately \$547,500, for its services in connection with the merger. A substantial portion of their fees is contingent on the closing of the merger. SI Financial has paid Loomis & Co. approximately \$97,500 for its fairness opinion and fair value analysis of Newport Bancorp's assets and liabilities, none of which is contingent on the closing of the merger.

**Recommendation of Newport Bancorp Board of Directors (page \_\_\_\_\_)**

The Newport Bancorp board of directors has unanimously approved the agreement and plan of merger. The Newport Bancorp board believes that the agreement and plan of merger, including the plan of bank merger pursuant to which Newport Federal will merge with and into Savings Institute, is fair to, and in the best interests of, Newport Bancorp and its shareholders, and therefore **unanimously recommends that Newport Bancorp shareholders vote FOR the proposal to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger.** In its reaching this decision, Newport Bancorp's board of directors considered many factors, which are described in the section captioned *Description of the Merger Background of and Newport Bancorp's Reasons for the Merger* beginning on page \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Newport Bancorp's Financial Advisor Believes the Merger Consideration is Fair to Shareholders (page )**

In deciding to approve the merger, Newport Bancorp's board of directors considered the opinion of Sandler O'Neill & Partners, L.P. Sandler O'Neill, which served as financial advisor to Newport Bancorp's board of directors, delivered its opinion dated March 5, 2013 that the merger consideration is fair to the holders of Newport Bancorp common stock from a financial point of view. A copy of this opinion is included as Annex D to the document. You should read the opinion carefully to understand the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered and limitations of the review conducted by Sandler O'Neill. Newport Bancorp has agreed to pay Sandler O'Neill fees totaling approximately \$700,000 for its services in connection with the merger.

### **Regulatory Approvals (page )**

Under the terms of the agreement and plan of merger, the bank merger cannot be completed unless it is first approved by the Office of the Controller of the Currency. SI Financial must also receive the prior approval of, or waiver from, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. As of the date of this document, SI Financial has not received any approvals or waivers from these regulators. While SI Financial does not know of any reason why it would not be able to obtain approval in a timely manner, SI Financial cannot be certain when or if it will receive regulatory approval.

### **Conditions to the Merger (page )**

The completion of the merger is subject to the fulfillment of a number of conditions, including:

approval of the agreement and plan of merger by at least a majority of the outstanding shares of SI Financial and of Newport Bancorp common stock entitled to vote;

approval of the transaction by the appropriate regulatory authorities;

receipt by each party of an opinion from their respective legal counsel to the effect that the merger will be treated for federal income tax purposes as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code;

the accuracy of representations and warranties made on the date of the agreement and plan of merger; and

such other conditions customary to merger transactions.

### **Termination (page )**

The agreement and plan of merger may be terminated by mutual written consent of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp at any time before the completion of the merger. Additionally, subject to conditions and circumstances described in the agreement and plan of merger, either SI Financial or Newport Bancorp may terminate the agreement and plan of merger if, among other things, any of the following occur:

the merger has not been consummated by December 31, 2013;

SI Financial shareholders or Newport Bancorp shareholders do not approve the agreement and plan of merger;

a required regulatory approval is denied or a governmental authority enjoins or prohibits the merger; or

any representation or warranty of the other party contained in the agreement and plan of merger has become untrue to the level of materiality required by the agreement and plan of merger, or there is a breach by the other party of any covenant or agreement contained in the agreement and plan of merger, either which cannot be cured, or has not been cured within 30 days after the giving of written notice to such party of such breach.

---

**Table of Contents**

SI Financial may terminate the agreement and plan of merger if Newport Bancorp materially breaches its agreements regarding the solicitation of other acquisition proposals and the submission of the agreement and plan of merger to shareholders, or if the board of directors of Newport Bancorp does not recommend approval of the merger in the proxy statement/prospectus or withdraws or revises its recommendation in a manner adverse to SI Financial.

Newport Bancorp may terminate the agreement and plan of merger to accept an agreement for a superior proposal to be acquired by a third party but only if the failure to accept such third party proposal would constitute a breach of its fiduciary duties. SI Financial would have the right to adjust the terms of the merger to make the merger at least as favorable as the superior proposal.

Newport Bancorp may also terminate the agreement and plan of merger if SI Financial's stock price declines by a certain percentage and also declines by a certain percentage relative to the Nasdaq Bank Index. If Newport Bancorp elects to terminate the agreement and plan of merger under this provision, SI Financial may elect to adjust the exchange ratio to an amount that would not make termination under this event possible, in which case no termination would occur.

**Termination Fee (page )**

Under certain circumstances described in the agreement and plan of merger involving a competing offer, Newport Bancorp will be required to pay SI Financial a termination fee of \$2,450,000 in connection with the termination of the agreement and plan of merger.

**Interests of Certain Persons in the Merger that are Different from Yours (page )**

In considering the recommendation of the board of directors of Newport Bancorp to adopt the merger agreement, you should be aware that officers and directors of Newport Bancorp have employment and other compensation agreements or economic interests that give them interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, their interests as Newport Bancorp shareholders. These interests and agreements include:

Employment agreements for Kevin M. McCarthy, President and Chief Executive Officer of Newport Bancorp and Newport Federal, and Nino Moscardi, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Newport Bancorp and Newport Federal, that provide for cash severance payments and continued life insurance and non-taxable medical and dental benefits if the executive's employment is voluntarily terminated for good reason or involuntarily terminated without cause within two years following a change in control, which will be paid in accordance with a negotiated settlement agreement entered into between each of Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi and SI Financial, Newport Bancorp and Newport Federal, which settles the amounts payable under the employment agreements, the supplemental executive retirement plan mentioned below, and with respect to Mr. Moscardi, the portion of his supplemental executive retirement agreement the vesting of which is accelerated due to his termination of employment as a result of the change in control. Under the settlement agreements, the maximum cash payment to Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi is \$1,034,659 and \$679,429, respectively;

A supplemental executive retirement plan for the benefit of each of Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi that provides for a lump sum cash payment in connection with a change in control (no payments will be made under the supplemental executive retirement plan as the result of the settlement agreements;

Accelerated vesting of Mr. Moscardi's normal retirement benefit of \$25,000 payable for 15 years under his supplemental executive retirement agreement (Mr. Moscardi would only be entitled to an annual benefit of \$22,800 if his employment is terminated in 2013, without regard to the change in control);

Savings Institute and SI Financial entered into consulting and noncompetition agreements with each of Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi. The aggregate cash payments under these agreements are \$1,074,188 for Mr. McCarthy and \$715,500 for Mr. Moscardi;

---

**Table of Contents**

An employment agreement between Newport Federal and Ray D. Gilmore II, Executive Vice President and Chief Lending Officer of Newport Federal, and an employment agreement between Newport Bancorp and one other executive officer, that each provide for cash severance payments and continued life insurance and non-taxable medical and dental benefits if the executive's employment is voluntarily terminated for good reason or involuntarily terminated without cause within two years following a change in control (the maximum cash severance payments under these agreements are \$628,127 for Mr. Gilmore and \$541,561 for the other executive officer);

A change in control agreement between Newport Federal and an executive officer that provides for cash severance payments and continued life insurance and non-taxable medical and dental benefits if the individual's employment is voluntarily terminated for good reason or involuntarily terminated without cause within two years following a change in control (no additional benefit is payable under the change in control agreement to the executive officer who is also a party to an employment agreement under which he is entitled to a maximum cash severance of \$541,561);

The termination of all outstanding Newport Bancorp stock options, whether or not vested, with a payment to the holder of the option (including officers and directors of Newport Bancorp) of cash equal to the product of (1) the number of shares of Newport Bancorp common stock subject to the stock option, multiplied by (2) the amount by which \$17.55 exceeds the exercise price of such stock option, less required tax withholding (the aggregate cash payment to the executive officers and directors is \$1,776,656);

The acceleration of vesting of all outstanding restricted stock awards (no executive officer or director holds any restricted stock);

The acceleration of vesting of the normal retirement pension benefit for the non-employee directors of Newport Federal under their supplemental director retirement agreements (the annual retirement benefit payable for 10 years to each director is \$4,800, except in the case of directors Kaull and Harvey who will receive an annual benefit payable for 10 years equal to \$7,000 and \$7,500, respectively);

The appointment of Mr. McCarthy and two other members of Newport Bancorp's board of directors to the boards of directors of SI Financial and Savings Institute immediately following the merger; and

Rights of Newport Bancorp officers and directors to continued indemnification coverage and continued coverage under directors' and officers' liability insurance policies.

**Board of Directors**

Immediately after the completion of the merger, the board of directors of SI Financial will consist of all the current directors of SI Financial plus Kevin McCarthy, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Newport Bancorp and Newport Federal, and two additional directors from Newport Bancorp. Mr. McCarthy and the additional directors also will join the board of directors of Savings Institute. SI Financial has not yet selected the two additional directors that will join its board and the board of Savings Institute. The board of directors of SI Financial has met each of the directors of Newport Bancorp and is in the process of considering candidates. SI Financial will consider each candidate's background, qualifications and independence and the contributions that each can provide to the boards of directors of SI Financial and Savings Institute. There is no specific timeframe for finalizing the decision on who will be invited to join the board; however, SI Financial will finalize that decision before the closing of the transaction.

For information regarding Mr. McCarthy, see *Annual Meeting of Newport Bancorp Shareholders Proposal No. 4 Election of Directors*.

**Accounting Treatment of the Merger (page )**

The merger will be accounted for using the acquisition method of accounting in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.





## **Table of Contents**

### **Certain Differences in Shareholder Rights (page )**

When the merger is completed, Newport Bancorp shareholders who are to receive shares of SI Financial will become SI Financial shareholders and their rights will be governed by Maryland law and by SI Financial's articles of incorporation and bylaws. See *Comparison of Rights of Shareholders* beginning on page for a summary of the material differences between the respective rights of Newport Bancorp and SI Financial shareholders.

### **Tax Consequences of the Merger (page )**

The federal tax consequences of the merger to shareholders of Newport Bancorp will depend primarily on whether they exchange their Newport Bancorp common stock solely for SI Financial common stock, solely for cash or for a combination of SI Financial common stock and cash. Newport Bancorp shareholders who exchange their shares solely for SI Financial common stock should not recognize gain or loss except with respect to the cash they receive instead of a fractional share. Newport Bancorp shareholders who exchange their shares solely for cash should recognize gain or loss on the exchange. Newport Bancorp shareholders who exchange their shares for a combination of SI Financial common stock and cash should recognize capital gain, but not any loss, on the exchange. The actual federal income tax consequences to Newport Bancorp shareholders of electing to receive cash, SI Financial common stock or a combination of cash and stock will not be ascertainable at the time Newport Bancorp shareholders make their election because it will not be known at that time how, or to what extent, the allocation and proration procedures will apply.

**This tax treatment may not apply to all Newport Bancorp shareholders. Determining the actual tax consequences of the merger to Newport Bancorp shareholders can be complicated. Newport Bancorp shareholders should consult their own tax advisor for a full understanding of the merger's tax consequences that are particular to each shareholder.**

To review the tax consequences of the merger to Newport Bancorp shareholders in greater detail, please see the section *Description of the Merger Tax Consequences of the Merger* beginning on page .

---

**Table of Contents**

**RISK FACTORS**

*In addition to the other information included in this proxy statement/prospectus, you should consider carefully the risk factors described below in deciding how to vote. You should keep these risk factors in mind when you read forward-looking statements in this document. Please refer to the section of this proxy statement/prospectus titled *Caution About Forward-Looking Statements* at page .*

**Because the market price of SI Financial common stock will fluctuate, Newport Bancorp shareholders cannot be sure of the market value of the merger consideration they will receive.**

Upon closing of the merger, each share of Newport Bancorp common stock will be converted at the election of the shareholder into the right to receive either 1.5129 shares of SI Financial common stock or \$17.55 in cash. The exchange ratio is fixed in the agreement and plan of merger and will not be adjusted for changes in the market price of either SI Financial's common stock or Newport Bancorp's common stock. The market value of the merger consideration may vary from the closing price of SI Financial common stock on the date we announced the merger, on the date that this document was mailed to Newport Bancorp stockholders, on the date of the annual meeting of the Newport Bancorp stockholders and on the date we complete the merger. Therefore, at the time of the annual meeting, Newport Bancorp shareholders will not know or be able to calculate the market value of the SI Financial common stock they will receive upon completion of the merger. For example, based on the range of closing prices of SI Financial common stock during the period from March 5, 2013, the last trading day before public announcement of the merger, through , 2013, the last practicable date before the date of this document, the exchange ratio represented a market value ranging from a low of \$ to a high of \$ for each share of Newport Bancorp common stock.

Stock price changes may result from a variety of factors, including general market and economic conditions, changes in our respective businesses, operations and prospects, and regulatory considerations.

**Newport Bancorp shareholders may receive a form of consideration different from what they elect.**

The consideration to be received by Newport Bancorp shareholders in the merger is subject to the requirement that 50% of the shares of Newport Bancorp common stock is exchanged for SI Financial common stock and 50% is exchanged for cash. The agreement and plan of merger contains proration and allocation procedures to achieve this desired result. If you elect all cash and the available cash is oversubscribed, then you will receive a portion of the merger consideration in SI Financial common stock. If you elect all stock and the available stock is oversubscribed, then you will receive a portion of the merger consideration in cash. The type of consideration you receive may also be affected by the requirement that the value of the stock portion of the merger consideration is equal to at least 40% of the total value of the merger consideration.

**SI Financial may be unable to successfully integrate Newport Bancorp's operations and retain Newport Bancorp's employees.**

The merger involves the integration of two companies that have previously operated independently. The difficulties of combining the operations of the two companies include, among other things: integrating personnel with diverse business backgrounds; combining different corporate cultures; and retaining key employees.

The process of integrating operations could cause an interruption of, or loss of momentum in, the activities of the business and the loss of key personnel. The integration of the two companies will require the experience and expertise of certain key employees of Newport Bancorp who are expected to be retained by SI Financial. SI Financial may not be successful in retaining these employees for the time period necessary to successfully integrate Newport Bancorp's operations with those of SI Financial. The diversion of management's attention and any delays or difficulties encountered in connection with the merger and the integration of the two companies' operations could have an adverse effect on the business and results of operations of SI Financial following the merger.

---

**Table of Contents**

Additionally, SI Financial may not be able to successfully achieve the level of cost savings, revenue enhancements, and other synergies that it expects, and may not be able to capitalize upon the existing customer relationships of Newport Bancorp to the extent anticipated, or it may take longer, or be more difficult or expensive than expected, to achieve these goals. This could have an adverse affect on SI Financial's business, results of operation and stock price.

**The termination fee and the restrictions on solicitation contained in the agreement and plan of merger may discourage other companies from trying to acquire Newport Bancorp.**

Until the completion of the merger, with certain exceptions, Newport Bancorp is prohibited from soliciting, initiating, encouraging or taking any other action to facilitate any inquiries, discussions or the making of any proposals that may lead to an acquisition proposal, such as a merger or other business combination transaction, with any person other than SI Financial. In addition, Newport Bancorp has agreed to pay a termination fee to SI Financial in specified circumstances. These provisions could discourage other companies from trying to acquire Newport Bancorp even though those other companies might be willing to offer greater value to Newport Bancorp's shareholders than SI Financial has offered in the merger.

**Certain of Newport Bancorp's officers and directors have interests that are different from, or in addition to, interests of Newport Bancorp's shareholders generally.**

The directors and officers of Newport Bancorp have interests in the merger that are different from, or in addition to, the interests of Newport Bancorp shareholders generally. These include: (1) employment and change in control agreements for officers of Newport Bancorp and Newport Federal that provide for cash severance payments and continued health insurance benefits upon completion of the merger; (2) a supplemental executive retirement plan for officers of Newport Bancorp and Newport Federal, which provides for a lump sum cash payment in connection with a change in control; (3) the accelerated vesting of Mr. Moscardi's normal retirement benefit under a supplemental executive retirement agreement; (4) consulting and noncompetition agreements entered into with Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi as a part of the merger; (5) a cash payment in connection with the termination of all outstanding Newport Bancorp stock options; (6) the acceleration of vesting of all outstanding restricted stock awards; (7) accelerated vesting of the normal retirement pension for certain non-employee directors under their supplemental director retirement agreements; (8) the appointment of Mr. McCarthy and two other members of Newport Bancorp's board of directors to the boards of directors of SI Financial and Savings Institute immediately following the merger; and (9) provisions in the agreement and plan of merger relating to indemnification of directors and officers and insurance for directors and officers of Newport Bancorp for events occurring before the merger.

For a more detailed discussion of these interests, see *Description of the Merger Interests of Certain Persons in the Merger* beginning on page .

**Failure to complete the merger could negatively impact the stock prices and future businesses and financial results of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp.**

There can be no assurance that the merger will become effective. If the merger is not completed, the ongoing businesses of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp may be adversely affected and SI Financial and Newport Bancorp will be subject to a number of risks, including the following:

SI Financial and Newport Bancorp will be required to pay certain costs relating to the merger, whether or not the merger is completed, such as legal, accounting, financial advisor, proxy solicitation and printing fees;

under the agreement and plan of merger, Newport Bancorp is subject to restrictions on the conduct of its business before completing the merger, which may adversely affect its ability to execute certain of its business strategies if the merger is terminated; and

## **Table of Contents**

matters relating to the merger may require substantial commitments of time and resources by SI Financial and Newport Bancorp management, which could otherwise have been devoted to other opportunities that may have been beneficial to SI Financial and Newport Bancorp as independent companies, as the case may be.

In addition, if the merger is not completed, SI Financial and/or Newport Bancorp may experience negative reactions from the financial markets and from their respective customers and employees. SI Financial and/or Newport Bancorp also could be subject to litigation related to any failure to complete the merger or to proceedings commenced by SI Financial or Newport Bancorp against the other seeking damages or to compel the other to perform their obligations under the agreement and plan of merger. These factors and similar risks could have an adverse effect on the results of operation, business and stock prices of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp.

**Both SI Financial and Newport Bancorp shareholders will have a reduced ownership and voting interest after the merger and will exercise less influence over management of the combined organization.**

Each of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp shareholders currently have the right to vote in the election of their respective board of directors and on various other matters affecting their respective company. Upon the completion of the merger, Newport Bancorp's shareholders will become shareholders of SI Financial with a percentage ownership of the combined organization that is substantially smaller than such shareholders' percentage ownership of Newport Bancorp. Further, because shares of SI Financial common stock will be issued to existing Newport Bancorp shareholders, the shareholders of SI Financial will have their ownership and voting interests diluted approximately 20.0%.

**Newport Bancorp shareholders who make elections may be unable to sell their shares in the market pending the completion of the merger.**

Newport Bancorp shareholders may elect to receive cash, stock or mixed consideration in the merger by completing an election form that will be sent under separate cover. Making an election will require that shareholders turn in their Newport Bancorp stock certificates. This means that during the time between when the election is made and the date the merger is completed, Newport Bancorp shareholders will be unable to sell their Newport Bancorp common stock. If the merger is unexpectedly delayed, this period could extend for a significant period of time. Newport Bancorp shareholders can shorten the period during which they cannot sell their shares by delivering their election shortly before the election deadline. However, elections received after the election deadline will not be accepted or honored.

**The fairness opinions obtained by each of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp from their respective financial advisors will not reflect changes in circumstances after the date of the fairness opinion.**

KBW and Loomis & Co., SI Financial's financial advisors, in connection with the merger, have delivered to the board of directors of SI Financial their respective opinion dated as of March 5, 2013. Sandler O'Neill, Newport Bancorp's financial advisor in connection with the merger, has delivered to the board of directors of Newport Bancorp its opinion dated as of March 5, 2013. The opinions of the respective financial advisors state that as of the respective date of each opinion, and based upon and subject to the factors and assumptions set forth therein, the merger consideration to be paid to the holders of the outstanding shares of Newport Bancorp common stock pursuant to the agreement and plan of merger was fair from a financial point of view to SI Financial and Newport Bancorp, respectively. The opinions do not reflect changes that may occur or may have occurred after the date of such opinions, including changes to the operations and prospects of SI Financial or Newport Bancorp, changes in general market and economic conditions or regulatory or other factors. Any such changes, or changes in other factors on which each opinion is based, may materially alter or affect the estimated valuation conclusions reached in such opinions for SI Financial and Newport Bancorp.

**Table of Contents**

**CAUTION ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Certain statements contained in this document that are not historical facts may constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Exchange Act, and are intended to be covered by the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The sections of this document which contain forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, *Questions And Answers About the Merger and the Shareholder Meetings*, *Summary*, *Risk Factors*, *Description of the Merger* Background of the Merger, *Description of the Merger* *SI Financial's Reasons for the Merger*, and *Description of the Merger* Background of and Newport Bancorp's Reasons for the Merger. You can identify these statements from the use of the words may, will, should, could, would, plan, potential, estimate, project, believe, intend, anticipate, expect, target and similar expressions.

These forward-looking statements are subject to significant risks, assumptions and uncertainties, including among other things, changes in general economic and business conditions and the risks and other factors set forth in the *Risk Factors* section beginning on page , and those set forth under the caption Risk Factors in SI Financial's and Newport Bancorp's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 and other reports filed by SI Financial and Newport Bancorp with the SEC.

Because of these and other uncertainties, SI Financial's actual results, performance or achievements, or industry results, may be materially different from the results indicated by these forward-looking statements. In addition, SI Financial's and Newport Bancorp's past results of operations do not necessarily indicate SI Financial's and Newport Bancorp's combined future results. You should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the dates on which they were made. Neither Newport Bancorp or SI Financial is undertaking an obligation to update these forward-looking statements, even though their situations may change in the future, except as required under federal securities law. SI Financial and Newport Bancorp qualify all of their forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements.

We also discuss additional factors that could affect the financial condition, results of operations, liquidity or capital resources of SI Financial or Newport Bancorp before or after the merger. See *Information About Newport Bancorp* and *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of Newport Bancorp* included in this proxy statement/prospectus regarding Newport Bancorp and see *Where You Can Find More Information* for a list of SI Financial documents incorporated by reference.

**Table of Contents****SELECTED HISTORICAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

The following tables present selected consolidated financial information for SI Financial and for Newport Bancorp at and for the dates indicated. The summary financial information for SI Financial is derived from and should be read in connection with the audited consolidated financial statements of SI Financial, which are presented in prior filings made with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which are incorporated by reference into this document. See *Where You Can Find More Information* on page . The summary financial information for Newport Bancorp is derived from and should be read in connection with the audited consolidated financial statements of Newport Bancorp, which appear elsewhere in this proxy statement/prospectus.

**Selected Historical Financial Data of SI Financial**

	At or For the Three Months Ended March 31,		At or For the Year Ended December 31,				2008
	2013	2012	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
	(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)						
<b>FINANCIAL CONDITION DATA</b>							
Total assets	\$ 957,178	\$ 974,032	\$ 953,250	\$ 955,047	\$ 926,409	\$ 872,354	\$ 853,122
Cash and cash equivalents	35,251	57,788	37,689	48,412	78,321	24,204	23,203
Securities available for sale	196,101	232,519	176,513	230,814	180,036	183,562	162,699
Loans receivable, net	671,770	632,198	685,163	618,626	606,214	607,692	617,263
Deposits (1)	714,895	722,937	708,355	705,217	664,139	662,378	624,276
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	96,069	100,069	98,069	100,069	114,169	116,100	139,600
Junior subordinated debt owed to unconsolidated trust	8,248	8,248	8,248	8,248	8,248	8,248	8,248
Total shareholders' equity	125,715	131,581	125,759	130,517	81,104	77,462	72,927
<b>OPERATING DATA</b>							
Net interest income	\$ 6,345	\$ 6,670	\$ 26,191	\$ 26,443	\$ 26,051	\$ 24,524	\$ 24,040
Provision for loan losses	135	484	2,896	1,558	902	2,830	1,369
Noninterest income	2,440	2,761	8,717	11,127	10,685	10,181	3,136
Noninterest expenses	8,581	8,350	30,653	32,592	31,518	31,405	30,040
Income tax provision (benefit)	146	194	241	1,003	1,313	35	(1,360)
Net (loss) income	(77)	403	1,118	2,417	3,003	435	(2,873)
<b>COMMON SHARE DATA(2)</b>							
Basic and diluted (loss) earnings per share	\$ (0.01)	\$ 0.04	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.04	\$ (0.28)
Dividends declared per share	0.03	0.03	0.12	0.12	0.09		0.16
Book value per share	12.43	12.44	12.44	12.34	7.67	7.32	6.88
Outstanding shares	10,111,757	10,575,776	10,112,310	10,576,302	10,577,369	10,587,882	10,597,979
<b>KEY OPERATING RATIOS</b>							
(Loss) return on average assets	(0.03)%	0.17%	0.12%	0.26%	0.34%	0.05%	(0.34)%
(Loss) return on average equity	(0.25)	1.23	0.86	1.85	3.70	0.58	(3.71)
Interest rate spread	2.59	2.66	2.63	2.67	2.88	2.67	2.61
Net interest margin	2.84	2.94	2.88	2.96	3.12	2.98	3.00
Noninterest expenses to average assets	3.65	3.49	3.21	3.44	3.55	3.61	3.55
Dividend payout ratio	(372.73)	74.44	104.74	49.28	13.49	41.61	(25.63)
Efficiency ratio	97.71	91.26	88.19	87.54	86.71	90.64	88.72
Allowance for loan losses as a percent of total loans	0.94	0.85	0.93	0.80	0.79	0.80	0.97
	1.32	1.79	1.11	1.70	0.81	0.49	1.50

Edgar Filing: SI Financial Group, Inc. - Form S-4/A

Non-performing loans to total loans							
Non-performing assets to total assets	1.04	1.21	0.94	1.21	0.67	0.77	1.09
Allowance for loan losses as a percent of non-performing loans	70.83	47.26	83.45	46.93	97.44	162.65	64.83
Net charge-offs to average loans outstanding during the year	0.11	0.05	0.22	0.22	0.16	0.64	0.09
Average equity to average assets	13.27	13.71	13.59	13.80	9.14	8.68	9.16
<b>CAPITAL RATIOS (Bank only)</b>							
Total risk-based capital ratio	21.15%	22.30%	21.41%	22.21%	15.34%	14.30%	13.32%
Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio	19.90	21.10	20.20	21.09	14.40	13.36	12.33
Tier 1 capital ratio	11.10	10.76	11.08	10.86	7.81	8.02	7.59

- (1) Includes mortgagors and investors escrow accounts.
- (2) On January 12, 2011, SI Financial converted from the mutual holding company to stock holding company form of organization. Concurrent with the completion of the conversion, each share of the former SI Financial's outstanding common stock held by public shareholders was exchanged for 0.8981 shares of SI Financial common stock. All share-related information for periods prior to the conversion is converted at that ratio.

**Table of Contents****Selected Historical Financial Data of Newport Bancorp**

	At or For the Three Months Ended March 31,		At or For the Year Ended December 31,				2008
	2013	2012	2012	2011	2010	2009	
(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)							
<b>FINANCIAL CONDITION DATA</b>							
Investment securities	\$ 19,436	\$ 36,860	\$ 22,307	\$ 36,220	\$ 47,021	\$ 51,147	\$ 58,552
Loans, net	356,106	353,543	355,038	348,492	356,049	351,499	333,029
Total assets	430,591	467,535	449,413	453,909	449,685	458,879	432,335
Deposits	281,509	273,080	289,674	264,769	261,050	261,946	229,123
Borrowings	91,321	138,724	102,797	133,696	135,236	141,468	145,438
Stockholders equity	53,965	52,195	53,155	51,654	49,703	51,391	54,313
<b>OPERATING DATA</b>							
Net interest income	\$ 3,400	\$ 3,561	\$ 13,805	\$ 14,934	\$ 15,152	\$ 13,461	\$ 12,056
Provision for loan losses		281	1,019	1,121	956	593	568
Noninterest income	521	543	2,457	2,386	2,183	2,130	1,576
Noninterest expenses	3,533	3,234	13,006	13,967	13,687	13,461	12,916
Income before income taxes	388	589	2,237	2,232	2,692	1,537	148
Net income (loss)	141	402	1,561	1,450	1,800	708	(848)
<b>COMMON SHARE DATA</b>							
Basic earnings (loss) per share	\$ 0.04	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.47	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.52	\$ 0.18	\$ (0.20)
Diluted earnings (loss) per share	0.04	0.12	0.46	0.44	0.52	0.18	(0.20)
Dividends declared per share							
Book value per share	15.22	14.89	15.19	14.73	14.25	13.42	12.86
Outstanding shares	3,544,722	3,506,206	3,499,722	3,506,406	3,488,777	3,830,177	4,222,414
<b>KEY OPERATING RATIOS</b>							
Return (loss) on average assets	0.13%	0.35	0.34%	0.32%	0.40%	0.16%	(0.22)%
Return (loss) on average equity	1.05	3.08	2.96	2.83	3.57	1.34	(1.47)
Interest rate spread	3.32	3.39	3.21	3.49	3.50	2.95	2.76
Net interest margin	3.50	3.55	3.38	3.69	3.72	3.27	3.32
Noninterest expenses to average assets	3.24	2.84	2.80	3.07	3.02	2.99	3.29
Efficiency ratio	90.10	78.80	79.98	80.64	78.96	85.97	90.08
Allowance for loan losses to loans	1.10	1.03	1.12	1.05	1.02	0.98	0.87
Non-performing loans to total loans	0.52	0.84	0.60	0.54	0.03	0.24	
Non-performing assets to total assets	0.44	0.76	0.48	0.42	0.02	0.19	
Allowance for loan losses to non-performing loans	211.08	135.68	186.62	194.19	3,400.00	403.14	N/A
Net charge-offs to average loans	0.04	0.27	0.19	0.31	0.21	0.01	0.01



Edgar Filing: SI Financial Group, Inc. - Form S-4/A

Average equity to average assets	12.31	11.45	11.36	11.25	11.15	11.77	14.66
----------------------------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

**CAPITAL RATIOS  
(Bank only)**

Total risk-based capital ratio	17.42%	16.00%	17.10%	16.00%	15.20%	14.10%	14.30%
Tangible capital ratio	10.58	9.31	10.00	9.50	9.30	8.60	8.90
Leverage capital ratio	10.58	9.31	10.00	9.50	9.30	8.60	8.90

**Table of Contents****SUMMARY SELECTED PRO FORMA COMBINED DATA**

The following tables show selected financial information on a pro forma combined basis giving effect to the merger as if the merger had become effective at the end of the period presented, in the case of balance sheet information, and at the beginning of the period presented, in the case of income statement information. The pro forma information reflects the acquisition method of accounting.

SI Financial anticipates that the merger will provide the combined company with financial benefits that include reduced operating expenses and the opportunity to earn more revenue. The pro forma information, while helpful in illustrating the financial characteristics of SI Financial following the merger under one set of assumptions, does not reflect all of these benefits and, accordingly, does not attempt to predict or suggest future results. The pro forma information also does not necessarily reflect what the historical results of SI Financial would have been had our companies been combined during this period.

An exchange ratio of 1.5129 was used in preparing this selected pro forma information. You should read this selected summary pro forma information in conjunction with the information under *Pro Forma Financial Information* and with the historical information in this document on which it is based.

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2013	Year Ended December 31, 2012
(In thousands, except per share data)		
<b>Pro forma combined income statement data:</b>		
Interest and dividend income	\$ 12,545	\$ 53,414
Interest expense	2,765	13,137
Net interest income	9,780	40,277
Provision for loan losses	135	3,915
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	9,645	36,362
Noninterest income	2,961	11,174
Noninterest expenses (1)	11,031	44,243
Income before income taxes	1,575	3,293
Income tax expense	520	814
Net income	\$ 1,055	\$ 2,479
<b>Pro forma per share data:</b>		
Basic earnings per share	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.20
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.20
<b>At March 31, 2013</b>		
(In thousands)		
<b>Pro forma combined balance sheet data:</b>		
Total assets		\$ 1,382,933
Loans receivable, net		1,024,996
Deposits		995,527
Borrowings		205,984
Total shareholders' equity		155,410

(1) Excludes merger-related transaction costs incurred in the three months ended March 31, 2013 of \$1.2 million (pre-tax).



**Table of Contents****COMPARATIVE PER SHARE DATA**

The following table shows information about SI Financial's and Newport Bancorp's earnings per common share, dividends per share and book value per share, and similar information giving effect to the merger (which we refer to as pro forma information). In presenting the comparative pro forma information for the time periods shown, we assumed that we had been merged on the date or at the beginning of the period indicated.

The information listed as pro forma combined was prepared using an exchange ratio of 1.5129. The information listed as per equivalent Newport Bancorp share was obtained by multiplying the pro forma amounts by an exchange ratio of 1.5129. We present this information to reflect that some Newport Bancorp shareholders will receive shares of SI Financial common stock for each share of Newport Bancorp common stock exchanged in the merger. SI Financial anticipates that the combined company will derive financial benefits from the merger that include reduced operating expenses and the opportunity to earn more revenue. The pro forma combined information, while helpful in illustrating the financial characteristics of SI Financial following the merger under one set of assumptions, does not reflect these benefits and, accordingly, does not attempt to predict or suggest future results. The pro forma combined information also does not necessarily reflect what the historical results of SI Financial would have been had our companies been combined during this period.

The information in the following table is based on, and should be read together with, the historical financial information that we have presented in this document.

	SI Financial Historical	Newport Bancorp Historical	Pro Forma Combined (1) (2)	Per Equivalent Newport Bancorp Share
<b>Book value per share:</b>				
At March 31, 2013	\$ 12.43	\$ 15.22	\$ 12.17	\$ 18.41
<b>Cash dividends declared per share:</b>				
Three Months ended March 31, 2013	0.03		0.03	0.05
Year ended December 31, 2012	0.12		0.12	0.18
<b>Basic earnings (loss) per share:</b>				
Three Months ended March 31, 2013	(0.01)	0.04	0.09	0.14
Year ended December 31, 2012	0.11	0.47	0.20	0.30
<b>Diluted earnings (loss) per share:</b>				
Three Months ended March 31, 2013	(0.01)	0.04	0.09	0.14
Year ended December 31, 2012	0.11	0.46	0.20	0.30

- (1) Pro forma dividends per share represent SI Financial's historical dividends per share.
- (2) The pro forma combined book value per share of SI Financial common stock is based upon the pro forma combined common shareholders equity for SI Financial and Newport Bancorp divided by total pro forma common shares of the combined entities.

**Table of Contents****MARKET PRICE AND DIVIDEND INFORMATION**

SI Financial common stock is listed on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol SIFI . Newport Bancorp common stock is quoted on The Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol NFSB . The following table lists the high and low prices per share for SI Financial common stock and for Newport Bancorp common stock and the cash dividends declared by each company for the periods indicated.

Quarter Ended	SI Financial Common Stock			Newport Bancorp Common Stock		
	High	Low	Dividends	High	Low	Dividends
June 30, 2013 (through , 2013)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
March 31, 2013	12.29	11.44	0.03	17.53	15.42	
December 31, 2012	\$ 11.82	\$ 10.76	\$ 0.03	\$ 17.25	\$ 15.20	\$
September 30, 2012	11.90	11.08	0.03	14.85	13.70	
June 30, 2012	11.75	10.38	0.03	14.19	13.25	
March 31, 2012	11.59	9.69	0.03	14.07	12.47	
December 31, 2011	\$ 9.90	\$ 8.76	\$ 0.03	\$ 13.39	\$ 12.25	\$
September 30, 2011	10.38	9.01	0.03	14.03	12.00	
June 30, 2011	10.53	9.67	0.03	14.48	13.41	
March 31, 2011	10.50	8.50	0.03	14.45	11.71	

You should obtain current market quotations for SI Financial and Newport Bancorp common stock, as the market price of SI Financial common stock will fluctuate between the date of this document and the date on which the merger is completed, and thereafter. You can get these quotations from a newspaper, on the Internet or by calling your broker.

As of [Record Date], there were approximately 922 holders of record of SI Financial common stock. As of [Record Date], there were approximately holders of record of Newport Bancorp common stock. These numbers do not reflect the number of persons or entities who may hold their stock in nominee or street name through brokerage firms.

Following the merger, the declaration of dividends will be at the discretion of SI Financial's board of directors and will be determined after consideration of various factors, including earnings, cash requirements, the financial condition of SI Financial, applicable state law and government regulations and other factors deemed relevant by SI Financial's board of directors.

**Table of Contents**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF SI FINANCIAL SHAREHOLDERS**

This proxy statement/prospectus is being provided to holders of SI Financial common stock as SI Financial's proxy statement in connection with the solicitation of proxies by and on behalf of its board of directors to be voted at the annual meeting of SI Financial shareholders to be held on [Meeting Date], and at any adjournment or postponement of the annual meeting.

**Date, Time and Place of Meeting**

The special meeting is scheduled to be held as follows:

Date: [Meeting Date]

Time: .m., Eastern time

Place: [SI Meeting Place], [SI Meeting Address], Willimantic, Connecticut

**Purpose of the Meeting**

At the annual meeting, SI Financial's shareholders will be asked to:

Approve the agreement and plan of merger, pursuant to which Newport Bancorp will merge with and into SI Financial, with SI Financial surviving the merger, and each outstanding share of Newport Bancorp common stock will be converted into the right to receive at the election of each holder of Newport Bancorp common stock, either \$17.55 in cash or 1.5129 shares of SI Financial common stock, subject to proration and adjustment.

Approve a proposal, if necessary, to adjourn the annual meeting to permit the further solicitation of proxies if there are not sufficient votes at the time of the annual meeting to achieve a quorum or approve the agreement and plan of merger and the merger.

Approve a non-binding advisory resolution approving the compensation of SI Financial's named executive officers.

Elect two directors for a term of three years or until their respective successors are elected and qualified.

Ratify the appointment of Wolf & Company, P.C. as independent auditors for SI Financial for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013.

Transact any other business that may properly come before the special meeting or any postponement or adjournment of the special meeting.

**Who Can Vote at the Meeting**

You are entitled to vote if the records of SI Financial showed that you held shares of SI Financial common stock as of the close of business on [Record Date]. Beneficial owners of shares held in the name of a broker, bank or other nominee (street name) should instruct their recordholder how to vote their shares. As of the close of business on the record date, a total of 10,111,757 shares of SI Financial common stock were outstanding. Each share of common stock has one vote on each matter presented to shareholders. If you are a beneficial owner of shares of SI Financial common stock held in street name and you want to vote your shares in person at the meeting, you will have to get a written proxy in your name from the broker, bank or other nominee who holds your shares.

**Quorum; Vote Required**

The annual meeting will conduct business only if a majority of the outstanding shares of SI Financial common stock entitled to vote is represented in person or by proxy at the meeting. If you return valid proxy

## **Table of Contents**

instructions or attend the meeting in person, your shares will be counted to determine whether there is a quorum, even if you abstain from voting. Broker non-votes also will be counted to determine the existence of a quorum. A broker non-vote occurs when a broker, bank or other nominee holding shares of SI Financial common stock for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular proposal because the nominee does not have discretionary voting power with respect to that item and has not received voting instructions from the beneficial owner.

Approval and adoption of the agreement and plan of merger will require the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of SI Financial common stock entitled to vote at the meeting. **Failure to return a properly executed proxy card or to vote in person will have the same effect as a vote against the agreement and plan of merger. Broker non-votes and abstentions from voting will have the same effect as voting against the agreement and plan of merger.**

The affirmative vote of the majority of votes cast is required if necessary to permit further solicitation of proxies on the proposal to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger, the non-binding advisory vote on the compensation payable to the named executive officers of SI Financial and to ratify the appointment of the auditors for the year ended December 31, 2013. Broker non-votes and abstentions will not be voted as votes cast and will have no effect on the voting of these proposals.

In voting on the election of directors, you may vote in favor of the nominees, withhold votes as to any nominee or withhold votes as to all nominees. There is no cumulative voting for the election of directors. Directors must be elected by a plurality of the votes cast at the annual meeting. This means that the nominees receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected. Votes withheld and broker non-votes will have no effect on the vote for the election of directors.

If you return an incomplete instruction card to your broker, bank or other nominee, that nominee will not vote your shares with respect to any matter except for the ratification of the independent auditors. SI Financial's board of directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR approval and adoption of the agreement and plan of merger, FOR approval of the proposal to adjourn the meeting if necessary to permit further solicitation of proxies on the proposal to approve the agreement and plan of merger, FOR the approval of the compensation payable to the named executive officers of SI Financial, FOR the election of directors and FOR the ratification of the appointment of independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013.

### **Shares Held by SI Financial Officers and Directors and by Newport Bancorp**

As of [Record Date], directors and executive officers of SI Financial beneficially owned 429,370 shares of SI Financial common stock. This equals 4.2% of the outstanding shares of SI Financial common stock. As of the same date, neither Newport Bancorp nor any its subsidiaries, directors or executive officers owned any shares of SI Financial common stock.

### **Voting and Revocability of Proxies**

You may vote in person at the annual meeting or by proxy. To ensure your representation at the annual meeting, SI Financial recommends that you vote by proxy even if you plan to attend the annual meeting. You can always change your vote at the annual meeting.

SI Financial shareholders whose shares are held in street name by their broker, bank or other nominee must follow the instructions provided by their broker, bank or other nominee to vote their shares. Your broker or bank may allow you to deliver your voting instructions via the telephone or the Internet. If your shares are held in street name and you wish to vote in person at the annual meeting, you will have to obtain a legal proxy from your recordholder entitling you to vote at the annual meeting.

Voting instructions are included on your proxy form. If you properly complete and timely submit your proxy, your shares will be voted as you have directed. You may vote for, against, or abstain with respect to the



---

**Table of Contents**

approval and adoption of the agreement and plan of merger. If you are the record holder of your shares of SI Financial common stock and submit your proxy without specifying a voting instruction, your shares of SI Financial common stock will be voted FOR the proposal to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger and FOR the proposal to adjourn the meeting if necessary to permit further solicitation of proxies on the proposal to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger, FOR the approval of the resolution approving the compensation payable to the named executive officers of SI Financial, FOR, election of directors and FOR the ratification of the appointment of independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013. If you return an incomplete instruction card to your broker, bank or other nominee, that nominee will not vote your shares with respect to any matter except for the ratification of the independent auditors. SI Financial's board of directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR approval and adoption of the agreement and plan of merger, FOR approval of the proposal to adjourn the meeting if necessary to permit further solicitation of proxies on the proposal to approve the agreement and plan of merger, FOR the approval of the compensation payable to the named executive officers of SI Financial, FOR the election of directors and FOR the ratification of the appointment of independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013.

You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted by:

filing with the Corporate Secretary of SI Financial a duly executed revocation of proxy;

submitting a new proxy with a later date; or

voting in person at the annual meeting.

Attendance at the annual meeting will not, in and of itself, constitute a revocation of a proxy. All written notices of revocation and other communication with respect to the revocation of proxies should be addressed to:

SI Financial Group, Inc.

Laurie L. Gervais, Corporate Secretary

803 Main Street

Willimantic, Connecticut 06226

If any matters not described in this document are properly presented at the annual meeting, the persons named in the proxy card will use their own judgment to determine how to vote your shares. SI Financial does not know of any other matters to be presented at the meeting.

**Participants in the ESOP, 401(k) Plan and Equity Incentive Plans**

If you participate in the Savings Institute Bank and Trust Company Employee Stock Ownership Plan, or the ESOP, or if you invest in SI Financial common stock through the stock fund in the Savings Institute Bank and Trust Company Profit Sharing and 401(k) Savings Plan, or the 401(k) Plan, you will receive a voting instruction card for each plan that will reflect all the shares that you may direct the trustees to vote on your behalf under the respective plans. Under the terms of the ESOP, all allocated shares of SI Financial common stock held by the ESOP are voted by the ESOP trustee, as directed by plan participants. All unallocated shares of SI Financial common stock held by the ESOP and all allocated shares for which no timely voting instructions are received are voted by the ESOP trustee in the same proportion as shares for which the trustee received voting instructions from other plan participants, subject to the exercise of its fiduciary duties. Under the terms of the 401(k) Plan, participants may direct the Stock Fund trustee how to vote the shares credited to their accounts. The Stock Fund trustee will vote all shares for which it does not receive timely instructions from participants in the same proportion as shares for which the trustee received voting instructions from other plan participants. Under the SI Financial Group, Inc. 2005 Equity Incentive Plan and the SI Financial Group, Inc. 2012 Equity Incentive Plan, participants may direct the plan trustee how to vote the unvested shares of restricted stock awards. The plan trustee will vote all shares held in the trust for which it does not receive timely instructions as directed by SI Financial. **The deadline for returning your voting instruction cards is , 2013.**



## **Table of Contents**

### **Solicitation of Proxies**

SI Financial will pay for this proxy solicitation. In addition to soliciting proxies by mail, AST Phoenix Advisors, a proxy solicitation firm, will assist SI Financial in soliciting proxies for the annual meeting. SI Financial will pay \$6,000 for these services plus out-of-pocket expenses. Additionally, directors, officers and employees of SI Financial may solicit proxies personally and by telephone. None of these persons will receive additional or special compensation for soliciting proxies. SI Financial will, upon request, reimburse brokers, banks and other nominees for their expenses in sending proxy materials to their customers who are beneficial owners and obtaining their voting instructions.

### **PROPOSAL NO. 1**

#### **APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER**

At SI Financial's annual meeting of shareholders, shareholders will consider and vote on a proposal to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger. Details about the merger, including each party's reasons for the merger, the effect of approval and adoption of the agreement and plan of merger and the timing of effectiveness of the merger, are discussed in the section entitled *Description of The Merger* beginning on page of this document.

Approval of the merger proposal requires the presence of a quorum and the affirmative vote of the holders of at a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock of SI Financial entitled to vote at the meeting.

**SI Financial board of directors unanimously recommends**

**that SI Financial shareholders vote FOR**

**approval and adoption of the agreement and plan of merger and the merger.**

### **PROPOSAL NO. 2**

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF THE SPECIAL MEETING**

If there are insufficient proxies at the time of the meeting to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger, the SI Financial shareholders may be asked to vote on a proposal to adjourn the meeting to a later date to allow additional time to solicit additional proxies. The SI Financial board does not currently intend to propose adjournment at the meeting if there are sufficient votes to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger (Proposal No. 1).

**SI Financial board of directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR**

**approval of the adjournment of the shareholder meeting if necessary**

**to solicit additional proxies in favor of the approval and adoption of the agreement and plan of merger.**

### **PROPOSAL NO. 3**

#### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

SI Financial's board of directors consists of seven members. The board is divided into three classes with three-year staggered terms, with approximately one-third of the directors elected each year. The board of directors' nominees for election this year, to serve for a three-year term or until their respective successors have been elected and qualified, are Rheo A. Brouillard and Roger Engle.

## **Table of Contents**

It is intended that the proxies solicited by the board of directors will be voted for the election of the nominees named above. If either nominee is unable to serve, the persons named in the proxy card will vote your shares to approve the election of any substitute nominee proposed by the board of directors. At this time, the board of directors knows of no reason why either nominee might be unable to serve.

**The board of directors recommends a vote FOR the election of both of the nominees.**

Information regarding the nominees and the directors continuing in office is provided below. Unless otherwise stated, each individual has held his or her current occupation for the last five years. The age indicated in each individual's biography is as of December 31, 2012. There are no family relationships among the directors or executive officers. The indicated period for service as a director includes service as a director of Savings Institute.

### **Board Nominees for Terms Ending in 2016**

*Rheo A. Brouillard* has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of Savings Institute and SI Financial since 1995 and 2004, respectively. Age 58. Director since 1995.

Mr. Brouillard's extensive experience in the local banking industry and involvement in business and civic organizations in the communities in which Savings Institute serves affords the Board valuable insight regarding the business and operations of Savings Institute. Mr. Brouillard's knowledge of SI Financial's and Savings Institute's business and history, position him well to continue to serve as President and Chief Executive Officer.

*Roger Engle* was the President of The Crystal Water Company, a water supplier located in Danielson, Connecticut, from 1973 until his retirement in 2000. Mr. Engle served as the First Selectman for the town of Brooklyn, Connecticut from November 2005 until November 2009. As First Selectman, Mr. Engle oversaw all functions of the town, including the budgeting process, issuance of bonds and maintenance of public infrastructure. He was also a director of Connecticut Water Service, Inc. (NASDAQ: CTWS), which delivers water to customers throughout 42 towns in Connecticut and Massachusetts, from 2000 to 2005. Age 74. Director since 1998.

Mr. Engle's experience as President of The Crystal Water Company and First Selectman provides the Board valuable management level experience, including insight into the budget process. In addition, Mr. Engle's continued involvement in community organizations and local political matters is a vital component of a well-rounded board.

### **Directors with Terms Ending in 2014**

*Mark D. Alliod* is the President and sole owner of Mark D. Alliod CPA PC, a public accounting firm in South Windsor, Connecticut. Age 49. Director since 2005.

Mr. Alliod provides expertise with regard to tax, financial and accounting matters. Also, as owner of an accounting firm, Mr. Alliod brings small business knowledge and management experience. He has the background to qualify as SI Financial's audit committee financial expert.

*Michael R. Garvey* is a principal and owner of the public accounting firm of Garvey & Associates, LLC, which provides audit and tax services throughout Connecticut. As a principal of an accounting firm, Mr. Garvey is responsible for monitoring the firm's risk management, strategic plan and overall firm operations. Mr. Garvey is also a principal and owner of Professional Payrolls, LLC, which provides payroll processing services to small, local businesses in New London, Connecticut. Age 48. Director since 2007.

## **Table of Contents**

Mr. Garvey is a certified public accountant and has the financial background and expertise in financial accounting, auditing and tax matters to qualify as an audit committee financial expert. In addition, Mr. Garvey possesses substantial small company management experience as the owner of Professional Payrolls, LLC.

*Robert O. Gillard* is the Chairman and owner of the O.L. Willard Company, Inc., a material supply company with locations in Storrs and Willimantic, Connecticut. Age 66. Director since 1999.

Mr. Gillard's career as a small business executive provides SI Financial with organizational understanding and expertise. Further, through his business, Mr. Gillard has gained comprehensive knowledge of the homebuilding industry throughout Eastern Connecticut, which aids the Board in its oversight of the lending function. In addition, as an active member of the community, including being a member of the Design Review Subcommittee of the Mansfield Planning Board and his previous service on the Greater Windham Community Foundation, Mr. Gillard is knowledgeable of the local consumer environment.

### **Directors with Terms Ending in 2015**

*Donna M. Evan* is a Sales Manager for WILI AM/FM, a commercial radio station located in Willimantic, Connecticut. Her responsibilities include working with local and regional businesses to market products and services, soliciting business from local and regional businesses and communicating with advertising agencies to coordinate advertising for national clients. Age 64. Director since 1996.

Ms. Evan brings significant business and management level experience from a setting outside of the financial services industry. In addition, through her business experience, Ms. Evan has gained significant marketing knowledge and valuable insight into current buying trends and the local economic environment, adding additional value to the Board.

*Henry P. Hinckley* is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of SI Financial and Savings Institute. Mr. Hinckley also was the President and owner of J.P. Mustard Agency, Inc., an insurance agency located in Willimantic, Connecticut until his retirement in June 2012. Age 72. Director since 1984.

Mr. Hinckley provides the Board with significant local marketing and sales insight and managerial and operational knowledge through his experience as president of an insurance agency. Mr. Hinckley has considerable experience in the insurance industry and the related risk assessment practice area necessary in banking operations.

### **PROPOSAL NO. 4**

#### **RATIFICATION OF THE INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit and Risk Committee of the board of directors has appointed Wolf & Company, P.C. to be SI Financial's independent registered public accounting firm for 2013, subject to ratification by shareholders. A representative of Wolf & Company, P.C. is expected to be present at the annual meeting to respond to appropriate questions from shareholders and will have the opportunity to make a statement should he or she desire to do so.

If the ratification of the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm is not approved by a majority of the votes cast, the Audit and Risk Committee of the board of directors may consider other independent registered public accounting firms.

**The board of directors recommends a vote FOR the ratification of the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm.**

## **Table of Contents**

### **Audit and Risk Committee Report**

SI Financial's management is responsible for SI Financial's internal control over financial reporting. SI Financial's independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for performing an independent audit of SI Financial's consolidated financial statements and issuing an opinion on the conformity of those financial statements with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The independent registered public accounting firm is also responsible for issuing an opinion on SI Financial's internal control over financial reporting based on criteria issued by the Committee on Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Audit and Risk Committee oversees SI Financial's internal control over financial reporting on behalf of the board of directors.

In this context, the Audit and Risk Committee has met and held discussions with management and the independent registered public accounting firm. Management represented to the Audit and Risk Committee that SI Financial's consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and the Audit and Risk Committee has reviewed and discussed the consolidated financial statements with management and SI Financial's independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit and Risk Committee discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended (AICPA, *Professional Standards*, Vol. 1 AU Section 380), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3200T, including the quality, not just the acceptability, of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments and the clarity of the disclosures in the consolidated financial statements.

In addition, the Audit and Risk Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent registered public accounting firm required by the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent registered public accounting firm's communications with the Audit and Risk Committee concerning independence and has discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the firm's independence from SI Financial and its management. In concluding that the independent registered public accounting firm is independent, the Audit and Risk Committee considered, among other factors, whether the non-audit services provided by the firm were compatible with its independence.

The Audit and Risk Committee discussed with SI Financial's independent registered public accounting firm the overall scope and plans for their audit. The Audit and Risk Committee meets with the independent registered public accounting firm, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examination, their evaluation of SI Financial's internal control over financial reporting and the overall quality of SI Financial's financial reporting process.

In performing all of these functions, the Audit and Risk Committee acts only in an oversight capacity. In its oversight role, the Audit and Risk Committee relies on the work and assurances of SI Financial's management, which has the primary responsibility for financial statements and reports, and of the independent registered public accounting firm that, in its report, expresses an opinion on the conformity of SI Financial's consolidated financial statements with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The Audit and Risk Committee's oversight does not provide it with an independent basis to determine that management has maintained appropriate accounting and financial reporting principles or policies, or appropriate internal control over financial reporting designed to assure compliance with accounting standards and applicable laws and regulations. Furthermore, the Audit and Risk Committee's considerations and discussions with management and the independent registered public accounting firm do not assure that SI Financial's consolidated financial statements are presented in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, that the audit of SI Financial's consolidated financial statements has been carried out in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) or that SI Financial's independent registered public accounting firm is independent.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit and Risk Committee recommended to the board of directors, and the Board has approved, that the audited consolidated financial statements be included in SI Financial's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 for filing with the

**Table of Contents**

Securities and Exchange Commission. The Audit and Risk Committee has appointed, subject to stockholder ratification, the selection of SI Financial's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013.

**Audit and Risk Committee of the board of directors**

**of SI Financial Group, Inc.**

Mark D. Alliod Chairperson

Roger Engle

Michael R. Garvey

Robert O. Gillard

**Audit Fees**

The following table sets forth the fees billed to SI Financial for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011 by Wolf & Company, P.C.:

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Audit Fees	\$ 220,081	\$ 221,427
Audit-Related Fees (1)	33,041	32,306
Tax Fees (2)	36,015	35,000
All Other Fees (3)	4,900	

- (1) Represents fees for audits of the 401(k) Plan and the ESOP.
- (2) Represents services rendered for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning, including the preparation of the annual tax returns and quarterly tax payments.
- (3) For 2012, represents services rendered in connection with the filing of a registration statement on Form S-8 for SI Financial's 2012 Equity Incentive Plan and work performed related to acquisition due diligence.

**Policy on Audit and Risk Committee Pre-Approval of Audit and Permissible Non-Audit Services by the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The Audit and Risk Committee is responsible for appointing, setting compensation and overseeing the work of the independent registered public accounting firm. In accordance with its charter, the Audit and Risk Committee approves, in advance, all audit and permissible non-audit services to be performed by the independent registered public accounting firm. Such approval process ensures that the independent registered public accounting firm does not provide any non-audit services to SI Financial that are prohibited by law or regulation.

In addition, the Audit and Risk Committee has established a policy regarding pre-approval of all audit and permissible non-audit services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm. Requests for services by the independent registered public accounting firm for compliance with the policy of auditor services must be specific as to the particular services to be provided.

The request may be made with respect to either specific services or a type of service for predictable or recurring services.

During the year ended December 31, 2012, all services were approved, in advance, by the Audit and Risk Committee in compliance with these procedures.

---

**Table of Contents**

**PROPOSAL NO. 5**

**NON-BINDING ADVISORY VOTE TO APPROVE THE COMPENSATION PAYABLE TO THE NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF SI FINANCIAL**

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Dodd-Frank Act ) requires, among other things, that SI Financial permit a non-binding advisory vote on the compensation of its named executive officers, as described in the tabular disclosure regarding named executive officer compensation and the accompanying narrative disclosure in this proxy statement.

This proposal, commonly known as a say-on-pay proposal, gives SI Financial's stockholders the opportunity to endorse or not endorse SI Financial's executive compensation program and policies through the following resolution:

Resolved, that SI Financial's shareholders approve the compensation paid to SI Financial's named executive officers, as described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis and compensation tables and narrative disclosure in this proxy statement/prospectus.

Because the vote is advisory, it will not be binding upon SI Financial or its board of directors. However, the Compensation Committee will take into account the outcome of the vote when considering future executive compensation arrangements. We urge shareholders to read the Compensation Discussion and Analysis beginning on page and related compensation tables and narrative on page , which provide detailed information on our compensation policies and practices for our named executive officers.

**The board of directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR approval of the compensation of the named executive officers.**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF NEWPORT BANCORP SHAREHOLDERS**

This proxy statement/prospectus is being provided to holders of Newport Bancorp common stock as Newport Bancorp's proxy statement in connection with the solicitation of proxies by and on behalf of its board of directors to be voted at the annual meeting of Newport Bancorp shareholders to be held on [Meeting Date], and at any adjournment or postponement of the annual meeting. This proxy statement/prospectus is also being provided to you as SI Financial's prospectus in connection with the offer and sale by SI Financial of its shares of common stock as a result of the proposed merger.

**Date, Time and Place of Meeting**

The annual meeting is scheduled to be held as follows:

Date: [Meeting Date]

Time: : .m., Eastern time

Place: The [NBI Meeting Place], [NBI Meeting Address], Newport, Rhode Island

**Purpose of the Meeting**

At the annual meeting, Newport Bancorp's shareholders will be asked to:

Approve the agreement and plan of merger, pursuant to which Newport Bancorp will merge with and into SI Financial, with SI Financial surviving the merger, and each outstanding share of Newport



## Table of Contents

Bancorp common stock will be converted into the right to receive at the election of each holder of Newport Bancorp common stock, either \$17.55 in cash or 1.5129 shares of SI Financial common stock.

Approve a proposal, if necessary, to adjourn the annual meeting to permit the further solicitation of proxies if there are not sufficient votes at the time of the special meeting to achieve a quorum or approve the agreement and plan of merger and the merger.

Approve a non-binding advisory resolution approving the compensation that Newport Bancorp's named executive officers will receive in connection with merger.

Elect two directors (the nominees to be elected at the annual meeting will serve until the consummation of the merger, or if the merger is not consummated, for a term of three years and until their respective successors are elected and qualified).

Ratify the appointment of Wolf & Company, P.C. as independent auditors for Newport Bancorp for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013.

Vote on a non-binding advisory resolution approving the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp.

Vote on the frequency of the advisory vote on the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp.

Transact any other business that may properly come before the annual meeting or any postponement or adjournment of the annual meeting.

### **Who Can Vote at the Meeting**

You are entitled to vote if the records of Newport Bancorp showed that you held shares of Newport Bancorp common stock as of the close of business on [Record Date]. Beneficial owners of shares held in the name of a broker, bank or other nominee (street name) should instruct their recordholder how to vote their shares. As of the close of business on the record date, a total of 3,544,722 shares of Newport Bancorp common stock were outstanding. Each share of common stock has one vote on each matter presented to shareholders. If you are a beneficial owner of shares of Newport Bancorp common stock held in street name and you want to vote your shares in person at the meeting, you will have to get a written proxy in your name from the broker, bank or other nominee who holds your shares.

### **Quorum; Vote Required**

The annual meeting will conduct business only if a majority of the outstanding shares of Newport Bancorp common stock entitled to vote is represented in person or by proxy at the meeting. If you return valid proxy instructions or attend the meeting in person, your shares will be counted to determine whether there is a quorum, even if you abstain from voting. Broker non-votes also will be counted to determine the existence of a quorum. A broker non-vote occurs when a broker, bank or other nominee holding shares of Newport Bancorp common stock for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular proposal because the nominee does not have discretionary voting power with respect to that item and has not received voting instructions from the beneficial owner.

Approval and adoption of the agreement and plan of merger will require the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of Newport Bancorp common stock entitled to vote at the meeting. **Failure to return a properly executed proxy card or to vote in person will have the same effect as a vote against the agreement and plan of merger. Broker non-votes and abstentions from voting will have the same effect as voting against the agreement and plan of merger.**

The affirmative vote of the majority of votes cast is required to approve the proposal to adjourn the meeting if necessary to permit further solicitation of proxies on the proposal to approve and adopt the agreement and plan



## **Table of Contents**

of merger, to approve the non-binding advisory vote on the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp in connection with the merger, to ratify the appointment of the independent auditors for the year ending December 31, 2013, and to approve the non-binding advisory vote on the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp.

In voting on the election of directors, you may vote in favor of the nominees, withhold votes as to any nominee or withhold votes as to all nominees. There is no cumulative voting for the election of directors. Directors must be elected by a plurality of the votes cast at the annual meeting. This means that the nominees receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected. Votes withheld and broker non-votes will have no effect on the vote for the election of directors.

In voting on the non-binding proposal with respect to the frequency that stockholders will vote on our executive compensation, a stockholder may: (1) select that stockholders consider the proposal every one year; (2) select that stockholders consider the proposal every two years; (3) select that stockholders consider the proposal every three years; or (4) abstain from voting on the proposal. Generally, approval of any matter presented to stockholders requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast. However, because this vote is advisory and non-binding, if none of the frequency options receive a majority of the votes cast, the option receiving the greatest number of votes will be considered the frequency recommended by our stockholders. Even though this vote will neither be binding on us or the board of directors, or impose any additional fiduciary duty on us or the board of directors, the board of directors will take into account the outcome of this vote in making a determination on the frequency that advisory votes on executive compensation will be included in our proxy statements.

If you return an incomplete instruction card to your broker, bank or other nominee, that nominee will not vote your shares with respect to any matter except for the ratification of the independent auditors. Newport Bancorp's board of directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR approval and adoption of the agreement and plan of merger, FOR approval of the proposal to adjourn the meeting if necessary to permit further solicitation of proxies on the proposal to approve the agreement and plan of merger, FOR the approval of the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp in connection with the merger, FOR the election of directors and FOR the ratification of the appointment of independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013.

### **Shares Held by Newport Bancorp Officers and Directors and by SI Financial**

As of [Record Date], directors and executive officers of Newport Bancorp beneficially owned 326,851 shares of Newport Bancorp common stock. This equals 9.2% of the outstanding shares of Newport Bancorp common stock. As of the same date, neither SI Financial nor any its subsidiaries, directors or executive officers owned any shares of Newport Bancorp common stock. All of Newport Bancorp's directors entered into voting agreements with SI Financial to vote the 251,420 shares of Newport Bancorp common stock owned by them in favor of the proposal to approve the agreement and plan of merger.

### **Voting and Revocability of Proxies**

You may vote in person at the annual meeting or by proxy. To ensure your representation at the annual meeting, Newport Bancorp recommends that you vote by proxy even if you plan to attend the annual meeting. You can always change your vote at the annual meeting.

Newport Bancorp shareholders whose shares are held in street name by their broker, bank or other nominee must follow the instructions provided by their broker, bank or other nominee to vote their shares. Your broker or bank may allow you to deliver your voting instructions via the telephone or the Internet. If your shares are held in street name and you wish to vote in person at the annual meeting, you will have to obtain a legal proxy from your recordholder entitling you to vote at the annual meeting.

---

**Table of Contents**

Voting instructions are included on your proxy form. If you properly complete and timely submit your proxy, your shares will be voted as you have directed. You may vote for, against, or abstain with respect to the approval and adoption of the agreement and plan of merger. If you are the record holder of your shares of Newport Bancorp common stock and submit your proxy without specifying a voting instruction, your shares of Newport Bancorp common stock will be voted FOR the proposal to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger, FOR the proposal to adjourn the meeting if necessary to permit further solicitation of proxies on the proposal to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger, FOR the approval of the resolution approving the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp in connection with the merger, FOR the election of directors, FOR the ratification of the appointment of independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013, FOR the non-binding advisory resolution approving the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp and to hold the non-binding advisory vote to approve the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp every year. If you return an incomplete instruction card to your broker, bank or other nominee, that nominee will not vote your shares with respect to any matter except for the ratification of the independent auditors. Newport Bancorp's board of directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR approval and adoption of the agreement and plan of merger, FOR approval of the proposal to adjourn the meeting if necessary to permit further solicitation of proxies on the proposal to approve the agreement and plan of merger, FOR the approval of the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp in connection with the merger, FOR the election of directors, FOR the ratification of the appointment of independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013, FOR the non-binding advisory resolution approving the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp and to hold the non-binding advisory vote to approve the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp every year.

You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted by:

filing with the Corporate Secretary of Newport Bancorp a duly executed revocation of proxy;

submitting a new proxy with a later date; or

voting in person at the annual meeting.

Attendance at the annual meeting will not, in and of itself, constitute a revocation of a proxy. All written notices of revocation and other communication with respect to the revocation of proxies should be addressed to:

Newport Bancorp, Inc.

Judy Tucker, Corporate Secretary

100 Bellevue Avenue

Newport, Rhode Island 02840

If any matters not described in this document are properly presented at the annual meeting, the persons named in the proxy card will use their own judgment to determine how to vote your shares. Newport Bancorp does not know of any other matters to be presented at the meeting.

**Solicitation of Proxies**

Newport Bancorp will pay for this proxy solicitation. In addition to soliciting proxies by mail, Regan & Associates, a proxy solicitation firm, will assist Newport Bancorp in soliciting proxies for the annual meeting. Newport Bancorp will pay \$6,000 for these services plus out-of-pocket expenses. Additionally, directors, officers and employees of Newport Bancorp and Newport Federal may solicit proxies personally and by telephone. None of these persons will receive additional or special compensation for soliciting proxies. Newport Bancorp will, upon request, reimburse brokers, banks and other nominees for their expenses in sending proxy materials to their customers who are beneficial owners and obtaining their voting instructions.

**Table of Contents**

**PROPOSAL NO. 1**

**APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER**

At Newport Bancorp's annual meeting of shareholders, shareholders will consider and vote on a proposal to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger. Details about the merger, including each party's reasons for the merger, the effect of approval and adoption of the agreement and plan of merger and the timing of effectiveness of the merger, are discussed in the section entitled *Description of The Merger* beginning on page of this document.

Approval of the merger proposal requires the presence of a quorum and the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock of Newport Bancorp entitled to vote at the meeting.

**Newport Bancorp board of directors unanimously recommends**

**that Newport Bancorp shareholders vote FOR**

**approval and adoption of the agreement and plan of merger and the merger.**

**PROPOSAL NO. 2**

**ADJOURNMENT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING**

If there are insufficient proxies at the time of the meeting to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger, the Newport Bancorp shareholders may be asked to vote on a proposal to adjourn the meeting to a later date to allow additional time to solicit additional proxies. The Newport Bancorp board does not currently intend to propose adjournment at the meeting if there are sufficient votes to approve and adopt the agreement and plan of merger (Proposal No. 1).

**Newport Bancorp board of directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR**

**approval of the adjournment of the shareholder meeting if necessary**

**to solicit additional proxies in favor of the approval and adoption of the agreement and plan of merger.**

**PROPOSAL NO. 3**

**NON-BINDING ADVISORY VOTE TO APPROVE THE COMPENSATION PAYABLE TO THE**

**NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF NEWPORT BANCORP IN CONNECTION WITH THE MERGER**

In accordance with the requirements of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 and the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission adopted thereunder, Newport Bancorp's board of directors is providing shareholders with the opportunity to cast a non-binding advisory vote on the compensation payable to the named executive officers of Newport Bancorp in connection with the merger, as summarized in the table under the caption *Description of the Merger Interests of Certain Persons in the Merger Severance and Other Payments to Certain Persons* beginning on page of this proxy statement/prospectus. This proposal gives Newport Bancorp shareholders the opportunity to express their views on the compensation that Newport Bancorp's named executive officers will be entitled to receive that is based on or otherwise relates to the merger.

As described in greater detail under the caption *Description of the Merger Interests of Certain Persons in the Merger Severance and Other Payments to Certain Persons*, three of Newport Bancorp's named executive officers will receive a payment from Newport Bancorp or SI Financial. Two of the named executive officers will also enter into a new consulting agreement with Savings Institute, as a result of the merger. Under Securities Exchange Commission rules, Newport Bancorp's shareholders must be provided with the opportunity to vote on



---

**Table of Contents**

a non-binding advisory resolution to approve certain golden parachute payments that named executive officers will receive in connection with the merger. The payments to Messrs. McCarthy, Moscardi and Gilmore constitute golden parachute payments.

None of Messrs. McCarthy, Moscardi and Gilmore is expected to be offered an officer position with SI Financial following the merger. Under each executive's agreement with Newport Bancorp and/or Newport Federal, the executive will be entitled to receive a severance payment upon the occurrence of a change in control and the loss of comparable employment.

Accordingly, at the annual meeting, Newport Bancorp is asking its shareholders to approve, in a non-binding advisory vote, the compensation payable to Messrs. McCarthy, Moscardi and Gilmore in connection with the merger through the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the compensation that may be paid or become payable to Messrs. McCarthy, Moscardi and Gilmore in connection with the merger, as disclosed in the table under the caption *Description of the Merger Interests of Certain Persons in the Merger Severance and Other Payments to Certain Persons* in this proxy statement/prospectus in accordance with Item 402(t) of Regulation S-K, including the associated narrative discussion, and the agreements or understandings pursuant to which such compensation may be paid or become payable, is hereby APPROVED.

The vote on this Proposal No. 3 is a vote separate and apart from the vote on Proposal No. 1 to approve the agreement and plan of merger. Accordingly, you may vote not to approve this Proposal No. 3 and to approve Proposal No. 1, and vice versa. Because the vote is advisory in nature only, it will not be binding on either Newport Bancorp or SI Financial, regardless of whether the agreement and plan of merger is approved. Accordingly, as the compensation to be paid in connection with the merger is a contractual obligation to Messrs. McCarthy, Moscardi and Gilmore, regardless of the outcome of this advisory vote, such compensation will be payable if the agreement and plan of merger is approved and the merger is completed, subject only to the contractual conditions applicable to such payment.

The affirmative vote of the majority of the votes cast is required to approve this proposal. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on this proposal.

**Newport Bancorp's Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR approval, on an advisory non-binding basis, of the compensation payable in connection with the merger.**

**PROPOSAL NO. 4**

**ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Newport Bancorp currently has eleven directors. The Board is divided into three classes with staggered three-year terms. The nominees for election this year are William R. Harvey and Kevin M. McCarthy, each of whom currently serves in the class of Newport Bancorp and Newport Federal directors with terms ending in 2013. Alicia S. Quirk, who also serves in the class of directors with terms ending in 2013, will retire on the date of the 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The Board of Directors has determined to decrease the number of directors from eleven to ten immediately following Ms. Quirk's retirement.

It is intended that the proxies solicited by the Board of Directors will be voted for the election of the nominees named below unless other instructions are provided. If any nominee is unable to serve, the persons named in the proxy card will vote your shares to approve the election of any substitute proposed by the Board of Directors. Alternatively, the Board of Directors may adopt a resolution to reduce the size of the Board. At this time, the Board of Directors knows of no reason why any nominee might be unable to serve.

---

## **Table of Contents**

Information regarding the nominees and the directors continuing in office is provided below. Unless otherwise stated, each individual has held his or her current occupation for the last five years. The age indicated in the biography of each nominee and continuing director is at December 31, 2012.

### **The nominees standing for election are:**

*William R. Harvey* is an attorney and partner in the law firm Harvey, Carr & Hadfield. Mr. Harvey's extensive legal career, make his contributions to the Board in the areas of leadership, consensus building, corporate governance and litigation oversight very important. Mr. Harvey has been a director of Newport Federal since 1987 and director of Newport Bancorp since its formation. Mr. Harvey also provides legal services to Newport Bancorp and Newport Federal. Age 66.

*Kevin M. McCarthy* is President and Chief Executive Officer of Newport Federal and Newport Bancorp. Mr. McCarthy joined Newport Federal in 1989. Prior to joining Newport Federal, Mr. McCarthy served as Vice President, Director of Policy and Supervision at the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston from 1977 to 1989 and was a savings and loan examiner with the Federal Home Loan Bank Board from 1973 to 1977. Currently, Mr. McCarthy serves on the Board of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston and the Community Bank Council of the American Bankers Association. Mr. McCarthy is a retired Captain in the U.S. Navy Reserve. Mr. McCarthy has been a director of Newport Federal since 1993 and director of Newport Bancorp since its formation. Age 65.

### **The following directors have terms ending in 2014:**

*Peter T. Crowley* is the owner of La Forge Casino Restaurant. Mr. Crowley's experience successfully managing and working in one of the premier restaurants in Newport for the last 42 years has resulted in management, financial and marketing expertise that has benefited Newport Federal. Mr. Crowley has been a director of Newport Federal since 1992 and a director of Newport Bancorp since its formation. Age 64.

*Michael J. Hayes* is the President of Michael Hayes Co. Mr. Hayes' experience as the Chief Executive of a local clothing retailer gives him unique insights in Newport Bancorp's challenges, opportunities and operations. In addition, his retail marketing skills have proven to be most helpful to Newport Federal. Mr. Hayes has been a director of Newport Federal since 1988 and a director of Newport Bancorp since its formation. Age 63.

*Arthur H. Lathrop* is a Certified Public Accountant. Mr. Lathrop was licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in Massachusetts in 1982 and in Rhode Island from 1987 to the present. He brings substantial financial, auditing and tax expertise to the Board. Mr. Lathrop has been a director of Newport Federal since 2005 and a director of Newport Bancorp since its formation. Before serving as a director with Newport Federal, Mr. Lathrop was a director of Westerly Savings Bank from 1993 until it merged with Newport Federal in 2005. Mr. Lathrop was also a director of Ocean State Tax-Exempt Fund until 2008. Age 58.

*Kathleen A. Nealon* is a Certified Public Accountant, the Chief Financial Officer and a manager in the Professional Planning Group, a Westerly, Rhode Island based company that provides an array of financial planning services. Ms. Nealon brings financial, accounting and management expertise to the Board. Ms. Nealon has been a director of Newport Federal since 2005 and a director of Newport Bancorp since its formation. Before serving as a director with Newport Federal, Ms. Nealon was a director of Westerly Savings Bank from 2004 until it merged with Newport Federal in 2005. Age 60.

### **The following directors have terms ending in 2015:**

*Donald N. Kaull* is a retired independent property/casualty insurance agent. As the former Chief Executive of an insurance agency, Mr. Kaull brings extensive experience in management, corporate governance, finance and risk management to the Board. Mr. Kaull has been a director of Newport Federal since 1989 and a director of Newport Bancorp since its formation. Age 67.



**Table of Contents**

*Arthur P. Macauley* is President of CM Publications, Inc. Prior to starting his own company, CM Publications, Mr. Macauley was the Director of Planning for a graphics company. His background in planning and management provides a unique perspective to the Board. Mr. Macauley has been a director of Newport Federal since 2005 and a director of Newport Bancorp since its formation. Before serving as a director with Newport Federal, Mr. Macauley was a director of Westerly Savings Bank from 1981 until it merged with Newport Federal in 2005. Age 70.

*Nino Moscardi* has been Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and director of Newport Federal since October 2005 and Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and director of Newport Bancorp since its formation. Before serving with Newport Federal, Mr. Moscardi was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Westerly Savings Bank from 1989 until it merged with Newport Federal in 2005. Mr. Moscardi currently serves on the Board and is a former chairman of the Rhode Island Bankers Association. He also is a Board member of the Ocean State Business Development Authority. Age 61.

*Barbara Saccucci-Radebach* is the General Manager of Saccucci Lincoln Mercury Honda, Inc. and has been since 1974. In addition to Ms. Saccucci-Radebach's expertise in management and administration, she brings risk assessment skills and marketing expertise to the Board. Ms. Saccucci-Radebach has been a director of Newport Federal since 1991 and a director of Newport Bancorp since its formation. Age 60.

**Newport Bancorp's Board of Directors unanimously recommends**

**a vote FOR the election of each of the nominees.**

**PROPOSAL NO. 5**

**RATIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has appointed Wolf & Company, P.C. to be Newport Bancorp's independent registered public accounting firm for the 2013 fiscal year, subject to ratification by stockholders. A representative of Wolf & Company, P.C. is expected to be present at the annual meeting to respond to appropriate questions from stockholders and will have the opportunity to make a statement should he or she desire to do so.

If the ratification of the appointment of Wolf & Company, P.C. is not approved by a majority of the votes cast by stockholders at the annual meeting, other independent registered public accounting firms may be considered by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors.

**The Board of Directors recommends that stockholders vote FOR the ratification of the appointment of Wolf & Company, P.C. as Newport Bancorp's independent registered public accounting firm.**

**Audit and Non-Audit Fees**

The following table sets forth the fees billed to Newport Bancorp for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011 by Wolf & Company, P.C.

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Audit fees (1)	\$ 159,000	\$ 153,500
Tax fees (2)	18,000	17,000
All other fees (3)	7,500	7,500

- (1) Includes quarterly reviews.
- (2) Includes tax return preparation and related tax compliance services.
- (3) Includes WolfPac IT risk assessment annual license fee.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Pre-Approval of Services by the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The Audit Committee is responsible for appointing, setting compensation and overseeing the work of the independent registered public accounting firm. In accordance with its charter, the Audit Committee approves, in advance, all audit and permissible non-audit services to be performed by the independent registered public accounting firm. Such approval process ensures that the external auditor does not provide any non-audit services to Newport Bancorp that are prohibited by law or regulation.

In addition, the Audit Committee has established a policy regarding pre-approval of all audit and permissible non-audit services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm. Requests for services by the independent registered public accounting firm for compliance with the auditor services policy must be specific as to the particular services to be provided. The request may be made with respect to either specific services or a type of service for predictable or recurring services. During the year ended December 31, 2012, all services were approved, in advance, by the Audit Committee in compliance with these procedures.

### **Audit Committee Report**

Newport Bancorp's management is responsible for Newport Bancorp's internal controls and financial reporting process. Newport Bancorp's independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for performing an independent audit of Newport Bancorp's consolidated financial statements and issuing an opinion on the conformity of those financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles. The Audit Committee oversees Newport Bancorp's internal controls and financial reporting process on behalf of the Board of Directors.

In this context, the Audit Committee has met and held discussions with management and the independent registered public accounting firm. Management represented to the Audit Committee that Newport Bancorp's consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and the Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the consolidated financial statements with management and the independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended, including the quality, not just the acceptability, of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments and the clarity of the disclosures in the consolidated financial statements.

In addition, the Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent registered public accounting firm required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent registered public accounting firm's communications with the Audit Committee concerning the independent registered public accounting firm's independence, and has discussed such independence with the independent registered public accounting firm. In concluding that the registered public accounting firm is independent, the Audit Committee considered, among other factors, whether the non-audit services provided by the firm were compatible with its independence.

The Audit Committee discussed with Newport Bancorp's independent registered public accounting firm the overall scope and plans for their audit. The Audit Committee meets with the independent registered public accounting firm, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their audit, their evaluation of Newport Bancorp's internal controls, and the overall quality of Newport Bancorp's financial reporting.

In performing all of these functions, the Audit Committee acts only in an oversight capacity. In its oversight role, the Audit Committee relies on the work and assurances of Newport Bancorp's management, which has the primary responsibility for financial statements and reports, and of the independent registered public accounting firm who, in its report, expresses an opinion on the conformity of Newport Bancorp's consolidated financial statements to generally accepted accounting principles. The Audit Committee's oversight does not provide it with an independent basis to determine that management has maintained appropriate accounting and financial reporting principles or policies, or appropriate internal controls and procedures designed to assure compliance with accounting standards and applicable laws and regulations. Furthermore, the Audit Committee's

**Table of Contents**

considerations and discussions with management and the independent registered public accounting firm do not ensure that Newport Bancorp's consolidated financial statements are presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, that the audit of Newport Bancorp's consolidated financial statements has been carried out in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) or that Newport Bancorp's independent registered public accounting firm is in fact independent.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors, and the board has approved, that the audited consolidated financial statements be included in Newport Bancorp's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Audit Committee also has approved, subject to stockholder ratification, the selection of Newport Bancorp's independent registered public accounting firm, for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013.

**Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of**

**Newport Bancorp, Inc.**

Peter T. Crowley

William R. Harvey

Michael J. Hayes

Arthur H. Lathrop (Chair)

Kathleen A. Nealon

**Newport Bancorp's Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR**

**the ratification of the appointment of the independent registered public accounting firm.**

**PROPOSAL NO. 6**

**NON-BINDING ADVISORY VOTE TO APPROVE THE COMPENSATION PAYABLE TO THE NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF NEWPORT BANCORP**

The compensation of Newport Bancorp's principal executive officer and its two other most highly compensated executive officers (the named executive officers) is described in the section of this proxy statement/prospectus entitled *Executive Compensation*. Stockholders are urged to read the Executive Compensation section prior to voting on this proposal.

In accordance with Section 14A of the Exchange Act, Newport Bancorp stockholders will be asked at the Newport Bancorp 2013 annual meeting of stockholders to provide their support with respect to the compensation of its named executive officers by voting on the following advisory, non-binding resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the stockholders of Newport Bancorp, Inc. approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of Newport Bancorp, Inc.'s named executive officers described in the Executive Compensation section of the Proxy Statement/Prospectus, the compensation tables and other narrative executive compensation disclosures set forth in that section.

This advisory vote, commonly referred to as a "say-on-pay" advisory vote, is non-binding on the Board of Directors. Although non-binding, the Board of Directors and the Compensation/Personnel Committee value constructive dialogue on executive compensation and other important governance topics with Newport Bancorp stockholders and encourages all stockholders to vote their shares on this matter. The Board of Directors and the Compensation/Personnel Committee will review the voting results and take them into consideration when making future decisions regarding Newport Bancorp's executive compensation programs.

**The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the resolution set forth in this Proposal No. 6.**



---

**Table of Contents**

**PROPOSAL NO. 7**

**FREQUENCY OF THE NON-BINDING ADVISORY VOTE TO APPROVE THE COMPENSATION PAYABLE TO THE NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF NEWPORT BANCORP**

In accordance with Section 14A of the Exchange Act, Newport Bancorp is providing a shareholder advisory vote to approve the compensation of its named executive officers (the say-on-pay advisory vote in Proposal No. 6 above) this year and will do so at least once every three years thereafter. Pursuant to Section 14A of the Exchange Act, at the Newport Bancorp 2013 annual meeting of stockholders, Newport Bancorp will also ask stockholders to vote on whether future say-on-pay advisory votes on executive compensation should occur every year, every two years or every three years.

After careful consideration, the Board of Directors recommends that future shareholder say-on-pay advisory votes on executive compensation be conducted every year. The determination was based upon the premise that named executive officer compensation is evaluated, adjusted and approved on an annual basis by the Board of Directors upon a recommendation from the Compensation/Personnel Committee and the belief that investor sentiment should be a factor taken into consideration by the Compensation/Personnel Committee in making its annual recommendation.

Although the Board of Directors recommends a say-on-pay vote every year, stockholders will be able to specify one of four choices for this proposal on the proxy card: one year, two years, three years or abstain. Stockholders are not voting to approve or disapprove of the Board of Directors recommendation.

Although this advisory vote regarding the frequency of say-on-pay votes is non-binding on the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors and the Compensation/Personnel Committee will review the voting results and take them into consideration when deciding how often to conduct future say-on-pay shareholder advisory votes.

**The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the One Year frequency option.**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE MERGER**

*The following summary of the agreement and plan of merger is qualified by reference to the complete text of the agreement and plan of merger. A copy of the agreement and plan of merger is attached as Annex A to this proxy statement/prospectus and is incorporated by reference into this proxy statement/prospectus. You should read the agreement and plan of merger completely and carefully as it, rather than this description, is the legal document that governs the merger.*

**General**

The agreement and plan of merger provides for the merger of Newport Bancorp with and into SI Financial, with SI Financial as the surviving entity. Immediately following the merger of Newport Bancorp with SI Financial, Newport Federal will merge with and into Savings Institute, with Savings Institute as the surviving entity.

**Consideration to be Received in the Merger**

When the merger becomes effective, each share of Newport Bancorp common stock issued and outstanding immediately before completion of the merger will automatically be converted into the right to receive, at the holder's election, either \$17.55 in cash or 1.5129 shares of SI Financial common stock, plus cash in lieu of any fractional share. Although shareholders of Newport Bancorp are being given the choice of whether to receive

## **Table of Contents**

cash, SI Financial common stock or a combination of cash and SI Financial common stock in exchange for their shares of Newport Bancorp common stock, all elections will be subject to the allocation and proration procedures as well as other provisions in the agreement and plan of merger.

If SI Financial declares a stock dividend or distribution on shares of its common stock or subdivides, splits, reclassifies or combines the shares of SI Financial common stock before the effective time of the merger, then the exchange ratio will be adjusted to provide Newport Bancorp shareholders with the same economic effect as contemplated by the agreement and plan of merger before any of these events.

Newport Bancorp's shareholders will not receive fractional shares of SI Financial common stock. Instead, Newport Bancorp's shareholders will receive a cash payment for any fractional shares in an amount equal to the product of (1) the fraction of a share of SI Financial common stock to which he, she or it is entitled multiplied by (2) the average closing sales price of SI Financial common stock over the five trading days ending on the third business day before the closing date of the merger.

### **Cash, Stock or Mixed Election**

Under the terms of the agreement and plan of merger, Newport Bancorp shareholders may elect to convert their shares into cash, SI Financial common stock or a mixture of cash and SI Financial common stock. All elections of Newport Bancorp shareholders are further subject to the allocation and proration procedures described in the agreement and plan of merger. These procedures provide that the number of shares of Newport Bancorp common stock to be converted into SI Financial common stock must equal 50% of the total number of shares of Newport Bancorp Common Stock outstanding at the effective time of the merger and that the number of shares of Newport Bancorp to be converted into cash in the merger must equal 50% of the total number of shares of Newport Bancorp common stock outstanding at the effective time of the merger. In addition, for federal income tax purposes and solely so as to ensure that the merger will qualify as a reorganization under the provisions of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, SI Financial in its sole discretion may elect to increase the number of shares of Newport Bancorp common stock that will be converted into shares of SI Financial common stock to ensure that the total value of the stock portion of the merger consideration will equal at least 40% of the merger consideration. Neither SI Financial nor Newport Bancorp is making any recommendation as to whether Newport Bancorp shareholders should elect to receive cash, SI Financial common stock or a mixture of cash and SI Financial common stock in the merger. Each holder of Newport Bancorp common stock must make his or her own decision with respect to such election.

It is unlikely that elections will be made in the exact proportions provided for in the agreement and plan of merger. As a result, the agreement and plan of merger describes procedures to be followed if Newport Bancorp shareholders in the aggregate elect to receive more or less of the SI Financial common stock than SI Financial has agreed to issue. These procedures are summarized below.

***If Stock Is Oversubscribed:*** If Newport Bancorp shareholders elect to receive more SI Financial common stock than SI Financial has agreed to issue in the merger, then all Newport Bancorp shareholders who have elected to receive cash or who have made no election will receive cash for their Newport Bancorp shares and all shareholders who elected to receive SI Financial common stock will receive a pro rata portion of the available SI Financial shares plus cash for those shares not converted into SI Financial common stock.

***If Stock Is Undersubscribed:*** If Newport Bancorp shareholders elect to receive fewer shares of SI Financial common stock than SI Financial has agreed to issue in the merger, then all Newport Bancorp shareholders who have elected to receive SI Financial common stock will receive SI Financial common stock and those shareholders who elected to receive cash or who have made no election will be treated in the following manner:

If the number of shares held by Newport Bancorp shareholders who have made no election is sufficient to make up the shortfall in the number of SI Financial shares that SI Financial is required to issue, then

## **Table of Contents**

all Newport Bancorp shareholders who elected cash will receive cash, and those shareholders who made no election will receive both cash and SI Financial common stock in such proportion as is necessary to make up the shortfall.

If the number of shares held by Newport Bancorp shareholders who have made no election is insufficient to make up the shortfall, then all Newport Bancorp shareholders who made no election will receive SI Financial common stock and those Newport Bancorp shareholders who elected to receive cash will receive cash and SI Financial common stock in such proportion as is necessary to make up the shortfall.

Notwithstanding these rules, as described under *Tax Consequences of the Merger*, it may be necessary for SI Financial to reduce the number of shares of Newport Bancorp common stock that will be converted into the right to receive cash and correspondingly increase the number of shares of Newport Bancorp common stock that will be converted into SI Financial common stock. If this adjustment is necessary, shareholders who elect to receive cash or a mixture of cash and stock may be required on a pro rata basis to receive a greater amount of SI Financial common stock than they otherwise would have received.

**No guarantee can be made that you will receive the amounts of cash and/or stock you elect. As a result of the allocation procedures and other limitations outlined in this document and the agreement and plan of merger, you may receive SI Financial common stock or cash in amounts that vary from the amounts you elect to receive.**

## **Background of and Newport Bancorp's Reasons for the Merger**

**Background of the Merger.** The board of directors and management of Newport Bancorp, as part of its ongoing oversight of Newport Federal and with the interests of its shareholders in mind, regularly analyzed Newport Federal's financial prospects and reviewed strategic options. As part of this process, consideration was given to Newport Bancorp's prospects as an independent entity versus that of merging with another institution. In this regard, the board of directors authorized Mr. McCarthy to engage in informal discussions with potential strategic partners from time to time.

In February 2012, as part of its annual business planning and budgeting efforts, Newport Bancorp senior management met with its business planning consultant, Northeastern Banking Services Group (NBSG), to discuss the viability of Newport Bancorp's long term business plan and discuss possible changes to its plan and operations to improve the profitability of Newport Bancorp in the context of the market, economic and regulatory environments facing financial institutions operating in Newport Bancorp's market area. During this planning process NBSG worked with Newport Bancorp to analyze its potential financial performance under various economic environments and employing different growth strategies within those environments. Management concluded that Newport Bancorp's most significant opportunities to enhance future earnings were to increase its commercial business lending capabilities as a means to improve its overall scale and efficiencies. As part of the planning process, management assessed its current lending staff and infrastructure and the additions that would be needed to establish a successful commercial lending capability in Newport Bancorp's market. Management also considered the recent increase in community banks and savings institutions emphasizing the origination of commercial loans and the competition it could face in that regard. Based on that assessment, management determined that adding a successful commercial lending program would require material expenditures related to the addition of experienced commercial lenders, adequate underwriting and credit administration support staff, and enhancements to Newport Bancorp's compliance and risk management capabilities that would be required to adequately monitor the increased risk associated with commercial lending. Management also concluded that in order for Newport Bancorp to improve its overall efficiency, it would likely be necessary to increase its scale and product offerings, which in turn would result in additional material expenditures related to infrastructure improvements and additional personnel.

## **Table of Contents**

At such time, management and NBSG also began looking at other strategic alternatives to achieving such improvements and efficiencies on a stand-alone basis, including merging or partnering with a larger organization with greater scale, infrastructure and product offerings that could take advantage of Newport Bancorp's franchise, customer base and market area.

In June 2012, NBSG met at a special meeting with Newport Bancorp's full board of directors and senior management to review the business plan and financial prospects of Newport Bancorp and assess strategic alternatives and potential strategic partners in Rhode Island and contiguous markets. At this meeting, Mr. McCarthy was authorized by the board to informally contact a select group of institutions and ascertain their general interest in pursuing a possible strategic partnership with Newport Bancorp. During July and August 2012, Mr. McCarthy met or had discussions with four financial institutions to assess on a preliminary basis whether they would have any interest in a partnership with Newport Bancorp.

Shortly after these preliminary contacts, the board of directors and management of Newport Bancorp met with Sandler O'Neill to review Newport Bancorp's strategic alternatives and options, and to advise Newport Bancorp as to the current state of the financial institution merger market and to analyze potential merger partners with regard to their attractiveness to Newport Bancorp, capacity to consummate a merger transaction and ability to best utilize Newport Bancorp's franchise. Sandler O'Neill presented its analysis to the Newport Bancorp board of directors and senior management at a meeting in September 2012. At such meeting the board determined that there were several potential merger partners that could be an attractive fit for Newport Bancorp but did not authorize management or Sandler O'Neill to make any additional contacts or solicitations at such time.

On October 3, 2012, Sandler O'Neill and Newport Bancorp's special counsel, the law firm of Luse, Gorman, Pomerenk and Schick, P.C. (Luse Gorman) met with Newport Bancorp's board of directors and senior management to discuss the board's fiduciary duties in the context of a strategic transaction and to discuss the various methods, processes and timing involved with a merger transaction. At this meeting, based on the prior information provided by Sandler O'Neill and management, the board focused on several potential merger partners and determined that several of these possible partners should be solicited to gauge their interest in a merger with Newport Bancorp. The board also authorized management to work with Newport Bancorp's advisors to prepare a confidential information memorandum and confidentiality agreement and to solicit the interest of 10 selected potential merger partners.

During late October through early December 2012, Sandler O'Neill solicited the interest of the 10 identified potential merger partners which resulted in 7 executing confidentially agreements and only one, Bank A, submitting a non-binding letter of interest. Two other institutions, including SI Financial, declined to submit proposals due to their belief that the level of their proposed pricing would not be consistent with Newport Bancorp pricing expectations.

On November 20, 2012, the CEO of Bank A met with Mr. McCarthy. At this meeting, the terms of the possible merger between the companies were discussed in general.

On December 13, 2012, the CEO of Bank A contacted Mr. McCarthy to restate his company's interest in pursuing a strategic combination and, on December 14, 2012, Bank A submitted a non-binding indication of interest to Newport Bancorp. The letter reflected Bank A was prepared to offer \$16.00 per share payable in stock of Bank A, subject to further due diligence.

On December 19, 2012, the Newport Bancorp board of directors met to discuss the results of the merger solicitation efforts and the terms of Bank A's proposal. In attendance at the meeting were representatives from Sandler O'Neill and Luse Gorman. Sandler O'Neill presented an in depth analysis of Bank A and Newport Federal, including Bank A's trading and acquisition history, and reviewed Bank A's proposal and a pro forma analysis of the combined institutions. At the meeting, the Newport Bancorp board reviewed and discussed the various factors that could have contributed to the low level of interest in Newport Bancorp resulting from the



---

**Table of Contents**

merger partner solicitation process and discussed the current market conditions for bank mergers and acquisitions in general and in Newport Bancorp's market area. At the conclusion of the meeting, the board concluded that Bank A's proposal was not adequate and authorized Sandler O'Neill to contact the institutions, including SI Financial, that had previously indicated interest but did not submit proposals due to their concerns regarding Newport Bancorp's perceived pricing expectations and provide them another opportunity to submit a merger proposal. Following this meeting, Mr. McCarthy was contacted by Rheo Brouillard, President and Chief Executive Officer of SI Financial, to discuss a possible merger between the companies.

In a letter dated December 21, 2012, SI Financial submitted a non-binding indication of interest to Newport Bancorp. The letter reflected SI Financial was prepared to offer a range between \$17.00 and \$18.00 per share, subject to certain conditions and performance of due diligence. On December 21, 2012, senior management and the board of Newport Bancorp met to discuss and compare SI Financial's offer with that of Bank A. Attending the meeting by phone were representatives of Luse Gorman and Sandler O'Neill. Following a thorough discussion of the merits of each offer, it was decided to communicate to Bank A and SI Financial, Newport Bancorp's willingness to allow both parties access to conduct on-site due diligence and further opportunity to discuss the terms of a merger, integration issues and the prospects of the combined company.

On January 4, 2013, Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Brouillard met to discuss SI Financial's proposal and the overall merits of a strategic combination between SI Financial and Newport Bancorp.

On January 10, 2013, Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Brouillard met again, along with staff members of each institution to discuss merger integration issues and the products, services policies and procedures of each company.

On January 11 and January 16, 2013, Bank A performed its on-site due diligence review on Newport Bancorp and on January 18, 2013, SI Financial performed its on-site due diligence review on Newport Bancorp. Following the completion of their respective due diligence reviews Bank A and SI Financial both indicated that they would be submitting non-binding proposals.

On January 23, 2013, Newport Bancorp received a revised proposal from Bank A, which reiterated the terms of its prior proposal but increased its merger consideration at \$16.50 per share payable in Bank A stock with a fixed exchange ratio. On the same day, SI Financial submitted a proposal wherein it indicated it was prepared to offer \$18.10 per share with consideration being in the form of 50% cash and 50% stock with a fixed exchange ratio on the common stock component.

During the SI Financial and Bank A due diligence period, Newport Bancorp was requested by both parties to obtain a written estimate of the cost of terminating its defined benefit pension plan. Both SI Financial and Bank A, indicated that any final pricing for a merger transaction with Newport Bancorp would consider the estimate of the cost of termination of the pension plan and would likely result in a downward adjustment to the pricing reflected in their January 23, 2013 proposals.

On January 30, 2013, Newport Bancorp held a special board Meeting to review the proposals of Bank A and SI Financial. Also present were representatives from Sandler O'Neill and Luse Gorman. The benefit and value of each proposal to Newport Bancorp stockholders was discussed at length as well as a comparison of the manner in which integration issues would be resolved by each potential partner, including the retention of employees, board members and branch locations. Additionally, the upside potential of Bank A and SI Financial were considered as well as the potential ramifications of Newport Bancorp combining with an in-market merger partner as compared to an out-of-market merger partner. Sandler O'Neill provided a summary of the terms contained in the proposals submitted by Bank A and SI Financial. During the meeting it was noted that as a result of a preliminary estimate of the cost of terminating Newport Bancorp's pension plan, SI Financial had adjusted their proposal pricing to a range of \$17.50 to \$18.10 per share (instead of \$18.10 per share) and Bank A indicated that it would lower its proposed pricing by as much as \$0.50 per share depending on the final written cost estimate. Sandler O'Neill

**Table of Contents**

provided an in-depth presentation on the valuation of the respective stocks of Newport Bancorp, SI Financial and Bank A, including peer and geographic comparisons, present value analyses, pro forma analyses and a relative comparison of the stock performance of Bank A and SI Financial. After the presentation by Sandler O'Neill and management, the independent members of the Newport Bancorp board convened to discuss the two proposals and voted unanimously to pursue the SI Financial proposal. After the vote of the independent board members, the full Newport Bancorp board members reconvened and unanimously voted to pursue SI Financial's proposal and negotiate a definitive merger agreement, finalize the other outstanding merger related integration issues and conduct due diligence on SI Financial.

During early February 2013, Newport Bancorp and its advisors conducted due diligence on SI Financial, including on-site due diligence and staff interviews at SI Financial. A summary of the results of such due diligence was provided to Newport Bancorp's full board of directors at a meeting on February 21, 2013.

On March 1, 2013, Newport Bancorp's full board of directors met along with representatives from Luse Gorman and Sandler O'Neill. Luse Gorman presented a draft of the merger agreement and all ancillary agreements that had been negotiated by and between Newport Bancorp, SI Financial and their respective advisors. As a result of the receipt of the final written estimate of the pension plan termination cost, SI Financial had reflected in the terms of the merger agreement a merger consideration price of \$17.55 per share with a fixed exchange ratio. All aspects of the proposed merger agreement were analyzed and discussed in depth. Sandler O'Neill also discussed the content of their preliminary fairness analysis of the SI Financial transaction at the meeting. After such presentation by Sandler O'Neill, the independent members of the Newport Bancorp board convened to discuss the terms of the SI Financial proposal and the merger agreement and voted unanimously to continue to pursue the SI Financial proposal and finalization of the merger agreement. After the vote of the independent board members, the full Newport Bancorp board reconvened and voted unanimously to continue to pursue the SI Financial proposal and finalization of the merger agreement.

On March 4, 2013, the SI Financial board of directors held a special meeting, also attended by SI Financial's chief financial officer and outside financial and legal advisors, to review and discuss the proposed merger agreement. Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP, outside counsel to SI Financial, reviewed with the board the terms of the proposed merger agreement. Representatives of KBW and Loomis & Co. discussed financial analyses and fairness opinion analysis regarding the proposed transaction.

On March 5, 2013, the Newport Bancorp board held a special meeting with senior management of Newport Bancorp attending and representatives from Luse Gorman and Sandler O'Neill participating in the meeting via teleconference. Luse Gorman presented the terms of the final draft of the merger agreement, ancillary agreements and disclosure schedules to the merger agreement. Representatives of Sandler O'Neill discussed their financial analyses and fairness opinion regarding the proposed transaction. After a discussion regarding the merger agreement and the transaction, Sandler O'Neill rendered an oral opinion (subsequently confirmed in writing) to Newport Bancorp that the merger consideration to be received by the holders of the Newport Bancorp's common stock in connection with the merger was fair to Newport Bancorp from a financial point of view. At this meeting, the independent members of the Newport Bancorp board convened to discuss the final merger agreement and ancillary agreements and voted unanimously to approve the merger agreement with SI Financial. After the vote of the independent board members, the full board of Newport Bancorp reconvened and, after additional discussion, the full board of Newport Bancorp unanimously approved the merger agreement with SI Financial.

Also on March 5, 2013, the SI Financial board of directors held a telephonic special meeting, also attended by SI Financial's chief financial officer and outside financial and legal advisors to continue its review and discussion of the proposed merger agreement. Representatives of KBW and Loomis & Co. discussed financial analyses and fairness opinion analysis regarding the proposed transaction. After a discussion regarding the merger agreement and the transaction, each of KBW and Loomis & Co. rendered an oral opinion (that each subsequently confirmed in writing) to SI Financial that the merger consideration to be paid by SI Financial was fair to SI Financial from a financial point of view. Following further review and discussion among the members

**Table of Contents**

of the SI Financial board of directors, the SI Financial board of directors unanimously approved the merger agreement.

On March 5, 2013, Newport Bancorp and SI Financial executed the definitive merger agreement and issued a joint press release announcing the merger.

See *Opinion of Newport Bancorp's Financial Advisor* for a description of the fees Sandler O'Neill will receive for its services to Newport Bancorp in connection with the merger.

***Newport Bancorp's Reasons for the Merger.*** In reaching its decision to approve the merger agreement and recommend their approval to shareholders, the Newport Bancorp board of directors consulted with senior management, its legal counsel, Luse Gorman Pomerenk & Schick, P.C., its financial advisor, Sandler O'Neill, and considered a number of factors, including, among others, the following, which are not presented in order of priority:

the business strategy and strategic plan of Newport Bancorp, its prospects for the future, projected financial results, and expectations relating to the proposed merger with SI Financial;

a review of the risks and prospects of Newport Bancorp remaining independent, including the challenges of maintaining a small community bank in the current financial and regulatory climate versus aligning Newport Bancorp with a well-capitalized, well-managed larger organization;

a review of Newport Bancorp's opportunities to enhance future earnings, including increasing its commercial business lending capabilities as a means to improve its overall scale and efficiencies, and management's conclusion that adding a successful commercial lending program would require material expenditures related to additional personnel, infrastructure improvements and enhanced risk management and compliance capabilities;

a review of potential merger opportunities available to Newport Bancorp for the foreseeable future based on an assessment of financial institutions operating in Newport Bancorp's market area, in contiguous areas and out of Newport Bancorp's market area that are of appropriate size and liquidity to engage in a transaction with Newport Bancorp;

a review of the historical financial statements and condition of Newport Bancorp and certain other internal information, primarily financial in nature, relating to the respective businesses, earnings and balance sheets of Newport Bancorp;

the form and amount of the merger consideration, including the tax effects of stock consideration compared to cash consideration;

the merger consideration that could reasonably be expected from other potential acquirers with apparent ability to consummate an acquisition of Newport Bancorp, including institutions that had expressed an interest in acquiring a depository institution such as Newport Bancorp;

the relative financial strength, size and infrastructure of SI Financial as a merger partner over the near and long term;

the strength and recent performance of SI Financial's common stock;

## Edgar Filing: SI Financial Group, Inc. - Form S-4/A

the ability of Newport Bancorp's shareholders to benefit from SI Financial's potential growth and stock appreciation since it is more likely that the combined entity will have superior future earnings and prospects compared to Newport Bancorp's earnings and prospects on an independent basis;

the possibility that SI Financial might become the subject of a merger or acquisition transaction with an even larger financial institution;

the ability of SI Financial to execute a merger transaction from a financial and regulatory perspective;

**Table of Contents**

the geographic fit and increased customer convenience of the expanded branch network of SI Financial;

the similar management style and strategies of SI Financial's management team;

the continued representation of Newport Bancorp's management and board on the board of directors of the combined entity;

the anticipated effect of the acquisition on Newport Bancorp's employees (including the fact that SI Financial anticipates offering employment to the majority of Newport Bancorp's employees following consummation of the merger);

the effect on Newport Bancorp's customers and the communities served by Newport Bancorp;

the terms of the merger agreement, including the price protection provisions, the walk-away provisions, representations and warranties of the parties, the covenants, the consideration, the benefits to Newport Bancorp's employees, the circumstances under which the Newport Bancorp board of directors may consider a superior proposal, the ability of Newport Bancorp to terminate the merger agreement, and the absence of burdensome contingencies in the merger agreement;

the increased legal lending limit available to borrowers by reason of the merger;

the increased level of products and services offered by SI Financial, including wealth management, trust services, and increased commercial lending products and capacity;

the likelihood of obtaining the necessary regulatory approvals within a reasonable time frame and without unusual or burdensome conditions; and

the long-term and short term interests of Newport Bancorp and its shareholders, the interests of the employees, customers, creditors and suppliers of Newport Bancorp, and community and societal considerations including those of the communities in which Newport Bancorp maintains offices.

Based on the factors described above, the board of directors of Newport Bancorp determined that the merger with SI Financial and the merger of Newport Federal with Savings Institute would be advisable and in the best interests of Newport Bancorp shareholders and other constituencies and unanimously approved the merger agreement.

**Recommendation of Newport Bancorp's Board of Directors**

**Newport Bancorp's board of directors has unanimously approved the agreement and plan of merger and the merger and unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the agreement and plan of merger and the merger.**

**Opinion of Newport Bancorp's Financial Advisor**

By letter dated October 23, 2012, Newport Bancorp retained Sandler O'Neill to act as its financial advisor in connection with a sale of Newport Bancorp to SI Financial. Sandler O'Neill is a nationally recognized investment banking firm whose principal business specialty is financial institutions. In the ordinary course of its investment banking business, Sandler O'Neill is regularly engaged in the valuation of financial institutions and their securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions and other corporate transactions.

## Edgar Filing: SI Financial Group, Inc. - Form S-4/A

Sandler O'Neill acted as financial advisor to the Company in connection with the proposed transaction and participated in certain of the negotiations leading to the execution of the merger agreement. At the meeting of the Board of Directors of Newport Bancorp on March 5, 2013, Sandler O'Neill delivered to the Board of Directors its oral opinion, subsequently followed by delivery of its written opinion, that, as of such date, the merger consideration was fair to the holders of Newport Bancorp common stock from a financial point of view. **The full**

**Table of Contents**

text of Sandler O'Neill's written opinion dated March 5, 2013 is attached as Appendix D to this proxy statement. The opinion outlines the procedures followed, assumptions made, matters considered and qualifications and limitations on the review undertaken by Sandler O'Neill in rendering its opinion. The description of the opinion set forth below is qualified in its entirety by reference to the opinion. Newport Bancorp shareholders are urged to read the entire opinion carefully in connection with their consideration of the proposed merger.

Sandler O'Neill's opinion speaks only as of the date of the opinion. The opinion was directed to the Board of Directors of Newport Bancorp and is directed only to the fairness of the merger consideration to be paid to the holders of Newport Bancorp common stock from a financial point of view. It does not address the underlying business decision of Newport Bancorp to engage in the merger or any other aspect of the merger and is not a recommendation to any Newport Bancorp stockholder as to how such stockholder should vote at the special meeting with respect to the merger or any other matter.

In connection with rendering its opinion on March 5, 2013, Sandler O'Neill reviewed and considered, among other things:

- (1) the merger agreement;
- (2) certain publicly available financial statements and other historical financial information of Newport Bancorp that Sandler O'Neill deemed relevant;
- (3) certain publicly available financial statements and other historical financial information of SI Financial that Sandler O'Neill deemed relevant;
- (4) certain internal financial projections for Newport Bancorp for the years ending December 31, 2013 through 2016 as provided by senior management of Newport Bancorp;
- (5) internal financial projections for SI Financial for the years ended December 31, 2013 through 2016 as provided by and discussed with senior management of SI Financial;
- (6) the pro forma financial impact of the merger on SI Financial, based on assumptions relating to transaction expenses, purchase accounting adjustments and cost savings as determined by the senior management of SI Financial;
- (7) a comparison of certain financial and other information for Newport Bancorp and SI Financial with similar publicly available information for certain other commercial banks, the securities of which are publicly traded;
- (8) the relative contributions of assets, liabilities, equity and earnings of Newport Bancorp and SI Financial to the combined institution;
- (9) the terms and structures of other recent mergers and acquisition transactions in the commercial banking sector;
- (10) the current market environment generally and in the commercial banking sector in particular; and
- (11)

## Edgar Filing: SI Financial Group, Inc. - Form S-4/A

such other information, financial studies, analyses and investigations and financial, economic and market criteria as Sandler O'Neill considered relevant.

Sandler O'Neill also discussed with certain members of senior management of Newport Bancorp the business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects of Newport Bancorp and held similar discussions with the senior management of SI Financial regarding the business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects of SI Financial.

In performing its review, Sandler O'Neill has relied upon the accuracy and completeness of all of the financial and other information that was available to it from public sources, that was provided to it by Newport



---

**Table of Contents**

Bancorp and SI Financial or that was otherwise reviewed by it and assumed such accuracy and completeness for purposes of preparing its fairness opinion. Sandler O'Neill further relied on the assurances of the management of Newport Bancorp and SI Financial that such managements are not aware of any facts or circumstances that would make any of such information inaccurate or misleading in any material respect. Sandler O'Neill did not make an independent evaluation or appraisal of the specific assets, the collateral securing assets or the liabilities (contingent or otherwise) of Newport Bancorp or SI Financial or any of their respective subsidiaries. Sandler O'Neill did not make an independent evaluation of the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses of Newport Bancorp, SI Financial or the combined entity after the Merger and it has not reviewed any individual credit files relating to Newport Bancorp or SI Financial. Sandler O'Neill has assumed that the respective allowances for loan losses for both Newport Bancorp and SI Financial are adequate to cover such losses and will be adequate on a pro forma basis for the combined entity.

In preparing its analyses, Sandler O'Neill used internal financial projections as provided by the respective senior management of Newport Bancorp and SI Financial. Sandler O'Neill also received and used in its analyses certain projections of transaction costs, purchase accounting adjustments, expected cost savings and other synergies which were prepared by and/or reviewed with the senior management of SI Financial. With respect to those projections, estimates and judgments, the respective management of Newport Bancorp and SI Financial confirmed to us that those projections, estimates and judgments reflected the best currently available estimates and judgments of those respective managements of the future financial performance of Newport Bancorp and SI Financial, respectively, and Sandler O'Neill assumed that such performance would be achieved. Sandler O'Neill expresses no opinion as to such estimates or the assumptions on which they are based. Sandler O'Neill has assumed that there has been no material change in the respective assets, financial condition, results of operations, business or prospects of Newport Bancorp and SI Financial since the date of the most recent financial data made available to us. Sandler O'Neill has also assumed in all respects material to its analysis that Newport Bancorp and SI Financial would remain as a going concern for all periods relevant to its analyses. Sandler O'Neill expresses no opinion as to any of the legal, accounting and tax matters relating to the merger and any other transactions contemplated in connection therewith.

Sandler O'Neill's opinion is necessarily based on financial, economic, market and other conditions as in effect on, and the information made available to it as of, the date of the opinion. Events occurring after the date hereof could materially affect Sandler O'Neill's opinion. Sandler O'Neill has not undertaken to update, revise, reaffirm or withdraw its opinion or otherwise comment upon events occurring after the date of its opinion.

Sandler O'Neill opinion was directed to the Board of Directors of Newport Bancorp in connection with its consideration of the merger and does not constitute a recommendation to any shareholder of Newport Bancorp as to how any such shareholder should vote at the special meeting called to consider and vote upon the merger. Sandler O'Neill's opinion is directed only to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the merger consideration to the holders of Newport Bancorp common stock and does not address the underlying business decision of Newport Bancorp to engage in the merger, the relative merits of the merger as compared to any other alternative business strategies that might exist for Newport Bancorp or the effect of any other transaction in which Newport Bancorp might engage. Sandler O'Neill's opinion shall not be reproduced or used for any other purposes, without Sandler O'Neill's prior written consent. Sandler O'Neill has consented to inclusion of its opinion and a summary thereof in this proxy statement/prospectus and in the registration statement on Form S-4 which includes this proxy statement/prospectus. Sandler O'Neill's opinion has been approved by Sandler O'Neill's fairness opinion committee. Sandler O'Neill does not express any opinion as to the fairness of the amount or nature of the compensation to be received in the merger by any officer, director, or employees, or class of such persons, relative to the compensation to be received in the merger by any other shareholder.

In rendering its March 5, 2013 opinion, Sandler O'Neill performed a variety of financial analyses. The following is a summary of the material analyses performed by Sandler O'Neill, but is not a complete description of all the analyses underlying Sandler O'Neill's opinion. The summary includes information presented in tabular format. **In order to fully understand the financial analyses, these tables must be read together with the**

---

**Table of Contents**

**accompanying text. The tables alone do not constitute a complete description of the financial analyses.** The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex process involving subjective judgments as to the most appropriate and relevant methods of financial analysis and the application of those methods to the particular circumstances. In arriving at its opinion, Sandler O'Neill did not attribute any particular weight to any analysis or factor that it considered. Rather Sandler O'Neill made qualitative judgments as to the significance and relevance of each analysis and factor. Sandler O'Neill did not form an opinion as to whether any individual analysis or factor (positive or negative) considered in isolation supported or failed to support its opinion; rather Sandler O'Neill made its determination as to the fairness of the merger consideration on the basis of its experience and professional judgment after considering the results of all its analyses taken as a whole. The process, therefore, is not necessarily susceptible to a partial analysis or summary description. Sandler O'Neill believes that its analyses must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of the factors and analyses to be considered without considering all factors and analyses, or attempting to ascribe relative weights to some or all such factors and analyses, could create an incomplete view of the evaluation process underlying its opinion. Also, no company included in Sandler O'Neill's comparative analyses described below is identical to Newport Bancorp or SI Financial and no transaction is identical to the merger. Accordingly, an analysis of comparable companies or transactions involves complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operating characteristics of the companies and other factors that could affect the public trading values or merger transaction values, as the case may be, of Newport Bancorp or SI Financial and the companies to which they are being compared.

In performing its analyses, Sandler O'Neill also made numerous assumptions with respect to industry performance, business and economic conditions and various other matters, many of which cannot be predicted and are beyond the control of Newport Bancorp, SI Financial and Sandler O'Neill. The analysis performed by Sandler O'Neill is not necessarily indicative of actual values or future results, both of which may be significantly more or less favorable than suggested by such analyses. Sandler O'Neill prepared its analyses solely for purposes of rendering its opinion and provided such analyses to the Board of Directors and senior management of Newport Bancorp and its subsidiaries at the March 5, 2013 meeting. Estimates on the values of companies do not purport to be appraisals or necessarily reflect the prices at which companies or their securities may actually be sold. Such estimates are inherently subject to uncertainty and actual values may be materially different. Accordingly, Sandler O'Neill's analyses do not necessarily reflect the value of Newport Bancorp's common stock or the prices at which Newport Bancorp's common stock may be sold at any time. The analysis and opinion of Sandler O'Neill was among a number of factors taken into consideration by the Board of Directors and senior management of Newport Bancorp and its subsidiaries in making its determination to adopt the plan of merger contained in the merger agreement and the analyses described below should not be viewed as determinative of the decision the Board of Directors and senior management of Newport Bancorp and its subsidiaries with respect to the fairness of the merger.

At the March 5, 2013 meeting of the Board of Directors, Sandler O'Neill presented certain financial analyses of the merger. The summary below is not a complete description of the analyses underlying the opinions of Sandler O'Neill or the presentation made by Sandler O'Neill to the Board of Directors and senior management of Newport Bancorp and its subsidiaries, but is instead a summary of the material analyses performed and presented in connection with the opinion.

**Summary of Proposal.**

Sandler O'Neill reviewed the financial terms of the proposed transaction, which allow Newport Bancorp shareholders to elect to receive cash or stock, subject to the allocation and proration procedures as set forth in the merger agreement. Shares of Newport Bancorp common stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the merger will be converted into shares of SI Financial common stock equal to a specified exchange ratio of 1.5129. Sandler O'Neill calculated an aggregate transaction value of approximately \$63.8 million, which includes \$2.4 million of deal value for 470 thousand stock options to be converted into SI Financial shares at a weighted average stock price of \$12.50 and assumes 3.5 million Newport Bancorp common shares outstanding. Based

**Table of Contents**

upon financial information as or for the quarter ended December 31, 2012, Sandler O'Neill calculated the following transaction ratios:

<b>Transaction Ratios</b>	
Price/Last twelve months earnings per share	38.2x
Price/2013 Estimated earnings per share (1)	53.2x
Price/Book value	116%
Price/Tangible book value	116%
Tangible book premium/Core deposits (2)	3.8%
Market Premium	6.2%

(1) Based on FactSet 2013 median EPS estimate

(2) Core deposits exclude jumbo deposits; reflects bank level regulatory data

**Newport Bancorp Comparable Company Analysis.**

Sandler O'Neill also used publicly available information to compare selected financial and market trading information for Newport Bancorp and a group of financial institutions selected by Sandler O'Neill.

The Newport Bancorp peer group consisted of the following northeast region publicly-traded thrifts with total assets between \$250 million \$1 billion:

SI Financial Group, Inc.

BSB Bancorp, Inc.

Hampden Bancorp, Inc.

Chicopee Bancorp, Inc.

Peoples Federal Bancshares, Inc.

Naugatuck Valley Financial Corporation

Guaranty Bancorp, Inc.

Wellesley Bancorp, Inc.

Mayflower Bancorp, Inc.

The analysis compared publicly available financial information for Newport Bancorp and the median financial and market trading data for the Newport Bancorp peer group as of and for the last twelve months ended December 31, 2012. The table below sets forth the data for Newport Bancorp and the median data for the Newport Bancorp peer group as of and for the last twelve months ended December 31, 2012, with pricing data as of March 4, 2013.

<i>(Dollars in millions)</i>	<b>Comparable Group</b>	
	<b>Newport Bancorp</b>	<b>Median</b>
Total Assets	\$ 449	\$ 577
Tangible Common Equity / Tangible Assets	11.83%	13.36%
Leverage Ratio	10.05%	11.08%
Total Risk Based Capital Ratio	17.14%	19.30%
Return on Average Assets	0.34%	0.33%
Return on Average Equity	2.96%	2.61%
Net Interest Margin	3.35%	3.50%
Efficiency Ratio	80.1%	78.2%
Loan Loss Reserve / Gross Loans	1.12%	0.96%
Non-performing Assets / Assets	1.28%	1.32%
Net Charge-offs / Average Loans	0.03%	0.09%
Price / Tangible Book Value	108.8%	97.4%
Price / LTM EPS	35.9x	33.7x
Current Dividend Yield	NA	1.0%
LTM Dividend Ratio	NA	35.3%
Market Capitalization	\$ 58	\$ 88



**Table of Contents****SI Financial - Comparable Company Analysis.**

Sandler O'Neill also used publicly available information to compare selected financial and market trading information for SI Financial and a group of financial institutions selected by Sandler O'Neill.

The SI Financial peer group consisted of the following northeast region publicly-traded thrifts with total assets between \$500 million - \$2 billion:

Rockville Financial Inc.	BSB Bancorp, Inc.
First Connecticut Bancorp, Inc.	Hampden Bancorp, Inc.
Westfield Financial, Inc.	Chicopee Bancorp, Inc.
New Hampshire Thrift Bancshares, Inc.	Peoples Federal Bancshares, Inc.
Hingham Institution for Savings	Naugatuck Valley Financial Corporation

The analysis compared publicly available financial information for SI Financial and the median financial and market trading data for the SI Financial peer group as of and for the last twelve months ended December 31, 2012. The table below sets forth the data for SI Financial and the median data for the SI Financial peer group as of and for the most recent quarter ended December 31, 2012, with pricing data as of March 4, 2013.

<i>(Dollars in millions)</i>	<b>SI Financial</b>	<b>Comparable Group Median</b>
Total Assets	\$ 953	\$ 1,022
Tangible Common Equity / Tangible Assets	12.88%	13.97%
Leverage Ratio	11.08%	13.54%
Total Risk Based Capital Ratio	21.41%	19.98%
Return on Average Assets	0.31%	0.51%
Return on Average Equity	2.35%	3.97%
Net Interest Margin	2.87%	3.24%
Efficiency Ratio	82.5%	73.0%
Loan Loss Reserve / Gross Loans	0.92%	1.09%
Non-performing Assets / Assets	1.32%	1.33%
Net Charge-offs / Average Loans	0.05%	0.17%
Price / Tangible Book Value	96.4%	105.2%
Price / LTM EPS	NM	29.8x
Current Dividend Yield	1.0%	1.3%
LTM Dividend Ratio	109.1%	51.7%
Market Capitalization	\$ 118	\$ 120

**Newport Bancorp Stock Price Performance.**

Sandler O'Neill reviewed the history of the publicly reported trading prices of Newport Bancorp's common stock for the one-year period ended March 4, 2013. Sandler O'Neill then compared the relationship between the movements in the price of Newport Bancorp's common stock against the movements in the prices of the SNL U.S. Thrift Index and the S&P 500 Index.

**Newport Bancorp's One-Year Stock Performance.**

	Beginning Index Value March 2, 2012	Ending Index Value March 4, 2013
Newport Bancorp	100.0%	128.5%
SNL Thrift Index	100.0	117.4
S&P 500 Index	100.0	111.4



**Table of Contents****SI Financial Stock Price Performance.**

Sandler O'Neill reviewed the history of the publicly reported trading prices and trading volume of SI Financial's common stock for the one-year period ended March 4, 2013. Sandler O'Neill then compared the relationship between the movements in the price of SI Financial's common stock against the movements in the prices of the SNL U.S. Thrift Index and the S&P 500 Index.

**SI Financial's One-Year Stock Performance.**

	Beginning Index Value March 2, 2012	Ending Index Value March 4, 2013
SI Financial	100.0%	111.8%
SNL Thrift Index	100.0	117.4
S&P 500 Index	100.0	111.4

**Newport Bancorp Net Present Value Analysis.**

Sandler O'Neill performed an analysis that estimated the present value of Newport Bancorp through December 31, 2016.

Sandler O'Neill based the analysis on Newport Bancorp's projected earnings stream as derived from the internal financial projections provided by Newport Bancorp management for the years ending December 31, 2013 through 2016.

To approximate the terminal value of Newport Bancorp's common stock at December 31, 2016, Sandler O'Neill applied price to forward earnings multiples of 10.0x to 20.0x and multiples of tangible book value ranging from 70% to 120%. The income streams and terminal values were then discounted to present values using different discount rates ranging from 10.0% to 16.0%.

**Earnings Per Share Multiples**

Discount Rate	10.0x	12.0x	14.0x	16.0x	18.0x	20.0x
10.0%	\$ 4.33	\$ 5.20	\$ 6.06	\$ 6.93	\$ 7.79	\$ 8.66
11.0%	4.18	5.01	5.85	6.68	7.52	8.35
12.0%	4.03	4.83	5.64	6.45	7.25	8.06
13.0%	3.89	4.67	5.44	6.22	7.00	7.78
14.0%	3.75	4.50	5.25	6.01	6.76	7.51
15.0%	3.62	4.35	5.07	5.80	6.52	7.25
16.0%	3.50	4.20	4.90	5.60	6.30	7.00

**Tangible Book Value Per Share Multiples**

Discount Rate	70%	80%	90%	100%	110%	120%
10.0%	\$ 8.74	\$ 9.99	\$ 11.24	\$ 12.49	\$ 13.74	\$ 14.98
11.0%	8.43	9.63	10.84	12.04	13.25	14.45
12.0%	8.13	9.29	10.46	11.62	12.78	13.94
13.0%	7.85	8.97	10.09	11.21	12.33	13.46
14.0%	7.58	8.66	9.74	10.82	11.91	12.99
15.0%	7.32	8.36	9.41	10.45	11.50	12.54
16.0%	7.07	8.08	9.09	10.10	11.11	12.12

**Table of Contents**

Sandler O'Neill also considered and discussed with the Board of Directors of Newport Bancorp how this analysis would be affected by changes in the underlying assumptions, including variations with respect to net income. To illustrate this impact, Sandler O'Neill performed a similar analysis assuming Newport Bancorp's net income varied from 25% above projections to 25% below projections. This analysis resulted in the following reference ranges of indicated aggregate values for Newport Bancorp's common stock, using a discount rate of 13.74%:

**Earnings Per Share Multiples**

<b>Annual Budget Variance</b>	<b>10.0x</b>	<b>12.0x</b>	<b>14.0x</b>	<b>16.0x</b>	<b>18.0x</b>	<b>20.0x</b>
<b>(25.0%)</b>	\$ 2.84	\$ 3.41	\$ 3.98	\$ 4.55	\$ 5.11	\$ 5.68
<b>(20.0%)</b>	3.03	3.64	4.24	4.85	5.45	6.06
<b>(15.0%)</b>	3.22	3.86	4.51	5.15	5.80	6.44
<b>(10.0%)</b>	3.41	4.09	4.77	5.45	6.14	6.82
<b>(5.0%)</b>	3.60	4.32	5.04	5.76	6.48	7.20
<b>0.0%</b>	3.79	4.55	5.30	6.06	6.82	7.58
<b>5.0%</b>	3.98	4.77	5.57	6.36	7.16	7.95
<b>10.0%</b>	4.17	5.00	5.83	6.67	7.50	8.33
<b>15.0%</b>	4.36	5.23	6.10	6.97	7.84	8.71
<b>20.0%</b>	4.55	5.45	6.36	7.27	8.18	9.09
<b>25.0%</b>	4.73	5.68	6.63	7.58	8.52	9.47

**SI Financial Net Present Value Analysis.**

Sandler O'Neill performed an analysis that estimated the present value of SI Financial through December 31, 2016.

Sandler O'Neill based the analysis on SI Financial's projected earnings stream as derived from the internal financial projections provided by SI Financial's management for the years ending December 31, 2012 through 2016.

To approximate the terminal value of SI Financial's common stock at December 31, 2016, Sandler O'Neill applied price to forward earnings multiples of 10.0x to 20.0x and multiples of tangible book value ranging from 100% to 150%. The income streams and terminal values were then discounted to present values using different discount rates ranging from 10.0% to 16.0%.

**Earnings Per Share Multiples**

<b>Discount Rate</b>	<b>10.0x</b>	<b>12.0x</b>	<b>14.0x</b>	<b>16.0x</b>	<b>18.0x</b>	<b>20.0x</b>
<b>10.0%</b>	\$ 3.04	\$ 3.56	\$ 4.08	\$ 4.61	\$ 5.13	\$ 5.65
<b>11.0%</b>	2.94	3.44	3.95	4.45	4.95	5.46
<b>12.0%</b>	2.84	3.33	3.81	4.30	4.79	5.27
<b>13.0%</b>	2.75	3.22	3.69	4.16	4.63	5.10
<b>14.0%</b>	2.66	3.11	3.56	4.02	4.47	4.93
<b>15.0%</b>	2.57	3.01	3.45	3.89	4.32	4.76
<b>16.0%</b>	2.49	2.91	3.34	3.76	4.18	4.61



**Table of Contents****Tangible Book Value Per Share Multiples**

<b>Discount Rate</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>110%</b>	<b>120%</b>	<b>130%</b>	<b>140%</b>	<b>150%</b>
<b>10.0%</b>	\$ 9.74	\$ 10.67	\$ 11.60	\$ 12.53	\$ 13.47	\$ 14.40
<b>11.0%</b>	9.40	10.30	11.20	12.09	12.99	13.89
<b>12.0%</b>	9.07	9.94	10.81	11.68	12.54	13.41
<b>13.0%</b>	8.76	9.60	10.44	11.27	12.11	12.95
<b>14.0%</b>	8.47	9.27	10.08	10.89	11.70	12.50
<b>15.0%</b>	8.18	8.96	9.74	10.52	11.30	12.08
<b>16.0%</b>	7.91	8.66	9.42	10.17	10.92	11.68

Sandler O'Neill also considered and discussed with the Board of Directors of Newport Bancorp and its subsidiaries how this analysis would be affected by changes in the underlying assumptions, including variations with respect to net income. To illustrate this impact, Sandler O'Neill performed a similar analysis assuming SI Financial's net income varied from 25% above projections to 25% below projections. This analysis resulted in the following reference ranges of indicated per share values for SI Financial's common stock, using a discount rate of 13.74%:

**Earnings Per Share Multiples**

<b>Annual Budget Variance</b>	<b>10.0x</b>	<b>12.0x</b>	<b>14.0x</b>	<b>16.0x</b>	<b>18.0x</b>	<b>20.0x</b>
<b>(25.0%)</b>	\$ 2.11	\$ 2.45	\$ 2.79	\$ 3.14	\$ 3.48	\$ 3.82
<b>(20.0%)</b>	2.22	2.59	2.95	3.32	3.69	4.05
<b>(15.0%)</b>	2.34	2.73	3.12	3.50	3.89	4.28
<b>(10.0%)</b>	2.45	2.86	3.28	3.69	4.10	4.51
<b>(5.0%)</b>	2.57	3.00	3.44	3.87	4.31	4.74
<b>0.0%</b>	2.68	3.14	3.60	4.05	4.51	4.97
<b>5.0%</b>	2.79	3.28	3.76	4.24	4.72	5.20
<b>10.0%</b>	2.91	3.41	3.92	4.42	4.92	5.43
<b>15.0%</b>	3.02	3.55	4.08	4.60	5.13	5.66
<b>20.0%</b>	3.14	3.69	4.24	4.79	5.33	5.88
<b>25.0%</b>	3.25	3.82	4.40	4.97	5.54	6.11

**Analysis of Selected Merger Transactions.**

Sandler O'Neill reviewed three sets of comparable merger and acquisition transactions.

The first set of mergers and acquisitions included 9 transactions announced from January 1, 2010 through March 4, 2013 with announced deal values in which the targets were northeast and Mid-Atlantic thrifts and assets between \$250 million - \$1 billion at announcement. Sandler O'Neill deemed these transactions to be reflective of the proposed Newport Bancorp and SI Financial combination. Sandler O'Neill reviewed the following multiples: transaction price to last twelve months' earnings per share, transaction price to book value, transaction price to tangible book value, core deposit premium and 1-month market premium.

The second set of mergers and acquisitions included 7 transactions announced from January 1, 2010 through March 4, 2013 in which the targets were northeast banks or thrifts with assets between \$250 million - \$1 billion at announcement and announced transaction values greater than \$15 million. Sandler O'Neill deemed these transactions to be reflective of the proposed Newport Bancorp and SI Financial combination. Sandler O'Neill reviewed the following multiples: transaction price to last twelve months' earnings per share, transaction price to book value, transaction price to tangible book value, core deposit premium and 1-month market premium. As illustrated in the following table, Sandler O'Neill compared the proposed merger multiples to the median multiples of these comparable transactions.

**Table of Contents**

The third set of mergers and acquisitions included 16 transactions announced from January 1, 2010 through March 4, 2013 in which the targets were thrifts with assets between \$250 million \$1 billion at announcement and announced transaction values greater than \$15 million. Sandler O'Neill deemed these transactions to be reflective of the proposed Newport Bancorp and SI Financial combination. Sandler O'Neill reviewed the following multiples: transaction price to last twelve months earnings per share, transaction price to book value, transaction price to tangible book value, core deposit premium and 1-month market premium. As illustrated in the following table, Sandler O'Neill compared the proposed merger multiples to the median multiples of these comparable transactions.

**Summary of Comparable Transaction Multiples**

	Newport Bancorp/ SI Financial	Median Regional (1)	Median Regional (2)	Median Nationwide
Transaction value/ Last 12 months earnings per share	38.2x	32.3x	23.0x	22.8x
Transaction value/ Book value per share	116%	111%	143%	111%
Transaction value/ Tangible book value per share	116	111	145	111
Tangible book premium/ Core deposits	3.8	2.5	6.5	1.8
Market premium	6.2	75.9	64.5	78.2

**Pro Forma Merger Analysis.**

Sandler O'Neill analyzed certain potential pro forma effects of the merger, assuming the following: (1) Consideration of 50% common stock and 50% cash; (2) the merger is completed in the third quarter of 2013; (3) the deal value per share is equal to a \$17.55 per Newport Bancorp share, given a 1.5129 exchange ratio of SI Financial's common stock; (3) 34% cost savings of Newport Bancorp projected operating expense, fully phased-in by 2014; (4) approximately \$20.0 million in pre-tax transaction costs and expenses; (5) Newport Bancorp's performance was calculated in accordance with Newport Bancorp's management's prepared earnings projections; (6) SI Financial's performance was calculated in accordance with SI Financial's management's prepared earnings projections and guidance; (7) purchase accounting adjustments, including \$2.5 million positive mark on HTM investment securities portfolio, \$5.0 million credit mark and \$8.1 million interest mark on the loan portfolio, \$840 thousand deposit rate mark and \$4.5 million FHLB mark; (8) and certain other assumptions pertaining to costs and expenses associated with the transaction, intangible amortization, opportunity cost of cash and other items. The analyses indicated that, for the full years 2014 and 2015, the merger (excluding transaction expenses) would be 69.4% and 69.8% accretive to SI Financial's projected earnings per share, respectively. For the full years 2014 and 2015, the merger would be 10.3% and 7.9% dilutive to SI Financial's tangible book value per share, respectively. The actual results achieved by the combined company may vary from projected results and the variations may be material.

**Pro Forma Contribution Analysis.** Sandler O'Neill analyzed the relative contribution of assets, liabilities, capital, and earnings by Newport Bancorp and SI Financial in the transaction. Based upon the exchange ratio as described above in the *Summary of Proposal* section, the total ownership for Newport Bancorp shareholders in the pro forma company was estimated to be 20%.

(dollars in millions)	Newport Bancorp	SI Financial	SI Financial Contribution	Newport Bancorp Contribution
Total Assets	\$ 449	\$ 953	68%	32%
Gross Loans	359	697	66	34
Total Deposits	290	705	71	29
Tangible Common Equity	53	122	70	30
Nonperforming Assets	6	13	69	31
Market Capitalization	58	118	67	33
2012 Net Income Avail. To Common	1.6	1.1	42	58
2013 Net Income Avail. To Common	1.1	3.1	75	25

## **Table of Contents**

### **Sandler O Neill s Compensation and Other Relationships with Newport Bancorp**

Sandler O Neill has acted as financial advisor to the Board of Directors and senior management of Newport Bancorp and its subsidiaries in connection with the merger. The Board of Directors and senior management of Newport Bancorp and its subsidiaries agreed to pay Sandler O Neill a fee in an amount equal to 1.1% of the aggregate purchase price, 20% of which was payable upon the signing of the definitive agreement, \$100,000 of which was payable upon delivery of Sandler O Neill s opinion, and the remainder of which is contingent upon completion of the merger. Newport Bancorp has also agreed to indemnify Sandler O Neill against certain liabilities arising out of its engagement and to reimburse Sandler O Neill for certain of its reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

In the ordinary course of their respective broker and dealer businesses, Sandler O Neill may purchase securities from and sell securities to Newport Bancorp and SI Financial and their affiliates. Sandler O Neill may also actively trade the debt and/or equity securities of Newport Bancorp and SI Financial or their affiliates for their own accounts and for the accounts of their customers and, accordingly, may at any time hold a long or short position in such securities. During the two years preceding the date of its opinion, Sandler O Neill did not receive any compensation from Newport Bancorp for investment banking services.

### **SI Financial s Reasons for the Merger**

SI Financial s board of directors believes that the merger is in the best interests of SI Financial and its shareholders. In deciding to approve the merger, SI Financial s board of directors considered a number of factors, including:

Newport Bancorp s community banking orientation, its favorable reputation within its local community and its compatibility with SI Financial and its subsidiaries.

Management s review of the business, operations, earnings, and financial condition, including capital levels and asset quality of Newport Bancorp.

The scale, scope, strength and diversity of operations, product lines and delivery systems that could be achieved by combining SI Financial and Newport Bancorp.

The expansion into the contiguous market of Rhode Island and the attractive demographics of such market.

SI Financial s historic performance in similar markets.

The reports of SI Financial management and the financial presentation by KBW and Loomis & Co., to SI Financial s board of directors concerning, among other things, the operations, financial condition and prospects of Newport Bancorp and the expected financial impact of the merger on the combined company, including pro forma assets, earnings, deposits and regulatory capital ratios.

The historical and current market prices of SI Financial common stock and Newport Bancorp common stock, as well as the financial analyses prepared by KBW and Loomis & Co.

The opinions delivered to the SI Financial board of directors by KBW and Loomis & Co., to the effect that, as of the date of this respective opinions and based upon and subject to the considerations described in its opinion and other matters as KBW and Loomis & Co. considered relevant, the merger consideration to be paid by SI Financial to the holders of Newport Bancorp common stock in the merger was fair to SI Financial, from a financial point of view.

## Edgar Filing: SI Financial Group, Inc. - Form S-4/A

The review by the SI Financial board of directors with its management and legal and financial advisors of the structure of the merger and the financial and other terms of the merger, the consideration to be paid to Newport Bancorp shareholders and the expectation of SI Financial's legal advisors that the merger will qualify as a transaction of a type that is generally tax-free to Newport Bancorp shareholders for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

## **Table of Contents**

That SI Financial's management team will remain intact following the merger and that SI Financial and Savings Institute's boards of directors will be increased to accommodate the addition of Mr. McCarthy and two current members of the Newport Bancorp board of directors.

The complementary nature of the business, market areas and corporate cultures of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp.

That the combined company will have an attractive commercial and community banking franchise.

SI Financial's expectation that it will achieve cost savings equal to 34% of Newport Bancorp's current annualized non-interest expenses.

For 2014, the first full year of combined operations, SI Financial expects the transaction to be accretive to its earnings per share.

The pro forma financial effects of the proposed transaction, including the expected dilution to tangible book value per share.

The likelihood of regulators approving the merger without undue conditions or delay.

While SI Financial's board of directors considered these and other factors, the board of directors did not assign any specific or relative weights to the factors considered and did not make any determination with respect to any individual factor. SI Financial's board of directors collectively made its determination with respect to the merger based on the conclusion reached by its members, based on the factors that each of them considered appropriate, that the merger is in the best interests of SI Financial's shareholders. The terms of the merger were the result of arm's length negotiations between representatives of SI Financial and representatives of Newport Bancorp.

### **Recommendation of SI Financial's Board of Directors**

**SI Financial's board of directors has unanimously approved the agreement and plan of merger and the merger and unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the agreement and plan of merger and the merger.**

### **Opinions of SI Financial's Financial Advisors**

#### *Opinion of Keefe, Bruyette & Woods*

On February 1, 2013, SI Financial executed an engagement agreement with Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated (an affiliate of Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, a Stifel Company). KBW's engagement encompassed assisting SI Financial in analyzing, structuring, negotiating and effecting a transaction between SI Financial and Newport Bancorp. SI Financial selected KBW because KBW is a nationally recognized investment banking firm with substantial experience in transactions similar to the merger and is familiar with SI Financial and its business. As part of its investment banking business, KBW is continually engaged in the valuation of financial businesses and their securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions.

On March 5, 2013, the SI Financial board of directors held a meeting to evaluate the proposed merger of Newport Bancorp with and into SI Financial. At this meeting, KBW reviewed the financial aspects of the proposed merger and rendered an oral opinion (subsequently confirmed in writing), to SI Financial that, as of such date, and based upon and subject to factors and assumptions set forth therein, the aggregate consideration in the merger is fair, from a financial point of view, to SI Financial. The SI Financial board of directors approved the agreement and plan of merger at this meeting.

**The full text of KBW's written opinion, dated March 5, 2013, which sets forth the assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken in connection with the opinion, is attached as Annex B to this document and is incorporated herein by reference. The description of the opinion set forth herein is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of such opinion. SI Financial's shareholders are urged to read the opinion in its entirety.**



---

**Table of Contents**

**KBW's opinion speaks only as of the date of the opinion. The opinion is directed to the SI Financial board and addresses only the fairness, from a financial point of view to SI Financial, of the aggregate consideration in the merger. It does not address the underlying business decision to proceed with the merger and does not constitute a recommendation to any SI Financial shareholder as to how the shareholder should vote at the SI Financial annual meeting on the merger or any related matter.**

In connection with its opinion, KBW reviewed, analyzed and relied upon material bearing upon the merger and the financial and operating condition of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp and the merger, including among other things, the following:

a draft of the agreement and plan of merger;

the Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the three years ended December 31, 2011 of SI Financial and the Annual Reports to Stockholders and Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the three years ended December 31, 2011 of Newport Bancorp;

certain interim reports to shareholders and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp and certain other communications from SI Financial and Newport Bancorp to their respective stockholders; and

other financial information concerning the businesses and operations of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp furnished to KBW by SI Financial and Newport Bancorp for purposes of KBW's analysis.

KBW also held discussions with members of senior management of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp regarding the past and current business operations, regulatory relations, financial condition, and future prospects of the respective companies and such other matters that KBW deemed relevant to its inquiry. In addition, KBW compared certain financial and stock market information for SI Financial and Newport Bancorp with similar information for certain other companies the securities of which are publicly traded, reviewed the financial terms of certain recent business combinations in the banking industry, and performed such other studies and analyses as KBW considered appropriate.

In conducting its review and arriving at its opinion, KBW relied upon and assumed the accuracy and completeness of all of the financial and other information provided to it or publicly available, and did not independently verify the accuracy or completeness of any such information or assume any responsibility for such verification or accuracy. KBW relied upon the managements of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp as to the reasonableness and achievability of the financial and operating forecasts and projections (and assumptions and bases therefor) provided to KBW and KBW assumed that such forecasts and projections reflect the best currently available estimates and judgments of such managements and that such forecasts and projections will be realized in the amounts and in the time periods currently estimated by such managements. KBW is not an expert in the independent valuation of the adequacy of allowances for loan losses, and without independent verification, assumed that the aggregate allowances for loan and lease losses for SI Financial and Newport Bancorp are adequate to cover those losses. KBW did not make or obtain any evaluations or appraisals of any assets or liabilities of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp, nor did they examine or review any individual credit files.

The projections and associated assumptions used by KBW in certain of its analyses were sourced from SI Financial's and Newport Bancorp's senior management teams. SI Financial and Newport Bancorp do not publicly disclose internal management projections of the type provided to KBW in connection with its review of the merger. As a result, such projections were not prepared with a view towards public disclosure. The projections were based on numerous variables and assumptions, which are inherently uncertain, including factors related to general economic and competitive conditions. Accordingly, actual results could vary significantly from those set forth in the projections. Any estimates or projections contained in the analyses performed by KBW are not necessarily indicative of actual values or future results, which may be significantly more or less favorable than suggested by these analyses. Additionally, estimates or projections of the value of businesses or securities do not purport to be appraisals or to reflect the prices at which such businesses or securities might actually be sold. Accordingly, these analyses and estimates are inherently subject to substantial uncertainty.

**Table of Contents**

KBW was not asked to, and it did not, offer any opinion as to the terms of the agreement and plan of merger or the form of the merger, other than the aggregate consideration, to the extent expressly specified in KBW's opinion. Additionally, KBW's opinion did not address the relative merits of the merger as compared to any alternative business strategies that might exist for SI Financial, nor does it address the effect of any other business combination in which SI Financial might engage.

For purposes of rendering its opinion, KBW assumed that, in all respects material to its analyses:

the merger will be completed substantially in accordance with the terms set forth in the agreement and plan of merger;

the representations and warranties of each party in the agreement and plan of merger and in all related documents and instruments referred to in the agreement and plan of merger are true and correct;

each party to the agreement and plan of merger and all related documents will perform all of the covenants and agreements required to be performed by such party under such documents;

all conditions to the completion of the merger will be satisfied without any waivers or modifications to the agreement and plan of merger; and

in the course of obtaining the necessary regulatory, contractual, or other consents or approvals for the merger, no restrictions, including any divestiture requirements, termination or other payments or amendments or modifications, will be imposed that will have a material adverse effect on the future results of operations or financial condition of the combined entity or the contemplated benefits of the merger, including the cost savings, revenue enhancements and related expenses expected to result from the merger.

KBW further assumed that the merger will be accounted for as an acquisition transaction under generally accepted accounting principles and that the merger will qualify as a tax-free reorganization for United States federal income tax purposes. KBW's opinion is not an expression of an opinion as to the prices at which shares of SI Financial common stock will trade since the announcement of the proposed merger, the actual value of the SI Financial common shares when issued pursuant to the merger or the prices at which the SI Financial common shares will trade following the completion of the merger.

In performing its analyses, KBW considered such financial and other factors we deemed appropriate under the circumstances, including, among others, the following: (1) the historical and current financial position and results of operations of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp; (2) the assets and liabilities of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp; and (3) the nature and terms of certain other merger transactions involving banks and bank holding companies. KBW also took into account our assessment of general economic, market and financial conditions and its experience in other transactions, as well as its experience in securities valuation and knowledge of the banking industry generally.

The aggregate consideration was determined through negotiation between SI Financial and Newport Bancorp and the decision to enter into the merger was solely that of SI Financial's board of directors. In addition, the KBW opinion was among several factors taken into consideration by the SI Financial board in making its determination to approve the Agreement and plan of merger and the merger. Consequently, the analyses described below should not be viewed as determinative of the decision of the SI Financial board with respect to the fairness of the aggregate consideration in the merger.

*Summary of Analysis by KBW*

The following is a summary of the material financial analyses presented by KBW to the SI Financial board in connection with rendering the fairness opinion described above. The following summary is not a complete description of the financial analyses performed by KBW in rendering its opinion or the presentation made by



**Table of Contents**

KBW to the SI Financial board, nor does the order of analysis described represent relative importance or weight given to any particular analysis by KBW and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the written opinion of KBW attached as Annex B. The preparation of a fairness opinion is a complex analytic process involving various determinations as to the most appropriate and relevant methods of financial analysis and the application of those methods to the particular circumstances. Therefore, a fairness opinion is not readily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description. Selecting portions of the analysis or of the summary set forth herein, without considering the analysis as a whole, could create an incomplete view of the processes underlying KBW's opinion. In arriving at its opinion, KBW considered the results of its entire analysis and KBW did not attribute any particular weight to any analysis or factor that it considered. Rather, KBW made its determination as to fairness on the basis of its experience and professional judgment after considering the results of its entire analysis. The financial analyses summarized below include information presented in tabular format. Accordingly, KBW believes that its analyses and the summary of its analyses must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of its analyses and factors or focusing on the information presented below in tabular format, without considering all analyses and factors or the full narrative description of the financial analyses, including the methodologies and assumptions underlying the analyses, could create a misleading or incomplete view of the process underlying its analyses and opinion. The tables alone do not constitute a complete description of the financial analyses.

*Selected Companies Analysis.* Using publicly available information, KBW compared the financial performance and financial condition of SI Financial to the following major exchange listed publicly traded banks and thrifts headquartered in New England with assets between \$500 million and \$2 billion and NPAs/Assets less than 5.0%. Companies included in this group were:

Rockville Financial, Inc.	First Connecticut Bancorp, Inc.
Merchants Bancshares, Inc.	Enterprise Bancorp, Inc.
First Bancorp, Inc.	Bar Harbor Bankshares
Westfield Financial, Inc.	New Hampshire Thrift Bancshares, Inc.
Hingham Institution for Savings	BSB Bancorp, Inc.
Northeast Bancorp	Hampden Bancorp, Inc.
Salisbury Bancorp, Inc.	Chicopee Bancorp, Inc.
Peoples Federal Bancshares, Inc.	Union Bankshares, Inc.

Using publicly available information, KBW compared the financial performance and financial condition of Newport Bancorp to the following major exchange listed publicly traded banks and thrifts headquartered in New England with assets between \$200 million and \$1 billion and NPAs/Assets less than 5.0%. Companies included in this group were:

SI Financial Group, Inc.	BSB Bancorp, Inc.
Northeast Bancorp	Hampden Bancorp, Inc.
Salisbury Bancorp, Inc.	Chicopee Bancorp, Inc.
Peoples Federal Bancshares, Inc.	Union Bankshares, Inc.
Wellesley Bancorp, Inc.	Mayflower Bancorp, Inc.
Georgetown Bancorp, Inc.	

To perform this analysis, KBW used financial information as of or for the three month period ended December 31, 2012. Certain financial data prepared by KBW and set forth in the tables below reflect financial measures that were not calculated and presented in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ( GAAP ), such as core return on average assets and core return on average equity. Such financial measures are not standardized, and, therefore, do not correspond to the data presented in SI Financial's and Newport Bancorp's historical GAAP financial statements.

**Table of Contents**

KBW's analysis showed the following concerning SI Financial's and Newport Bancorp's financial performance:

	SI Financial	SI Financial Selected Companies Minimum	SI Financial Selected Companies Maximum
Core Return on Average Assets (1)	0.30%	(0.19%)	1.12%
Core Return on Average Equity (1)	2.26	(1.32)	14.94
Net Interest Margin	2.87	2.48	4.32
Fee Income / Revenue Ratio (2)	26.5	3.8	32.8
Efficiency Ratio	82.5	42.2	106.4

- (1) Core income excludes extraordinary items, non-recurring items and gains/losses on sale of securities.
- (2) Excludes gains/losses on sale of securities.

	Newport Bancorp	Newport Bancorp Selected Companies Minimum	Newport Bancorp Selected Companies Maximum
Core Return on Average Assets (1)	0.42%	0.22%	1.12%
Core Return on Average Equity (1)	3.70	1.34	14.94
Net Interest Margin	3.35	2.87	4.32
Fee Income / Revenue Ratio (2)	17.9	10.3	32.8
Efficiency Ratio	78.8	65.2	82.5

- (1) Core income excludes extraordinary items, non-recurring items and gains/losses on sale of securities.
- (2) Excludes gains/losses on sale of securities.

KBW's analysis showed the following concerning SI Financial's and Newport Bancorp's financial condition:

	SI Financial	SI Financial Selected Companies Minimum	SI Financial Selected Companies Maximum
Tangible Common Equity / Tangible Assets	12.88%	5.50%	18.85%
Total Risk-Based Capital Ratio	21.41	11.46	29.35
Gross Loans Held for Investment / Total Deposits	98.1	78.3	119.5
Loan Loss Reserve / Gross Loans	0.93	0.22	1.77
Nonperforming Assets / Loans + OREO	1.80	0.27	5.71
Net Charge-Offs / Average Loans	0.05	0.00	1.73

	Newport Bancorp	Newport Bancorp Selected Companies Minimum	Newport Bancorp Selected Companies Maximum
Tangible Common Equity / Tangible Assets	11.83%	7.22%	18.85%

## Edgar Filing: SI Financial Group, Inc. - Form S-4/A

Total Risk-Based Capital Ratio	17.14	12.95	29.35
Gross Loans Held for Investment / Total Deposits	124.0	62.5	118.1
Loan Loss Reserve / Gross Loans	1.12	0.22	1.25
Nonperforming Assets / Loans + OREO	1.60	0.64	4.02
Net Charge-Offs / Average Loans	0.03	(0.01)	0.20

**Table of Contents**

KBW's analysis showed the following concerning SI Financial's and Newport Bancorp's market performance:

	SI Financial	SI Financial Selected Companies Minimum	SI Financial Selected Companies Maximum
Stock Price Performance: % One Year Price Change	11.8%	(22.2%)	31.8%
Stock Price Performance: % One Year Total Return	13.0%	(19.4%)	34.2%
Stock Price Performance: % YTD Price Change	1.3%	(0.2%)	11.4%
Stock Price / Book Value per Share	0.94x	0.76x	2.03x
Stock Price / Tangible Book Value per Share	0.96x	0.91x	2.21x
Stock Price / LTM EPS	NM	11.0x	33.7x
Dividend Yield	1.0%	%	8.2%
LTM Dividend Payout Ratio	NM	%	87.8%

Note: NM = Not meaningful

	Newport Bancorp	Newport Bancorp Selected Companies Minimum	Newport Bancorp Selected Companies Maximum
Stock Price Performance: % One Year Price Change	28.5%	(22.2%)	47.7%
Stock Price Performance: % One Year Total Return	28.5%	(19.4%)	48.1%
Stock Price Performance: % YTD Price Change	0.2%	1.0%	21.7%
Stock Price / Book Value per Share	1.09x	0.76x	2.03x
Stock Price / Tangible Book Value per Share	1.09x	0.85x	2.21x
Stock Price / LTM EPS	35.9x	11.1x	33.7x
Dividend Yield	%	%	6.3%
LTM Dividend Payout Ratio	%	%	87.8%

*Selected National Transactions Analysis.* KBW reviewed publicly available information related to select acquisitions of banks and thrifts headquartered in the United States announced after January 1, 2011 with aggregate transaction values between \$30 million and \$100 million where the seller had NPAs/Assets less than 3.0%. The transactions included in the group were:

**Acquiror:**

Glacier Bancorp, Inc.  
 First Financial Bankshares, Inc.  
 Lakeland Bancorp, Inc.  
 Old Florida Bancshares, Inc.  
 F.N.B. Corporation  
 Pacific Premier Bancorp, Inc.  
 MidSouth Bancorp, Inc.  
 First PacTrust Bancorp, Inc.  
 WesBanco, Inc.  
 Penns Woods Bancorp, Inc.  
 Independent Bank Corp.  
 PacWest Bancorp  
 FVNB Corp.  
 United Financial Bancorp, Inc.  
 First Community Bancshares, Inc.

**Acquired Company:**

Wheatland Bankshares, Inc.  
 Orange Savings Bank, SSB  
 Somerset Hills Bancorp  
 New Traditions National Bank  
 Annapolis Bancorp, Inc.  
 First Associations Bank  
 PSB Financial Corporation  
 Private Bank of California  
 Fidelity Bancorp, Inc.  
 Luzerne National Bank Corporation  
 Central Bancorp, Inc.  
 American Perspective Bank  
 First State Bank  
 New England Bancshares, Inc.  
 Peoples Bank of Virginia



**Table of Contents**

**Acquiror:**

California United Bank  
ViewPoint Financial Group, Inc.  
NBT Bancorp Inc.  
First Financial Corporation  
First PacTrust Bancorp, Inc.  
BankUnited, Inc.  
Grandpoint Capital Inc.

**Acquired Company:**

Premier Commercial Bancorp  
Highlands Bancshares, Inc.  
Hampshire First Bank  
Freestar Bank, National Association  
Beach Business Bank  
Herald National Bank  
Orange Community Bancorp

Transaction multiples for the merger were derived from an implied aggregate offer price of \$61.3 million (based on the 5-day average stock price as of March 4, 2013) for Newport Bancorp. For each precedent transaction, KBW derived and compared, among other things, the implied ratio of price per common share paid for the acquired company to:

tangible book value per share of the acquired company based on the latest publicly available financial statements of the company available prior to the announcement of the acquisition,

tangible equity premium to core deposits (total deposits less time deposits greater than \$100,000) based on the latest publicly available financial statements of the company available prior to the announcement of the acquisition, and

market premium based on the latest closing price 1-day prior to the announcement of the acquisition.

The results of the analysis are set forth in the following table:

<b>Transaction Price to:</b>	<b>SI Financial/ Newport Bancorp Merger</b>	<b>Selected Regional Transactions Minimum</b>	<b>Selected Regional Transactions Maximum</b>
Tangible Book Value	1.16x	0.92x	1.79x
Core Deposit Premium	3.0%	(4.1%)	10.4%
Market Premium	6.2%	0.1%	101.7%

No company or transaction used as a comparison in the above analysis is identical to SI Financial, Newport Bancorp or the proposed merger. Accordingly, an analysis of these results is not mathematical. Rather, it involves complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operating characteristics of the companies involved.

*Selected Regional Transactions Analysis.* KBW reviewed publicly available information related to select acquisitions of banks and thrifts headquartered in the Mid-Atlantic and New England announced after January 1, 2011 with aggregate transaction values between \$30 million and \$100 million where the seller had NPAs/Assets less than 3.0%. The transactions included in the group were:

**Acquiror:**

Lakeland Bancorp, Inc.  
F.N.B. Corporation  
WesBanco, Inc.  
Penns Woods Bancorp, Inc.  
Independent Bank Corp.  
United Financial Bancorp, Inc.  
Provident New York Bancorp  
NBT Bancorp Inc.  
BankUnited, Inc.

**Acquired Company:**

Somerset Hills Bancorp  
Annapolis Bancorp, Inc.  
Fidelity Bancorp, Inc.  
Luzerne National Bank Corporation  
Central Bancorp, Inc.  
New England Bancshares, Inc.  
Gotham Bank of New York  
Hampshire First Bank  
Herald National Bank



**Table of Contents**

Transaction multiples for the merger were derived from an implied aggregate offer price of \$61.3 million (based on the 5-day average stock price as of March 4, 2013) for Newport Bancorp. For each precedent transaction, KBW derived and compared, among other things, the implied ratio of price per common share paid for the acquired company to:

tangible book value per share of the acquired company based on the latest publicly available financial statements of the company available prior to the announcement of the acquisition,

tangible equity premium to core deposits (total deposits less time deposits greater than \$100,000) based on the latest publicly available financial statements of the company available prior to the announcement of the acquisition, and

market premium based on the latest closing price 1-day prior to the announcement of the acquisition.

The results of the analysis are set forth in the following table:

<b>Transaction Price to:</b>	<b>SI Financial/ Newport Bancorp Merger</b>	<b>Selected Regional Transactions Minimum</b>	<b>Selected Regional Transactions Maximum</b>
Tangible Book Value	1.16x	1.28x	1.67x
Core Deposit Premium	3.0%	4.1%	8.4%
Market Premium	6.2%	0.1%	101.7%

No company or transaction used as a comparison in the above analysis is identical to SI Financial, Newport Bancorp or the proposed merger. Accordingly, an analysis of these results is not mathematical. Rather, it involves complex considerations and judgments concerning differences in financial and operating characteristics of the companies involved.

*Financial Impact Analysis.* KBW performed pro forma merger analyses that combined projected income statement and balance sheet information of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp. Assumptions regarding the accounting treatment, acquisition adjustments and cost savings were used to calculate the financial impact that the merger would have on certain projected financial results of SI Financial. In the course of this analysis, KBW used an earnings estimate for SI Financial for 2013 and 2014 from SI Financial management and used an earnings estimate for Newport Bancorp for 2013 and 2014 from SI Financial management. This analysis indicated that the merger is expected to be accretive to SI Financial's estimated earnings per share in 2013 and 2014. The analysis also indicated that the merger is expected to be dilutive to book value per share and dilutive to tangible book value per share for SI Financial and that SI Financial would maintain capital ratios in excess of those required for SI Financial to be considered well-capitalized under existing regulations. For all of the above analyses, the actual results achieved by SI Financial following the merger will vary from the projected results, and the variations may be material.

*Discounted Cash Flow Analysis.* KBW performed a discounted cash flow analysis to estimate a range for the implied equity value of Newport Bancorp. In this analysis, KBW assumed discount rates ranging from 12.0% to 16.0% to derive (1) the present value of the estimated free cash flows that Newport Bancorp could generate over a five-year period, including certain cost savings forecasted as a result of the merger, and (2) the present value of Newport Bancorp's terminal value at the end of year five. Terminal values for Newport Bancorp were calculated based on a range of 12.0x to 16.0x estimated year six earnings. In performing this analysis, KBW used estimates per SI Financial management for Newport Bancorp. Certain data was adjusted to account for certain restructuring charges anticipated by management to result from the merger. KBW assumed that Newport Bancorp would maintain a tangible common equity /tangible asset ratio of 8.00% and would retain sufficient earnings to maintain that level. Any earnings in excess of what would need to be retained represented dividendable cash flows for Newport Bancorp.



---

**Table of Contents**

Based on these assumptions, KBW derived a range of implied value of Newport Bancorp of \$13.62 per share to \$18.93 per share.

The discounted cash flow analysis is a widely used valuation methodology, but the results of such methodology are highly dependent on the assumptions that must be made, including asset and earnings growth rates, terminal values, dividend payout rates, and discount rates. The analysis did not purport to be indicative of the actual values or expected values of Newport Bancorp.

The SI Financial board retained KBW as an independent contractor to act as financial adviser to SI Financial regarding the merger. As part of its investment banking business, KBW is continually engaged in the valuation of banking businesses and their securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions, negotiated underwritings, competitive biddings, secondary distributions of listed and unlisted securities, private placements and valuations for various other purposes. As specialists in the securities of banking companies, KBW has experience in, and knowledge of, the valuation of banking enterprises. In the ordinary course of its business as a broker-dealer, KBW may, from time to time, purchase securities from, and sell securities to, SI Financial and Newport Bancorp. As a market maker in securities, KBW may from time to time have a long or short position in, and buy or sell, debt or equity securities of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp for KBW's own account and for the accounts of its customers.

SI Financial and KBW entered into an agreement relating to the services to be provided by KBW in connection with the merger. SI Financial agreed to pay KBW a cash fee of \$75,000 concurrently with the rendering of its opinion. In addition, SI Financial agreed to pay to KBW at the time of closing a cash fee equal to \$472,500. Pursuant to the KBW engagement agreement, SI Financial also agreed to reimburse KBW for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses and disbursements, including fees and reasonable expenses of counsel, incurred in connection with the engagement and to indemnify KBW and related parties against certain liabilities, including liabilities under federal securities laws, relating to, or arising out of, its engagement.

During the two years preceding the date of its opinion to SI Financial, KBW acted as financial advisor and bookrunner in connection with SI Financial's conversion from the mutual holding company form of organization to stock form and the concurrent offering of its common stock. This transaction was completed in January 2011 and KBW was paid approximately \$737,000 for its services.

***Opinion of Loomis & Co., Inc.***

By letter executed February 8, 2013, SI Financial retained Loomis & Co., Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiary, Northeast Capital & Advisory, Inc. to act as its financial advisor in connection with a possible business combination with Newport Bancorp. Loomis & Co. is a nationally recognized investment banking firm whose principal business specialty is financial institutions. In the ordinary course of its investment banking business, Loomis & Co. is regularly engaged in the valuation of financial institutions and their securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions and other corporate transactions.

Loomis & Co. acted as financial advisor to SI Financial in connection with the proposed merger, however its participation in due diligence was limited to reviewing materials in the respective data rooms, review of due diligence reports conducted by SI Financial management and conversations with SI Financial management and its other financial advisor, KBW. Loomis & Co. did not participate in any on-site due diligence or any negotiations leading to the Merger Agreement.

On March 4, 2013, using market data through March 1, 2013, Loomis & Co. presented preliminary informational materials and analyses at a meeting of the SI Financial board of directors held to consider the proposed merger. On March 5, 2013, at another meeting of the SI Financial board of directors to approve the proposed merger, Loomis & Co. updated its analyses and materials using market data through March 4, 2013. Loomis & Co. delivered to the board of directors its oral opinion, subsequently confirmed in writing, that as of such date and based upon and subject to various assumptions, matters considered and limitations described in the opinion, the merger consideration as provided and described in the merger agreement was fair to SI Financial and its shareholders, from a financial point of view.

**Table of Contents**

**The full text of Loomis & Co. s opinion is attached as Appendix C to this proxy statement/prospectus. The opinion outlines the assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered, qualifications and limitations on the review undertaken by Loomis & Co. in rendering its opinion. The description of the opinion set forth below is qualified in its entirety by reference to the opinion. We urge SI Financial shareholders to read the entire opinion carefully in connection with their consideration of the proposed merger.**

Loomis & Co. s opinion speaks only as of the date of the opinion. The opinion was directed to the SI Financial board and concerns only the fairness of the merger consideration to SI Financial and its shareholders from a financial point of view. It does not address the underlying business decision of SI Financial to engage in the merger or any other aspect of the merger, nor the relative merits of the merger as compared to any other alternative business strategies that might exist for SI Financial, and is not a recommendation to any SI Financial shareholder as to how such shareholder should vote at the annual meeting with respect to the merger or any other matter that may come before the annual meeting. Loomis & Co. has consented to the inclusion of its opinion and a summary thereof in this proxy statement/prospectus and in the registration statement on Form S-4, which includes this proxy statement/prospectus.

In arriving at its March 5, 2013 opinion, Loomis & Co. reviewed and considered, among other things:

The merger agreement and certain of the exhibits and schedules thereto;

Certain publicly available financial statements and other historical financial information of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp that Loomis & Co. deemed relevant;

Internal financial projections for SI Financial for the year ending December 31, 2013 and an estimated growth and performance rate for the years thereafter, in each case as provided by, and reviewed with, SI Financial management;

Internal financial projections for Newport Bancorp for the years ending December 31, 2013, 2014 and 2015 as provided by Newport Bancorp management and as adjusted by SI Financial management, as well as a long term estimated growth rate for the years thereafter as provided by SI Financial management;

Certain operating and financial information provided to Loomis & Co. by SI Financial and Newport Bancorp relating to their business and prospects;

The pro forma financial impact of the merger on SI Financial, based on assumptions relating to transaction expenses, purchase accounting adjustments and cost savings determined by SI Financial management;

The publicly reported historical price and trading activity for SI Financial and Newport Bancorp s common stock, including a comparison of certain financial and stock market information for SI Financial and Newport Bancorp with similar publicly available information for certain other companies, the securities of which are publicly traded;

The financial terms of certain recent business combinations in the banking industry, to the extent publicly available;

The current market environment, generally, and the banking environment in particular; and

## Edgar Filing: SI Financial Group, Inc. - Form S-4/A

Such other information, financial studies, and analyses and investigations, and financial, economic, and market criteria as we considered relevant.

In performing its reviews and analyses and in rendering its opinion, Loomis & Co. assumed and relied upon the accuracy and completeness of all the financial information, analyses and other information that was publicly available or otherwise furnished to, reviewed by or discussed with it and further relied on the assurances of management of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp that they were not aware of any facts or circumstances that would make the information inaccurate or misleading. Loomis & Co. was not asked to and did not independently verify the accuracy or completeness of any such information and it does not assume any responsibility or liability

---

**Table of Contents**

for the accuracy and completeness of any such information. Loomis & Co. did not make an independent evaluation or appraisal of the assets, the collateral securing the assets or the liabilities, contingent or otherwise of SI Financial or Newport Bancorp or any of their respective subsidiaries, nor the collectability of any such assets. Loomis & Co. is not an expert in the evaluation of allowances for loan losses and it did not make an independent evaluation of the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses of SI Financial or Newport Bancorp, nor did it review any of the individual credit files relating to SI Financial or Newport Bancorp in connection with its engagement. With SI Financial's consent, Loomis & Co. assumed that the respective allowances for loan losses for both SI Financial and Newport Bancorp were adequate to cover their losses and will be adequate, on a pro forma basis, for the combined entity. With SI Financial's consent, Loomis & Co. also relied without independent verification, upon the financial forecasts, estimates, pro forma effects, deal costs and potential cost savings made by SI Financial (including timing, amount and achievability thereof) which are anticipated to result from the merger. Loomis & Co. also assumed that the merger in all respects is, and will be undertaken and consummated in compliance with all applicable approvals, consents, laws and regulations, and that both SI Financial and Newport Bancorp would comply with all terms of the merger agreement, without waiver, modification or amendment in any material respect.

Loomis & Co.'s opinion was necessarily based on economic, monetary, market and other conditions as in effect on, and information made available to Loomis & Co. and could be evaluated as of, the date of its opinion. Events occurring after the date of the opinion could materially affect the opinion. Loomis & Co. has not undertaken to update, revise, reaffirm or withdraw the opinion or otherwise comment upon events occurring after the date of the opinion. Loomis & Co. expressed no opinion as to what the value of SI Financial common stock will be when issued to Newport Bancorp shareholders pursuant to the merger agreement or the prices at which either SI Financial or Newport Bancorp common stock may trade at any time. Loomis & Co. further assumed, in all respects material to its analysis, that all the representations and warranties contained in the Merger Agreement and all related agreements are true and correct; that all the covenants will be performed as required by such party to the Merger Agreement; that no conditions precedent in the Merger Agreement are waived. Loomis & Co. also assumed, with SI Financial's consent, that there has been no material adverse change in SI Financial's or Newport Bancorp's assets, financial condition, results of operation, business or prospects since the date of the last financial statements made available to them; that SI Financial and Newport Bancorp will remain going concerns for all periods relevant to its analyses; and that the merger will qualify as a tax-free reorganization for federal income tax purposes. Finally, with SI Financial's consent, Loomis & Co. relied upon the advice SI Financial received from its legal, accounting and tax advisors as to all legal, accounting and tax matters relating to the merger and other transactions contemplated by the merger agreement.

In connection with rendering its March 5, 2013 opinion to the SI Financial board of directors, Loomis & Co. performed a variety of financial and comparative analyses, which are summarized below. **The following summary is not a complete description of all analyses performed and factors considered by Loomis & Co. in connection with its opinion. The preparation of a financial opinion is a complex process involving subjective judgments and is not necessarily susceptible to partial analysis or summary description.** With respect to the analysis of selected public companies and the analysis of selected precedent transactions summarized below, no company or transaction used as a comparison is either identical or directly comparable to SI Financial, Newport Bancorp or the merger. These analyses necessarily involve complex considerations and judgments concerning financial and operating characteristics and other factors that could affect the public trading or acquisition values of the companies concerned.

**Loomis & Co. believes that its analyses and the summary below must be considered as a whole and that selecting portions of its analyses and factors or focusing on information presented in tabular or summary format, without considering all analyses and factors or the narrative description of the analyses, could create a misleading or incomplete view of the processes underlying Loomis & Co.'s analyses and opinion.** None of the analyses performed by Loomis & Co. was assigned greater significance or reliance by Loomis & Co. than any other. Loomis & Co. arrived at its ultimate opinion based on the results of all analyses

**Table of Contents**

undertaken by it and assessed as a whole. Loomis & Co. did not draw, in isolation, conclusions from or with regard to any one factor or method of analysis.

The estimates of the future performance of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp derived from SI Financial management or public sources which underlie Loomis & Co.'s analyses are not necessarily indicative of future results or values, which may be significantly more or less favorable than those estimates. In performing its analyses, Loomis & Co. considered industry performance, general business and economic conditions and other matters, many which are beyond the control of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp. Estimates of the financial value of companies do not purport to be appraisals or reflect the prices at which companies actually may be sold.

Loomis & Co.'s opinion and financial analyses were only one of many factors considered by the SI Financial board of directors in its evaluation of the merger and should not be viewed as determinative of the views of the SI Financial board of directors or management with respect to the merger or the Merger Consideration. Loomis & Co. was not asked, nor expressed any opinion as to the fairness of the amount or nature of the consideration to be received in the merger by any SI Financial or Newport Bancorp officer, director, or employee, or class of such persons, relative to the consideration to be received in the merger by any other shareholders.

The following is a brief summary of the material financial analyses performed by Loomis & Co. and reviewed with the SI Financial board of directors in connection with its opinion relating to the proposed merger.

*Summary of Merger Consideration*

Loomis & Co. reviewed the financial terms of the proposed transaction. Based upon the five day average closing price of SI Financial's common stock ending March 4, 2013 of \$11.60, which was used to determine the fixed exchange ratio and assuming (1) that 50% of Newport Bancorp's shares are converted into SI Financial common stock at an exchange ratio of 1.5129, (2) the remaining 50% are converted into \$17.55 per share in cash in the merger, and (3) the ESOP loan is paid off in full, Loomis & Co. calculated an implied aggregate transaction value of approximately \$61.26 million. The implied aggregate transaction value was based upon approximately 3.5 million shares of Newport Bancorp common stock outstanding as of December 31, 2012, plus the value of outstanding options to purchase 469,767 shares of Newport Bancorp common stock calculated using the implied transaction value per share less a weighted average exercise price of \$12.50 per share, less the ESOP loan balance of approximately \$2.5 million. The fixed exchange ratio is subject to adjustment as provided in the Merger Agreement. Based upon financial information for Newport Bancorp for the twelve months ended December 31, 2012, Loomis & Co. calculated the following ratios:

*Transaction Ratios*

Based upon financial information for Newport Bancorp for the twelve months ended December 31, 2012, Loomis & Co. calculated the following ratios using the aggregate deal price:

Price per share/ Last 12 months earnings per share	39.2x
Price per share / Tangible book value per share	115.2%
Price per share / Stated book value per share	115.2%
Tangible book premium/ Core deposits*	2.9%

\* Core deposits measured as total deposits less jumbo CDs based on regulatory financials.

For purposes of these analyses, earnings per share were based on fully diluted earnings per share. Loomis & Co. noted that the pro rata per share Merger Consideration represented a 5.9% premium to Newport Bancorp's closing price on March 4, 2013.

**Table of Contents***Stock Trading History*

Loomis & Co. reviewed the history of the reported trading prices and volume of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp common stock for the one-year period ended March 4, 2013 and compared the relationship between the movements in the prices of SI Financial's and Newport Bancorp's common stock to movements in the prices of the NASDAQ Bank Index, the Standard & Poor's 500 Index and the SNL New England thrift index.

During the one-year period ended March 4, 2013, the common stock of SI Financial has outperformed the SNL New England Thrift Index and the Standard & Poor's 500 Index, and underperformed the NASDAQ Bank Index, while the common stock of Newport Bancorp has outperformed each of the selected indices.

	<b>Index Value March 4,2012</b>	<b>Index Value March 4,2013</b>
SI Financial	100.00%	111.80%
Newport Bancorp	100.00	128.53
Standard & Poor's 500 Index	100.00	111.36
NASDAQ Bank Index	100.00	117.49
SNL New England Thrift Index	100.00	108.48

*Contribution Analysis*

Loomis & Co. analyzed the relative contributions to, among other things, pro forma loans, assets, deposits, total equity, tangible equity, trailing twelve months' earnings, and projected next twelve months' earnings adjusted for estimated cost savings to be made by SI Financial and Newport Bancorp to the combined entity on a pro forma basis, before considering any purchase accounting or restructuring adjustments. In determining SI Financial and Newport Bancorp's respective contribution to next twelve months' earnings adjusted for estimated cost savings, Loomis & Co. also allocated the half year phase-in of pre-tax estimated cost savings of the merger, splitting the cost equally between SI Financial and Newport Bancorp, assuming that the deal closes at the end of the second quarter of 2013. The results of this analysis are set forth in the table below.

	<b>At December 31, 2012</b>			<b>SI Financial</b>	<b>Newport Bancorp</b>
	<b>SI Financial</b>	<b>Newport Bancorp</b>	<b>Pro Forma</b>		
Loans (Net)	\$ 690,232	\$ 355,038	\$ 1,045,270	66.0%	34.0%
Assets	953,250	449,413	1,402,663	68.0	32.0
Deposits	705,148	289,674	994,822	70.9	29.1
Equity	125,759	53,155	178,914	70.3	29.7
Tangible Equity	122,308	53,155	175,463	69.7	30.3
Last Twelve Months' Earnings Before Taxes	1,359	2,237	3,596	37.8	62.2
Projected Next Twelve Months' Earnings Before Taxes Excluding Cost Savings and Transaction Expenses	4,594	1,610	6,204	74.0	26.0
Ownership (Not Including Options)	10,112,310	2,647,419	12,759,729	79.3	20.7
Projected Next Twelve Months' Earnings Before Taxes Adjusted for Estimated Cost Savings	5,423	2,439	7,862	69.0	31.0

*SI Financial Comparable Company Analysis*

Loomis & Co. reviewed and compared selected financial information for SI Financial with corresponding financial information of a peer group of eleven selected publicly traded banks and thrifts in New York and New England outside of major metropolitan cities with total assets of \$500 million to \$2 billion, with NPAs less than

**Table of Contents**

3% of total assets, and last twelve months ROAA under 0.75%. These selected companies included the following banks and thrifts:

BSB Bancorp, Inc.

Chicopee Bancorp, Inc.

Community National Bank

First Connecticut Bancorp, Inc.

Hampden Bancorp, Inc.

New Hampshire Thrift Bancshares, Inc.

Northeast Bancorp

Peoples Federal Bancshares, Inc.

Salisbury Bancorp, Inc.

Suffolk Bancorp

Westfield Financial, Inc.

Loomis & Co. selected these companies because they were publicly traded companies that, for purposes of its analysis, Loomis & Co. considered reasonably similar to SI Financial in that these companies are of similar size to SI Financial, are located in the New York or New England market, and have a similar business focus.

	SI Financial	Peer 25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Peer Median	Peer 75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
Total Assets (000 s)	\$ 953,250	\$ 624,224	\$ 704,710	\$ 1,285,970
Total Equity/Total Assets	13.19%	11.38%	13.36%	15.45%
NPAs/Total Assets	1.32	1.02	1.61	1.89
Net Interest Margin	2.88	3.14	3.41	3.55
Noninterest Income/ Average Assets	0.90	0.55	0.56	0.83
Noninterest Expense/ Average Assets	3.21	2.70	2.94	3.16
ROAA	0.12	0.26	0.41	0.50
ROAE	0.86	1.52	2.97	3.72
<b>Market Multiples</b>				
Stock Price March 4, 2013	\$ 11.65			
Price/Last Twelve Months Core EPS	115.4x	27.1x	32.6x	52.6x
Price/Book Value	93.7%	90.1%	93.7%	102.2%
Price/Tangible Book Value	96.3	93.9	97.6	106.8
Premium Over Tangible Book Value/Deposits	(1.13)	(1.72)	(0.46)	1.38
Dividend Yield	1.03	0.80	1.29	3.54

Loomis & Co. compared the financial data for SI Financial for the twelve month period ended December 31, 2012 to that of the peer group for the twelve month period ended December 31, 2012. The table above compares selected statistics of SI Financial with the bottom 25%, median, and top 25% (75<sup>th</sup> percentile) ratios for the eleven selected banks and thrifts comprising the peer group.

Loomis & Co. noted that the performance of SI Financial as measured by return on average assets was below that of the peer group median due in part to its lower net interest margin and higher level of noninterest expense to average assets. Additionally, Loomis & Co. noted that SI Financial has a level of non-performing assets as a percentage of total assets that is lower to the peer group median. In terms of capital as measured by total equity to total assets, SI Financial is in line with the peer group median.

## Edgar Filing: SI Financial Group, Inc. - Form S-4/A

Lastly, Loomis & Co. noted that SI Financial was trading at a higher multiple to latest twelve-month core earnings per share and at a comparable percentage of tangible book value, than its peer median. SI Financial's dividend yield at 1.03% was below that of the peer group median of 1.29%.



**Table of Contents***Newport Bancorp Comparable Company Analysis:*

Loomis & Co. reviewed and compared selected financial information for Newport Bancorp with corresponding financial information of a peer group of twelve selected publicly traded banks and thrifts in New York and New England outside of major metropolitan cities with total assets of \$200 million to \$1 billion, with NPAs less than 3% of total assets, and last twelve months ROAA under 1.00%. These selected companies included the following banks and thrifts:

BSB Bancorp, Inc.

Chicopee Bancorp, Inc.

Elmira Savings Bank

Georgetown Bancorp, Inc.

Hampden Bancorp, Inc.

Mayflower Bancorp, Inc.

Northeast Bancorp

Oneida Financial Corp.

Peoples Federal Bancshares, Inc.

Salisbury Bancorp, Inc.

SI Financial Group, Inc.

Wellesley Bancorp, Inc.

Loomis & Co. selected these companies because they were publicly traded companies that, for purposes of its analysis, Loomis & Co. considered reasonably similar to Newport Bancorp, are located in the New York or New England market, and have a similar business focus.

Loomis & Co. compared the financial data for Newport Bancorp for the twelve month period ended December 31, 2012 to that of the peer group for the twelve month period ended December 31, 2012. The following table compares selected statistics of Newport Bancorp with the bottom 25%, median, and top 25% (75<sup>th</sup> percentile) ratios for the twelve selected banks and thrifts comprising the peer group:

	<b>Newport Bancorp</b>	<b>Peer 25<sup>th</sup> Percentile</b>	<b>Peer Median</b>	<b>Peer 75<sup>th</sup> Percentile</b>
Total Assets (000 s)	\$ 449,413	\$ 496,714	\$ 600,398	\$ 687,221
Total Equity/Total Assets	11.83%	12.34%	13.51%	15.22%
NPAs/Total Assets	1.28	0.69	1.28	1.70
Net Interest Margin	3.38	3.33	3.43	3.62
Noninterest Income/ Average Assets	0.53	0.55	0.75	1.16
Noninterest Expense/ Average Assets	2.80	2.78	3.05	3.33
ROAA	0.34	0.33	0.44	0.56
ROAE	2.96	2.32	3.20	5.94
<b>Market Multiples</b>				
Stock Price March 4, 2013	\$ 16.52			
Price/Last Twelve Months Core EPS	36.1x	16.5x	28.4x	65.8x
Price/Book Value	108.8%	90.1%	94.9%	99.3%

## Edgar Filing: SI Financial Group, Inc. - Form S-4/A

Price/Tangible Book Value	108.8	94.3	97.0	105.5
Premium Over Tangible Book Value/Deposits	1.61	(1.11)	(0.50)	1.20
Dividend Yield	NA	1.21	1.77	3.74

Loomis & Co. noted that the performance of Newport Bancorp as measured by return on average assets was below that of the peer group median due in part to its lower net interest margin and noninterest income as a percentage of average assets. Compared to the peer group median, Newport Bancorp has a lower level of noninterest expense as a percentage of average assets. Additionally, Loomis & Co. noted that Newport Bancorp

**Table of Contents**

has a level of non-performing assets as a percentage of total assets that is in line with the peer group median. In terms of capital as measured by total equity to total assets, Newport Bancorp is more leveraged than the peer group median.

Lastly, Loomis & Co. noted that Newport Bancorp was trading at a higher multiple to latest twelve-month earnings and at a higher percentage of tangible book value, than its peer median. Newport Bancorp has not paid any cash dividends.

*Analysis Of Selected Merger Transactions*

Loomis & Co. reviewed 16 transactions announced since January 1, 2010 involving acquisitions of New England based banks or thrifts with total assets under \$2 billion ( New England Banks & Thrifts ), for which pricing data pertaining to the transactions was publicly available.

Loomis & Co. also reviewed 42 transactions announced since January 1, 2012 involving acquisitions of banks or thrifts throughout the U.S. with total assets of between \$100 million and \$3.3 billion and nonperforming assets less than 3% of total assets ( National Banks & Thrifts ), for which pricing data pertaining to the transactions was publicly available.

Loomis & Co. selected these two different sets of mergers because they were business combinations that, for purposes of the analysis, Loomis & Co. considered reasonably comparable and similar in structure to the merger. The selected mergers may differ significantly from the merger based on, among other things, the size of the transactions, the structure of the transactions, the region of the target, and the dates that the transactions were announced and consummated.

The results of these comparisons, along with the implied multiples for the SI Financial/ Newport Bancorp transaction, which are based on the five-day average closing stock price of SI Financial common stock ending March 4, 2013 of \$11.60 and the merger consideration, are illustrated in the chart below:

	<b>New England Banks &amp; Thrifts</b>	<b>National Banks &amp; Thrifts</b>	<b>Implied Multiples for Newport Bancorp</b>
Median Target Assets (\$000)	278,121	283,321	449,413
Median Price/ Tangible Book Value (%)	144.0	131.6	115.2
Median Price/ LTM Earnings (x)	22.9	19.1	39.2
Median Franchise Premium/ Core Deposits (%)	5.8	4.1	2.9

*Discounted Cash Flow Analysis*

## SI Financial:

As of March 4, 2013, Loomis & Co. calculated the estimated present value of the estimated future stream of after tax dividend flows of SI Financial, using a discount rate of 12.65%. Loomis & Co. applied an exit price-to-earnings multiple (terminal value multiple) for SI Financial of 15X 2017 estimated earnings. This analysis resulted in an estimated present value of the implied SI Financial common stock per share value of approximately \$10.70. In its calculation, Loomis & Co. assumed that SI Financial would have net income of \$3.1 million in 2013, \$3.6 million in 2014, \$4.1 million in 2015, \$4.7 million in 2016, and \$5.3 million in 2017. Loomis & Co. also assumed that SI Financial would have a target tangible common equity to tangible asset value of 6.0% and compound annual loan and deposit growth rates of 5.0% between 2014 and 2017. Loomis & Co. also provided a sensitivity analysis of SI Financial's value, by ranging the discount rate between 10.7% and 14.7%, and a range of earnings multiples of 10-20 times 2017's earnings. The values ranged between \$8.93 and \$12.78 per share.

---

**Table of Contents**

Newport Bancorp:

As of March 4, 2013, Loomis & Co. calculated the estimated present value of the estimated future stream of after tax dividend flows of Newport Bancorp, using a discount rate of 12.65%. Loomis & Co. applied an exit price-to-earnings multiple (terminal value multiple) for Newport Bancorp of 15X 2015 estimated earnings. This analysis resulted in an estimated present value of the implied Newport Bancorp common stock per share value of approximately \$18.26. In its calculation, Loomis & Co. assumed that Newport Bancorp would have a net loss of \$4.9 million in 2013 after merger transaction costs and adjustment for cost savings expected by SI Financial management, with 2014 net income of \$3.2 million and \$4.9 million in 2015. Loomis & Co. also assumed that Newport Bancorp would have a target tangible common equity to tangible asset value of 6.0% and compound annual loan and deposit growth rates of 3.5% and 2.4%, respectively, between 2012 and 2015. Loomis & Co. also provided a sensitivity analysis of Newport Bancorp's value, by ranging the discount rate between 10.7% and 14.7%, along with a range of earnings multiples 10-20 times 2015's earnings. The values ranged between \$12.67 and \$24.44 per share.

These analyses do not purport to be indicative of actual values or expected values or an appraisal range of the shares of SI Financial or Newport Bancorp common stock. The discounted cash flow analysis is a widely used valuation methodology, but Loomis & Co. noted that it relies on numerous assumptions, including expense savings levels, dividend payout rates, certain minimum tangible equity to assets ratios, terminal values and discount rates, the future values of which may be significantly more or less than such assumptions. Any variation from these assumptions would likely produce different results.

*Pro Forma Impact Analysis*

Loomis & Co. analyzed certain potential pro forma effects of the merger, assuming the following: (1) the merger closes at the end of the second quarter of 2013, (2) 50% of the Newport Bancorp shares are exchanged for SI Financial common stock at an exchange ratio of 1.5129 and the remaining 50% of Newport Bancorp's shares are exchanged for \$17.55 in cash, (3) earnings per share projections for Newport Bancorp and SI Financial are consistent with per share estimates for 2013 as provided by SI Financial management, and (4) purchase accounting adjustments, charges and transaction costs associated with the merger and cost savings, including the timing of such cost savings, as determined by SI Financial's senior management. The analysis indicated that for the year ending December 31, 2013, the merger would be 18.8% accretive to SI Financial's projected earnings per share excluding onetime deal costs. The analysis also indicated that, using balance sheet data as of December 31, 2012, the merger would be dilutive to tangible book value per share by 8.68%. Forward-looking projections may be effected by many factors beyond the control of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp, including the future direction of interest rates, economic conditions in the companies' market places, the actual amount and timing of cost savings achieved through the merger, future regulatory changes and various other factors. The actual results achieved may vary from the projected results and the variations may be material.

*Miscellaneous*

Loomis & Co. has provided services in the past to SI Financial, for which services Loomis & Co. has received customary compensation. In the ordinary course of our business, Loomis & Co. or its subsidiaries or affiliates, may purchase securities from or sell securities to SI Financial. We may also trade debt and/or equity securities of SI Financial for the accounts of our customers or affiliates and, accordingly, may have a position in such securities. Loomis & Co. or its subsidiaries or affiliates may, in the future, trade the securities of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp for their own accounts and the accounts of their customers and, accordingly, may at any time hold a long or short position in those securities. Loomis & Co. did not receive any compensation for any services for SI Financial during the two years preceding the date of its opinion to SI Financial.

SI Financial has agreed to pay Loomis & Co. a fairness opinion fee in connection with the merger of approximately \$97,500, which has been paid, and is not contingent upon the closing of the Merger. SI Financial has also agreed to have Loomis & Co. exclusively provide certain other consulting services to SI Financial

## **Table of Contents**

management during and upon closing of the Merger. In addition, SI Financial has agreed to reimburse Loomis & Co. and its affiliates and their respective directors, officers, employees, agents and controlling persons against certain expenses and liabilities, including liabilities under securities laws.

### **Financial Forecasts**

During due diligence, each of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp provided to the other party and its financial advisors certain internal financial forecasts. These financial forecasts were not prepared with a view toward public disclosure or compliance with published guidelines of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the guidelines established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for Prospective Financial Information, or GAAP and are included in this proxy statement/prospectus only because they were provided to the other party and its financial advisors in connection with the due diligence conducted during the merger discussions between the parties. Neither party's independent auditor examined or compiled any of these estimates or expressed any conclusion or provided any form of assurance with respect to these estimates.

The financial forecasts described below are forward-looking statements that are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from such estimates and should be read with caution. Although presented with numerical specificity, these estimates are based upon a variety of assumptions made by SI Financial's and Newport Bancorp's managements with respect to, among other things, industry performance, general economic, market, interest rate, and financial conditions, operating and other revenues and expenses, effective tax rates, capital expenditures, working capital and other matters. None of the assumptions may be realized, and as historical performance suggests, they are inherently subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies, all of which are difficult to predict and many of which are beyond the control of SI Financial or Newport Bancorp.

Accordingly, the assumptions made in preparing these estimates may prove to be inaccurate and actual results may differ materially from these estimates. In addition, the forecasts do not take into account any of the expense savings or charges expected to result from the merger or any other matters contemplated by the merger agreement.

For these reasons, the description of the financial forecasts in this proxy statement/prospectus should not be regarded as an indication that they are an accurate prediction of future events and they should not be relied on as such. No one has made, or makes, any representation regarding these estimates and, except as may be required by applicable securities laws, neither SI Financial nor Newport Bancorp intends to update or otherwise revise the projections to reflect circumstances existing after the date when made or to reflect the occurrences of future events even if any or all of the assumptions are shown to be in error.

Newport Bancorp provided a projected income statement for each of the years from 2012 through 2017. The income statement projected net interest income ranging from \$16.0 million for 2013 to \$20.6 million for 2017. Net income was estimated to increase from \$2.4 million for 2013 to \$4.8 million for 2017. SI Financial provided projections for 2013. SI Financial forecasted total assets as of December 31, 2013 of approximately \$1.0 billion and total liabilities of approximately \$905.8 million. The 2013 budgeted income statement projected net interest income of approximately \$29.9 million and net income of approximately \$3.1 million for the year ending December 31, 2013.

### **Newport Bancorp Stock Options and Restricted Stock Awards**

At the effective time of the merger, each option to purchase shares of Newport Bancorp common stock outstanding at the effective time of the merger, whether or not vested, will be cancelled in exchange for a cash payment equal to the product of (1) \$17.55 minus the exercise price of such option, multiplied by (2) the number of shares subject to such option, less required tax withholding.

---

**Table of Contents**

At the effective time of the merger, each outstanding share of restricted stock will become vested and receive at the election of the holder of such Newport Bancorp common stock, either \$17.55 or 1.5129 shares of SI Financial common stock.

**Election Procedures; Surrender of Stock Certificates**

An election form is being mailed separately from this proxy statement/prospectus to holders of shares of Newport Bancorp common stock on or about the date this proxy statement/prospectus is being mailed. Each election form entitles each holder of Newport Bancorp common stock to elect to receive cash, SI Financial common stock, or a combination of cash and stock, or make no election with respect to the form of merger consideration they wish to receive.

**To make an effective election, you must submit a properly completed election form, along with your Newport Bancorp stock certificates representing all shares of Newport Bancorp common stock covered by the election form (or an appropriate guarantee of delivery), to the exchange agent, Registrar and Transfer Company, on or before 5:00 p.m., Eastern time, on [Election Deadline].** Registrar and Transfer Company will act as exchange agent in the merger and in that role will process the exchange of Newport Bancorp common stock for cash and/or SI Financial common stock. Shortly after the merger, the exchange agent will allocate cash and stock among Newport Bancorp shareholders, consistent with their elections and the allocation and proration procedures. If you do not submit an election form, you will receive instructions from the exchange agent on where to surrender your Newport Bancorp stock certificates after the merger is completed. **In any event, do not forward your Newport Bancorp stock certificates with your proxy cards.**

You may change your election at any time before the election deadline by written notice accompanied by a properly completed and signed later-dated election form which is received by the exchange agent before the election deadline or by withdrawal of your stock certificates by written notice before the election deadline. All elections will be revoked automatically if the agreement and plan of merger is terminated. If you have a preference for receiving either SI Financial stock and/or cash for your Newport Bancorp stock, you should complete and return the election form. If you do not make an election, you will be allocated SI Financial common stock and/or cash depending solely on the elections made by other shareholders.

Neither SI Financial nor Newport Bancorp makes any recommendation as to whether you should elect to receive cash, stock or a combination of cash and stock in the merger. You must make your own decision with respect to your election. Generally, the merger will be a tax-free transaction for Newport Bancorp shareholders to the extent they receive SI Financial common stock. See *Tax Consequences of the Merger*.

If your certificates for Newport Bancorp common stock are not immediately available or you are unable to send the election form and other required documents to the exchange agent before the election deadline, Newport Bancorp shares may be properly exchanged, and an election will be effective, if:

such exchanges are made by or through a member firm of a registered national securities exchange or of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or by a commercial bank or trust company having an office, branch or agency in the United States;

the exchange agent receives, before the election deadline, a properly completed and duly executed notice of guaranteed delivery substantially in the form provided with the election form (delivered by hand, mail, telegram, telex or facsimile transmission); and

the exchange agent receives, within three business days after the election deadline, the certificates for all exchanged Newport Bancorp shares, or confirmation of the delivery of all such certificates into the exchange agent's account with The Depository Trust Company in accordance with the proper procedures for such transfer, together with a properly completed and duly executed election form and any other documents required by the election form.

## **Table of Contents**

Newport Bancorp shareholders who do not submit a properly completed election form or revoke their election form before the election deadline will have their shares of Newport Bancorp common stock designated as non-election shares. Newport Bancorp stock certificates represented by elections that have been revoked will be promptly returned without charge to the Newport Bancorp shareholder revoking the election upon written request.

If you own shares of Newport Bancorp common stock in street name through a broker or other financial institution, you should receive or seek instructions from the institution holding your shares concerning how to make your election. Street name holders may be subject to an election deadline earlier than the deadline applicable to holders of shares in registered form. Therefore, you should carefully read any materials you receive from your broker. If you instruct a broker to submit an election for your shares, you must follow such broker's directions for revoking or changing those instructions.

After the completion of the merger, the exchange agent will mail to Newport Bancorp shareholders who do not submit election forms, or who have revoked their election, a letter of transmittal, together with instructions for the exchange of their Newport Bancorp common stock certificates for the merger consideration. Until you surrender your Newport Bancorp stock certificates for exchange after completion of the merger, you will not be paid dividends or other distributions declared after the merger with respect to any SI Financial common stock into which your Newport Bancorp shares have been converted. When you surrender your Newport Bancorp stock certificates, SI Financial will pay any unpaid dividends or other distributions, without interest. After the completion of the merger, there will be no further transfers of Newport Bancorp common stock. Newport Bancorp stock certificates presented for transfer after the completion of the merger will be canceled and exchanged for the merger consideration.

If your Newport Bancorp stock certificates have been lost, stolen or destroyed, you will have to prove your ownership of these certificates, that they were lost, stolen or destroyed, and post a bond in such amount as the exchange agent may direct before you receive any consideration for your shares. The letter of transmittal includes instructions on how to provide evidence of ownership.

## **Accounting Treatment**

SI Financial will account for the merger under the acquisition method of accounting according to U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Using the acquisition method of accounting, the assets (including identifiable intangible assets) and liabilities of Newport Bancorp will be recorded by SI Financial at their respective fair values at the time of the completion of the merger. The excess of SI Financial's purchase price over the net fair value of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed will then be recorded as goodwill.

## **Tax Consequences of the Merger**

**General.** The following summary discusses the material anticipated U.S. federal income tax consequences of the merger applicable to a holder of shares of Newport Bancorp common stock who surrenders all of his or her common stock for shares of SI Financial common stock and/or cash in the merger. This discussion is based upon the Internal Revenue Code, Treasury Regulations, judicial authorities, published positions of the Internal Revenue Service ( IRS ), and other applicable authorities, all as in effect on the date of this document and all of which are subject to change or differing interpretations (possibly with retroactive effect). This discussion is limited to U.S. residents and citizens who hold their shares as capital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code (generally, assets held for investment). No attempt has been made to comment on all U.S. federal income tax consequences of the merger and related transactions that may be relevant to holders of shares of Newport Bancorp common stock. This discussion also does not address all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to a particular person or the tax consequences that may be relevant to persons subject to special treatment under U.S. federal income tax laws (including, among others, tax-exempt organizations, dealers in securities or foreign currencies, banks, insurance companies,

---

**Table of Contents**

financial institutions or persons who hold their shares of Newport Bancorp common stock as part of a hedge, straddle, constructive sale or conversion transaction, persons whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar, persons that are, or hold their shares of Newport Bancorp common stock through, partnerships or other pass-through entities, or persons who acquired their shares of Newport Bancorp common stock through the exercise of an employee stock option or otherwise as compensation). In addition, this discussion does not address the alternative minimum tax or any aspects of state, local, non-U.S. taxation or U.S. federal taxation other than income taxation. No ruling has been requested from the IRS regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the merger. No assurance can be given that the IRS would not assert, or that a court would not sustain, a position contrary to any of the tax consequences set forth below.

**Newport Bancorp shareholders are urged to consult their tax advisors as to the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the merger, as well as the effects of state, local, non-U.S. tax laws and U.S. tax laws other than income tax laws.**

***Opinion Conditions.*** It is a condition to the obligations of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp that they each receive an opinion from their respective legal counsel to the effect that the merger will constitute a reorganization for U.S. federal income tax purposes within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, and that each of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp will be a party to the reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(b) of the Internal Revenue Code. SI Financial and Newport Bancorp expect to be able to obtain the tax opinion if, as expected:

SI Financial and Newport Bancorp are able to deliver customary representations to their respective legal counsel; and

there is no adverse change in U.S. federal income tax law.

Although the agreement and plan of merger allows both SI Financial and Newport Bancorp to waive the condition that a tax opinion be delivered, neither party currently anticipates doing so. However, if this condition were waived, Newport Bancorp would re-solicit the approval of its shareholders before completing the merger.

In addition, in connection with the filing of the registration statement of which this proxy statement/prospectus forms a part, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP and Luse Gorman Pomerenk & Schick, P.C. has each delivered its opinion to SI Financial and Newport Bancorp, respectively, dated as of the date of this proxy statement/prospectus, that the merger will qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and, with respect to Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP's opinion only, confirming the tax discussion under *Description of the Merger Tax Consequences of the Merger*. Copies of these opinions have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement. Such opinions have been rendered on the basis of facts, representations and assumptions set forth or referred to in such opinions and factual representations contained in certificates of officers of SI Financial and Newport Bancorp, all of which must continue to be true and accurate in all material respects as of the effective time of the merger. The opinions of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP and Luse Gorman Pomerenk & Schick, P.C. are not binding on the IRS or any court.

If any of the representations or assumptions upon which the opinions are based are inconsistent with the actual facts, the tax consequences of the merger could be adversely affected. The determination by tax counsel as to whether the proposed merger will be treated as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code will depend upon the facts and law existing at the effective time of the proposed merger. The following discussion assumes that the merger will constitute a reorganization for U.S. federal income tax purposes within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

***Exchange Solely for SI Financial Common Stock.*** No gain or loss will be recognized by a Newport Bancorp shareholder who receives solely shares of SI Financial common stock (except for cash received in lieu of fractional shares, as discussed below) in exchange for his or her shares of Newport Bancorp common stock. The tax basis of the shares of SI Financial common stock received by a Newport Bancorp shareholder in such



---

**Table of Contents**

exchange will be equal (except for the basis attributable to any fractional shares of SI Financial common stock, as discussed below) to the basis of the Newport Bancorp common stock surrendered in exchange for the SI Financial common stock. The holding period of the SI Financial common stock received will include the holding period of shares of Newport Bancorp common stock surrendered in exchange for the SI Financial common stock, provided that such shares were held as capital assets of the Newport Bancorp shareholder at the effective time of the merger.

***Exchange Solely for Cash.*** A Newport Bancorp shareholder who receives solely cash in exchange for all of his or her shares of Newport Bancorp common stock (and is not treated as constructively owning SI Financial common stock after the merger under the circumstances referred to below under *Possible Dividend Treatment* ) will recognize gain or loss for federal income tax purposes equal to the difference between the cash received and such shareholder's tax basis in the Newport Bancorp common stock surrendered in exchange for the cash. Such gain or loss will be a capital gain or loss, provided that such shares were held as capital assets of the Newport Bancorp shareholder at the effective time of the merger. Such gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the Newport Bancorp shareholder's holding period is more than one year at the effective time of the merger. The Internal Revenue Code contains limitations on the extent to which a taxpayer may deduct capital losses from ordinary income.

***Exchange for SI Financial Common Stock and Cash.*** A Newport Bancorp shareholder who receives a combination of SI Financial common stock and cash in exchange for his or her Newport Bancorp common stock will not be permitted to recognize any loss for federal income tax purposes. Such a shareholder will recognize gain, if any, equal to the lesser of (1) the amount of cash received or (2) the amount of gain realized in the transaction. The amount of gain a Newport Bancorp shareholder realizes will equal the amount by which (a) the cash plus the fair market value at the effective time of the merger of SI Financial common stock received exceeds (b) the shareholder's basis in the Newport Bancorp common stock to be surrendered in the exchange for the cash and SI Financial common stock. Any recognized gain could be taxed as a capital gain or a dividend, as described below. The tax basis of the shares of SI Financial common stock received by such Newport Bancorp shareholder will be the same as the basis of the shares of Newport Bancorp common stock surrendered in exchange for the shares of SI Financial common stock, adjusted as provided in Section 358(a) of the Internal Revenue Code for the gain recognized and/or cash received in exchange for such shares of Newport Bancorp common stock. The holding period for shares of SI Financial common stock received by such Newport Bancorp shareholder will include such shareholder's holding period for the Newport Bancorp common stock surrendered in exchange for the SI Financial common stock, provided that such shares were held as capital assets of the shareholder at the effective time of the merger.

A Newport Bancorp shareholder's federal income tax consequences will also depend on whether his or her shares of Newport Bancorp common stock were purchased at different times at different prices. If they were, the Newport Bancorp shareholder could realize gain with respect to some of the shares of Newport Bancorp common stock and loss with respect to other shares. Such Newport Bancorp shareholder would have to recognize such gain to the extent such shareholder receives cash with respect to those shares in which the shareholder's adjusted tax basis is less than the amount of cash plus the fair market value at the effective time of the merger of the SI Financial common stock received, but could not recognize loss with respect to those shares in which the Newport Bancorp shareholder's adjusted tax basis is greater than the amount of cash plus the fair market value at the effective time of the merger of the SI Financial common stock received. Any disallowed loss would be included in the adjusted basis of the SI Financial common stock. Such a Newport Bancorp shareholder is urged to consult his or her own tax advisor respecting the tax consequences of the merger to that shareholder.

***Possible Dividend Treatment.*** In certain circumstances, a Newport Bancorp shareholder who receives solely cash or a combination of cash and SI Financial common stock in the merger may receive dividend income, rather than capital gain, treatment on all or a portion of the gain recognized by that shareholder if the receipt of cash has the effect of the distribution of a dividend. The determination of whether a cash payment has such effect is based on a comparison of the Newport Bancorp shareholder's proportionate interest in SI Financial after the

## **Table of Contents**

merger with the proportionate interest the shareholder would have had if the shareholder had received solely SI Financial common stock in the merger. This could happen because the shareholders purchase (or the purchase by a family member or certain entities described below) of additional SI Financial stock or a repurchase of shares by SI Financial. For purposes of this comparison, the Newport Bancorp shareholder may be deemed to constructively own shares of SI Financial common stock held by certain members of the shareholder's family or certain entities in which the shareholder has an ownership or beneficial interest and certain stock options may be aggregated with the shareholder's shares of SI Financial common stock. The amount of the cash payment that may be treated as a dividend is limited to the shareholder's ratable share of the accumulated earnings and profits of Newport Bancorp at the effective time of the merger. Any gain that is not treated as a dividend will be taxed as a capital gain, provided that the shareholder's shares were held as capital assets at the effective time of the merger. Because the determination of whether a cash payment will be treated as having the effect of a dividend depends primarily upon the facts and circumstances of each Newport Bancorp shareholder, shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the tax treatment of any cash received in the merger.

***Cash in Lieu of Fractional Shares.*** A Newport Bancorp shareholder who holds Newport Bancorp common stock as a capital asset and who receives in the merger, in exchange for such stock, solely SI Financial common stock and cash in lieu of a fractional share interest in SI Financial common stock will be treated as having received such cash in full payment for such fractional share of stock and as capital gain or loss, notwithstanding the dividend rules discussed above.

***Backup Withholding.*** Unless an exemption applies under the backup withholding rules of Section 3406 of the Internal Revenue Code, the exchange agent shall be required to, and will, withhold 28% of any cash payments to which a Newport Bancorp shareholder is entitled pursuant to the merger, unless the Newport Bancorp shareholder signs the substitute IRS Form W-9 enclosed with the letter of transmittal sent by the exchange agent. Unless an applicable exemption exists and is proved in a manner satisfactory to the exchange agent, this completed form provides the information, including the Newport Bancorp shareholder's taxpayer identification number, and certification necessary to avoid backup withholding. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules may be allowed as a credit against your U.S. Federal income tax liability, provided you timely furnish the required information to the IRS.

***Tax Treatment of the Entities.*** No gain or loss will be recognized by SI Financial or Newport Bancorp as a result of the merger.

***Reporting Requirements.*** A holder of Newport Bancorp common stock that receives SI Financial common stock as a result of the merger may be required to retain records related to such shareholder's Newport Bancorp common stock and file with its U.S. Federal income tax return a statement setting forth facts relating to the merger.

## **Regulatory Matters Relating to the Merger**

SI Financial will file a notice with the Federal Reserve Board requesting confirmation that it may acquire Newport Bancorp without the filing of a formal application. Pursuant to applicable regulations, formal application to the Federal Reserve Board is not required if: (1) the bank merger occurs simultaneously with the acquisition of the shares of the acquired savings and loan holding company and the acquired bank is not operated as a separate entity; (2) the transaction requires the prior approval of a federal supervisory agency under the Bank Merger Act; (3) the transaction does not involve the acquisition of any non-bank company requiring approval under the Bank Holding Company Act; (4) both before and after the transaction, the acquired savings and loan holding company meets the Federal Reserve Board's capital adequacy guidelines; and (5) the acquiring savings and loan holding company provides the Federal Reserve Board at least ten days prior written notice of the transaction, including a description of the transaction and a copy of the application made to the appropriate federal regulatory agency.

## **Table of Contents**

Immediately following the merger of Newport Bancorp with and into SI Financial, SI Financial expects to merge Newport Federal with and into Savings Institute. The bank merger is subject to the approval by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency under the Bank Merger Act. In granting its approval under the Bank Merger Act, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency must consider the financial and managerial resources and future prospects of the existing and proposed institutions and the convenience and needs of the communities to be served. Savings Institute filed the requisite application for the bank merger with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in April 2013.

In addition, a period of 15 to 30 days must expire following approval by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency before completion of the merger is allowed, within which period the United States Department of Justice may file objections to the merger under the federal antitrust laws. While SI Financial and Newport Bancorp believe that the likelihood of objection by the Department of Justice is remote in this case, there can be no assurance that the Department of Justice will not initiate proceedings to block the merger.

The merger cannot proceed in the absence of the requisite regulatory approvals. See *Description of the Merger Conditions to Completion of the Merger* and *Termination*. There can be no assurance that the requisite regulatory approvals will be obtained, and if obtained, there can be no assurance as to the date of any approval. There can also be no assurance that any regulatory approvals will not contain a condition or requirement that causes the approvals to fail to satisfy the condition set forth in the merger agreement and described under *Description of the Merger Conditions to Completion of the Merger*.

The approval of any application merely implies the satisfaction of regulatory criteria for approval, which does not include review of the merger from the standpoint of the adequacy of the exchange ratio for converting Newport Bancorp common stock to SI Financial common stock. Furthermore, regulatory approvals do not constitute an endorsement or recommendation of the merger.

### **Interests of Certain Persons in the Merger**

**Share Ownership.** On the record date for the annual meeting, Newport Bancorp's directors and officers beneficially owned, in the aggregate, 326,851 shares of Newport Bancorp's common stock, representing approximately 9.2% of the outstanding shares of Newport Bancorp common stock.

As described below, certain of Newport Bancorp's officers and directors have interests in the merger that are in addition to, or different from, the interests of Newport Bancorp's shareholders generally. Newport Bancorp's board of directors was aware of these conflicts of interest and took them into account in approving the merger.

**Employment Agreements with Kevin M. McCarthy and Nino Moscardi.** The employment agreements between Newport Bancorp, Newport Federal and each of Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi provide for a lump sum cash payment in the event of a voluntary termination of employment for good reason or an involuntary termination of employment without cause within two years following a change in control. The amount of the cash payment is equal to three times the executive's average annual compensation for the prior five calendar years. In addition, Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi each would be entitled to receive a lump sum payment equal to the contributions that would have been made on the executive's behalf to any employee benefit plans of Newport Bancorp and Newport Federal for a 36-month period following his date of termination. Finally, Newport Bancorp or Newport Federal would be required to continue to provide each of Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi with continued life insurance and non-taxable medical and dental coverage for a 36-month period following the executive's date of termination, provided, however, if Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi are no longer eligible to receive such coverage, Newport Bancorp or Newport Federal will pay Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi the value of such coverage within ten days following the executive's termination. In lieu of any payments under their employment agreements, each of Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi, have agreed to a termination of their employment agreements in exchange for benefits and amounts payable under a settlement agreement entered into contemporaneously with the execution of the merger agreement.

---

**Table of Contents**

***Termination of Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan.*** Newport Federal maintains a supplemental executive retirement plan ( SERP ) for Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi. The SERP provides benefits that cannot be provided under the Newport Federal 401(k) Plan as a result of limitations imposed by the Internal Revenue Code, but that would have been provided under the 401(k) Plan but for these Internal Revenue Code limitations. No amount has been accrued under the plan with respect to the 401(k) Plan benefits. The plan also provides supplemental benefits upon a change in control prior to the scheduled repayment of the employee stock ownership plan loan. In lieu of any payments under the SERP, the SERP will be terminated and each of Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi will receive a cash payment under settlement agreements that each executive entered into contemporaneously with the execution of the merger agreement.

***Accelerated Vesting of Retirement Benefits under Certain Supplemental Executive Retirement Agreements.*** Each of Messrs. McCarthy, Moscardi and Gilmore and one other executive are participants in supplemental executive retirement agreements. Messrs. McCarthy and Gilmore are fully vested in their retirement age benefit under their agreement (\$50,000 per year for Mr. McCarthy and \$25,000 per year for Mr. Gilmore), without regard to the change in control. Mr. Moscardi and one other executive are vested in an early retirement benefit but will each become fully vested in their full retirement age benefit of \$25,000 per year as the result of the change in control. The benefits payable under the supplemental executive retirement agreements will be paid in equal monthly installments over a period of 15 years. Mr. Moscardi's settlement agreement gives him the right to reduce the cash severance payment by a dollar amount equal to the parachute value of the additional vested benefit under the settlement agreement to receive the full normal retirement benefit under the supplemental executive retirement agreement.

***Settlement Agreements with Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi.*** Contemporaneously with the execution of the merger agreement, SI Financial, Newport Bancorp and Newport Federal entered into settlement agreements with Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi to settle the severance and benefits the executives would be entitled to under their employment agreements, the SERP, and in the case of Mr. Moscardi, the portion of his benefit under the supplemental executive retirement agreement that vests as the result of the change in control. The cash severance amounts to be paid to each executive under the settlement agreements are \$1,034,659 for Mr. McCarthy and \$679,429 for Mr. Moscardi, provided, however, that this cash severance payment will be reduced to the extent that the executive wishes to receive life insurance and/or non-taxable medical or dental benefits from SI Financial after the change in control for the period set forth in his employment agreement. In the case of Mr. Moscardi, the cash severance payment will be further reduced to the extent that he elects to receive the normal retirement benefit of \$25,000 paid each year for 15 years under his supplemental executive retirement agreement, rather than the amount of \$22,800, to which he would otherwise be entitled on a termination of employment occurring on the effective date of the change in control without regard to the change in control.

***Non-Competition and Consulting Agreements with Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi.*** Savings Institute and each of Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi entered into a consulting agreement pursuant to which Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi will perform consulting services as Savings Institute may reasonably request, including providing assistance with matters relating to the integration of the businesses of Savings Institute and Newport Federal for a period of twelve months following the merger. In addition, pursuant to a non-competition agreement that each of Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi entered into with SI Financial, Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi will agree not to compete with SI Financial and Savings Institute for a period of twenty-four months following the expiration of the twelve-month consulting period. During such twenty-four-month period, Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi have also agreed not to solicit or offer employment to any employee of SI Financial or Savings Institute or any of their subsidiaries or affiliates that would cause such person(s) to terminate employment and accept employment with or provide services to any business that competes with SI Financial or Savings Institute. In exchange for the consulting services, Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi will receive \$22,849 and \$15,875 per month, respectively, for twelve months. In exchange for the non-competition agreement, Mr. McCarthy will receive \$400,000 on the closing date of the merger and \$200,000 on each of the first and second anniversaries of the closing date of the merger. In exchange for the non-competition agreement,

**Table of Contents**

Mr. Moscardi will receive \$325,000 on the closing date of the merger and \$100,000 on each of the first and second anniversaries of the closing date of the merger.

***Employment Agreements with Ray D. Gilmore II and One Other Executive Officer.*** The employment agreements between Newport Federal and Mr. Gilmore and Newport Bancorp and one other executive officer each provide for a lump sum cash payment in the event of a voluntary termination of employment for good reason or an involuntary termination of employment without cause within two years following a change in control. With respect to Mr. Gilmore's agreement, the amount of the cash payment is equal to 2.99 times his average annual compensation for the prior five calendar years. With respect to the other executive officer, the amount of the cash severance payment is equal to two times his average annual compensation for the prior five calendar years plus the value of benefits he would have received for a 24-month period following his termination of employment under retirement programs in which he participated prior to his termination. Finally, Newport Federal, in the case of Mr. Gilmore and Newport Bancorp, in the case of the other executive officer, would be required to provide continued life insurance and non-taxable medical and dental coverage for a 36-month period, in the case of Mr. Gilmore, and a 24-month period, in the case of the other executive officer, following the executive's date of termination, provided, however, if Mr. Gilmore and the other executive officer are no longer eligible to receive such coverage, Newport Federal or Newport Bancorp, as applicable, will pay to the executive the value of such coverage within ten days following his termination. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the cash severance payments and benefits will be reduced, to the extent necessary to avoid an excess parachute payment and excise tax payable under the Internal Revenue Code. The employment agreements entered into with Mr. Gilmore and the other officer, if payable, provide for total cash severance payments of up to approximately \$628,167 and \$541,561, respectively, after taking into account any reductions required to avoid an excess parachute payment.

***Change in Control Agreements with Newport Federal.*** Newport Federal is a party to a change in control agreement with one executive officer. The change in control agreement provides that upon a voluntary termination for good reason (as defined in the agreement) or an involuntary termination of employment following a change in control, for a reason other than cause, the executive will be paid as cash severance a sum equal to two times the executive's base amount (as defined under the Internal Revenue Code). In addition, the executive would be entitled to continued group life, medical and dental coverage for 24 months following termination of employment. The severance and benefits payable under the change in control agreements would be reduced to the extent necessary to avoid an excess parachute payment and excise tax under the Internal Revenue Code. The executive officer who is a party to the change in control agreement is also a party to the two-year employment agreement with Newport Bancorp discussed above. The benefits and payments available to the executive officer under both agreements will be reduced so that his aggregate payments and benefits will not result in an excess parachute payment or excise tax. Accordingly, the maximum benefit payable under both such agreements will not exceed approximately \$541,561, but could be less than this amount if the executive elects to receive other benefits that could cause an excess parachute payment in lieu of a portion of the cash severance payment.

***Cash Payment for Outstanding Options.*** Under the terms of the merger agreement, all outstanding Newport Bancorp stock options, whether or not vested, will be terminated and the holder of the option will receive cash equal to the product of (1) the number of shares of Newport Bancorp common stock subject to the stock option, multiplied by (2) the amount by which \$17.55 exceeds the exercise price of such stock option, less required tax withholding. The stock options held by all executive officers and directors are fully vested. Messrs. McCarthy, Moscardi and Gilmore, who hold 105,000, 65,000 and 55,000 stock options, respectively, will receive a cash payment of \$528,500, \$327,700 and \$277,500, respectively, upon termination of the stock options. Directors Crowley, Harvey, Hayes, Kaull, Lathrop, MacCauley, Nealon, Saccucci-Radebach and Quirk, who each hold 9,200 options, will each receive a cash payment of \$46,184.

***Acceleration of Vesting of Restricted Stock Awards.*** Under the terms of the merger agreement, restricted stock awards that have not yet vested will become fully vested upon the occurrence of a change in control. No directors or executive officers have any unvested restricted stock awards.

**Table of Contents**

**Acceleration of Normal Retirement Pension under the Supplemental Director Retirement Agreements.** Under the terms of their individual supplemental director retirement agreements, Directors Crowley, Harvey, Hayes, Kaull, Lathrop, Macauley, Nealon, Quirk and Saccucci-Radebach will become vested in a normal retirement pension benefit if their service is involuntarily terminated within two years following the change in control. Without regard to a change in control, upon a director's retirement at age 72, the director is entitled to a pension benefit, payable monthly, for a period of 10 years. If retirement occurs prior to age 72 but after attainment of age 67, the benefit is decreased by 10% from the normal retirement benefit for each year prior to age 72 in which the director retires, with the minimum benefit of 50% of the normal retirement benefit payable to a director who retires on or after age 67. However, in the event of a change in control followed by a director's involuntary termination of employment, the director will become vested in the full normal retirement benefit as if the director had reached age 72. The annual normal retirement pension for all directors upon termination at age 72 or within two years of a change in control is \$4,800, except in the case of Directors Harvey and Kaull, who will be entitled an annual normal retirement pension of \$7,000 and \$7,500, respectively.

**New Directors.** The merger agreement provides that Mr. McCarthy and two other members of the Newport Bancorp board of directors will be appointed and elected to the SI Financial and Savings Institute boards of directors.

**Continued Director and Officer Liability Coverage.** For a period of five years following the effective time of the merger, SI Financial has agreed to indemnify and hold harmless the current and former officers and directors of Newport Bancorp and its subsidiaries against any costs or expenses incurred in connection with any claim, action, suit, proceeding or investigation that is a result of matters that existed or occurred at or before the effective time of the merger to the same extent as Newport Bancorp currently provides for indemnification of its officers and directors. SI Financial has also agreed to maintain in effect for a period of five years following the effective time of the merger the directors' and officers' liability insurance policy currently maintained by Newport Bancorp or to provide a policy with comparable coverage, provided that, to obtain such insurance coverage, SI Financial is not obligated to expend an annual amount exceeding 200% of the amount of the annual premiums currently paid by Newport Bancorp for such insurance.

**Severance and other Payments to Certain Persons.** The following table sets forth the estimated potential severance benefits to Newport Bancorp's named executive officers on termination of employment in connection with a change in control. This table does not include the value of benefits that the named executive officers are vested in without regard to the occurrence of a change in control:

	Cash \$(1)	Equity \$(2)	Pension/ Non-qualified Deferred Compensation (4)(3)	Perquisites/ Benefits \$(4)	Other \$(6)	Total \$(6)
Kevin M. McCarthy	\$ 993,423	\$ 528,500	\$	\$ 41,236	\$ 1,074,188 (5)	\$ 2,637,347
Nino Moscardi	614,729	327,700	91,610	37,822	715,500(6)	1,787,361
Ray D. Gilmore II	594,972	277,500		33,155		905,627

- (1) Assumes date of change in control is July 1, 2013. Further assumes that Mr. McCarthy elected to receive non-taxable medical and dental benefits for a 36-month period in lieu of a portion of the cash severance payment of \$1,034,659 available under his settlement agreement; assumes that Mr. Moscardi elected to receive the full normal retirement age benefit under the supplemental executive retirement agreement and non-taxable medical and dental benefits in lieu of a portion of the cash severance payment of \$679,429 available under his settlement agreement; and assumes that Mr. Gilmore elected to receive non-taxable medical and dental benefits for a 36-month period in lieu of a portion of the cash severance payment of \$628,127 available under his employment agreement.

**Table of Contents**

- (2) Consists of the cash settlement of options to acquire 105,000, 65,000 and 55,000 shares of Newport Bancorp common stock for Messrs. McCarthy, Moscardi and Gilmore, respectively. The cash settlement is determined by subtracting the exercise price for each option by the per share cash merger consideration of \$17.55.
- (3) Assumes Mr. Moscardi elects to receive the accelerated vesting of his normal retirement age benefit under his supplemental executive retirement agreement, in lieu of a portion of the lump sum cash settlement payment to which he is entitled. The amount shown reflects the present value of the difference between the early retirement age benefit to which he would otherwise be entitled and the benefit that would be due to him following a change in control.
- (4) Represents projected employer premiums for continued non-taxable medical and dental insurance coverage continuation on behalf of Messrs. McCarthy, Moscardi and Gilmore for 36 months, 36 months and 36 months, respectively. It is assumed, for purposes of this presentation, that each executive elects to receive the non-taxable medical and dental benefits to which they are entitled. The present value of the non-taxable medical and dental insurance benefits to which each executive is entitled has been subtracted from the lump sum cash settlement payment otherwise payable to Messrs. McCarthy and Moscardi under their settlement agreements. The present value of the non-taxable medical and dental benefits available to Mr. Gilmore is subtracted from the lump sum cash settlement payment to which he is entitled under his employment agreement on termination of employment following the change in control to avoid an excess parachute payment and excise taxes.
- (5) Consists of (A) \$22,849 to be paid monthly for twelve months under a consulting agreement entered into between Savings Institute and Mr. McCarthy and (B) \$800,000 to be paid under a noncompetition agreement entered into between SI Financial and Mr. McCarthy, with \$400,000 to be paid on the date of the merger and \$200,000 to be paid on each of the first and second anniversaries of the merger date.
- (6) Consists of (A) \$15,875 to be paid monthly for twelve months under a consulting agreement entered into between Savings Institute and Mr. Moscardi and (B) \$525,000 to be paid under a noncompetition agreement entered into between SI Financial and Mr. Moscardi, with \$325,000 to be paid on the date of the merger and \$100,000 to be paid on each of the first and second anniversaries of the merger date.

**Employee Matters**

For continuing employees of Newport Bancorp and Newport Federal, SI Financial will maintain or cause to be maintained employee benefit plans and compensation opportunities that are substantially comparable to the employee benefit and compensation opportunities that are generally made available to similarly situated employees of SI Financial or Savings Institute except that any pre-existing condition, eligibility waiting period or other limitations or exclusion otherwise applicable under such plans to new employees will not apply to a continuing employee or their covered dependents who were covered under a similar Newport Bancorp plan at the closing of the merger.

Continuing employees of Newport Bancorp and Newport Federal will not receive prior service credit for benefit accrual purposes under any of SI Financial's compensation and benefit plans, programs or policies, except for SI Financial's vacation and sick leave programs. Continuing employees will receive credit for service with SI Financial for purposes of vesting and determination of eligibility to participate in Savings Institute's 401(k) plan and employee stock ownership plan. Newport Bancorp will take all necessary and appropriate actions to cause its 401(k) plan to be frozen as to future contributions effective immediately before the effective time of the merger.

Each full time employee of Newport Bancorp or Newport Federal whose employment is involuntarily terminated by SI Financial (other than for cause) or voluntarily resigns following a material decrease in base salary within one year of the effective time of the merger and who is not covered by a separate severance, change in control, or employment agreement shall, upon executing an appropriate release in the form reasonably determined by SI Financial, receive a severance payment equal to two weeks of base pay (at the rate in effect on the termination date) for each year of service at Newport Bancorp or Newport Federal, as applicable, with a minimum payment of \$5,000 and a maximum payment equal to 26 weeks of base pay.

## **Table of Contents**

For a period of six months following the merger, SI Financial will provide all employees of Newport Federal whose employment was terminated other than for cause, disability or retirement at or following the merger, job counseling and outplacement assistance services to assist such employees in locating new employment. SI Financial will notify all such employees of opportunities for positions with Savings Institute for which Savings Institute reasonably believes such persons are qualified and will consider any application for such positions submitted by such persons, provided, however, that any decision to offer employment to any such person shall be made in the sole discretion of Savings Institute. The total costs expended for such job counseling and outplacement assistance services will not exceed \$10,000 in the aggregate.

### **Newport Federal Employee Stock Ownership Plan**

In connection with the closing of the merger, the Newport Federal employee stock ownership plan will be terminated and the indebtedness repaid by delivering a sufficient number of unallocated shares of Newport Bancorp common stock to Newport Bancorp. All shares of Newport Bancorp common stock held by the employee stock ownership plan will be converted into the right to receive the merger consideration and the balance of any assets remaining in the employee stock ownership plan but not allocated to the account of a participant will be allocated as provided in the employee stock ownership plan governing documents. The employee stock ownership plan assets will be distributed to the participants as soon as practicable following the receipt of a favorable determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service. Newport Bancorp and, following the effective time, SI Financial have agreed to adopt any amendments to the Newport Federal employee stock ownership plan necessary to affect the foregoing matters.

### **Operations of Newport Federal after the Merger**

After the merger of Newport Federal and Savings Institute, two of the former offices of Newport Federal will operate as branch offices of Savings Institute under the name Savings Institute Bank and Trust Company. The other four former offices of Newport Federal will operate as branch offices of Savings Institute under the name Newport Federal Savings Bank, a Division of Savings Institute Bank and Trust Company.

### **Restrictions on Resale of Shares of SI Financial Common Stock**

The shares of SI Financial common stock to be issued to shareholders of Newport Bancorp under the agreement and plan of merger have been registered under the Securities Act of 1933 and may be freely traded by such shareholders without restriction (unless they are affiliates of SI Financial, in which case certain restrictions under the securities laws may apply).

### **Time of Completion**

Unless the parties agree otherwise and unless the agreement and plan of merger has otherwise been terminated, the closing of the merger will take place on a date designated by SI Financial within 30 days following the date on which all of the conditions to the merger contained in the agreement and plan of merger are satisfied or waived. See *Conditions to Completion of the Merger*. On the closing date, SI Financial will file articles of merger with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation merging Newport Bancorp into SI Financial. The merger will become effective at the time stated in the articles of merger.

SI Financial and Newport Bancorp are working hard to complete the merger quickly. It is currently expected that the merger will be completed during the third calendar quarter of 2013. However, because completion of the merger is subject to regulatory approvals and other conditions, the parties cannot be certain of the actual timing.



## **Table of Contents**

### **Conditions to Completing the Merger**

SI Financial's and Newport Bancorp's obligations to consummate the merger are conditioned on the following:

approval and adoption of the agreement and plan of merger by each of the SI Financial and Newport Bancorp shareholders;

receipt of all required regulatory approvals and the expiration of all statutory waiting periods;

no party to the merger being subject to any legal order, decree or injunction that prohibits consummating any part of the transaction, no governmental entity having instituted any proceeding for the purpose of blocking the transaction, and the absence of any statute, rule or regulation that prohibits completion of any part of the transaction;

there has not been a material adverse change to the business, financial condition or results of operations of the other party;

receipt by each party of all consents and approvals from third parties (other than those required from government agencies) required to complete the merger, unless failure to obtain those consents or approvals would not have a material adverse effect on SI Financial after completion of the merger;

the registration statement of which this proxy statement/prospectus forms a part being declared effective by the SEC, the absence of any pending or threatened proceeding by the SEC to suspend the effectiveness of the registration statement and the receipt of all required state "blue sky" approvals;

SI Financial filing a notice with The Nasdaq Stock Market for the listing of the shares of SI Financial common stock to be issued by SI Financial;

receipt by SI Financial of an opinion from Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP and receipt by Newport Bancorp of an opinion from Luse Gorman Pomerenk & Schick, P.C., in each case to the effect that the merger constitutes a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and that each of Newport Bancorp and SI Financial is a party to the reorganization; and

the other party having performed in all material respects its obligations under the agreement and plan of merger, the other party's representations and warranties being true and correct as of the date of the agreement and plan of merger and as of the closing date, and receipt of a certificate signed by the other party's chief executive officer and chief financial officer to that effect.

In addition, SI Financial will not be obligated to consummate the merger unless none of the regulatory approvals containing any condition or requirement that would so materially and adversely impact the economic or business benefits to SI Financial of the merger that, had such condition or requirement been known, SI Financial would not, in its reasonable judgment, have entered into the agreement and plan of merger.

SI Financial and Newport Bancorp cannot guarantee whether all of the conditions to the merger will be satisfied or waived by the party permitted to do so.

### **Conduct of Business Before the Merger**

Newport Bancorp has agreed that, until completion of the merger and unless permitted by SI Financial, neither it nor its subsidiaries will:

*General Business*

conduct its business other than in the regular, ordinary and usual course consistent with past practice;

fail to use reasonable best efforts to maintain and preserve intact its business organization, properties, leases, employees and advantageous business relationships and retain the services of its officers and key employees;

**Table of Contents**

take any action that would adversely affect or delay its ability to perform its obligations under the agreement and plan of merger or to consummate the transactions contemplated by the agreement and plan of merger;

***Indebtedness***

incur, modify, extend or renegotiate any indebtedness for borrowed money or assume, guarantee, endorse or otherwise become responsible for the obligations of any person or entity, other than the creation of deposit liabilities in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice and advances from the Federal Home Loan Bank with a maturity of not more than one year;

prepay any indebtedness so as to cause itself to incur a prepayment penalty thereunder;

purchase any brokered certificates of deposit;

***Capital Stock***

adjust, split, combine or reclassify its capital stock;

make, declare or pay any dividends or make any other distribution on its capital stock;

grant any person any right to acquire any of its shares of capital stock;

issue any additional shares of capital stock or any securities convertible or exercisable for any shares of its capital stock, except pursuant to the exercise of outstanding stock options;

redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire any shares of its capital stock;

***Dispositions***

sell, transfer, mortgage, encumber or otherwise dispose of any of its real property or assets or cancel, release or assign any indebtedness, other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;

***Investments***

make any equity investment or form any new subsidiary;

enter into any futures contract, option, swap agreement, interest rate cap, interest rate floor, interest rate exchange agreement, or take any other action for purposes of hedging the exposure of its interest-earning assets or interest-bearing liabilities to changes in market rates of interest;

***Contracts***

## Edgar Filing: SI Financial Group, Inc. - Form S-4/A

enter into, renew, amend or terminate any material contract, plan or agreement, or make any change in any of its leases or contracts, other than those specifically permitted by the agreement and plan of merger;

### *Loans*

make, renegotiate, renew, increase, extend, modify or purchase any loans, advances, credit enhancements or extensions or make any commitment in respect of any of the foregoing, other than existing loan commitments and those in conformity with lending policies in effect as of the date of the agreement and plan of merger in amounts not to exceed \$100,000 if such loan is not fully secured, \$1.0 million if such loan is fully secured, or \$2,000,000 with respect to any one borrower and its family members and affiliates;

**Table of Contents**

except for loans made in accordance with Regulation O of the Federal Reserve Board, make or increase any loan or extension of credit or commit to make or increase any such loan or extension of credit to any director or executive officer of Newport Bancorp or Newport Federal or any entity controlled by such persons;

make any changes in policies in any material respect in existence on the date hereof with regard to: the extension of credit, or the establishment of reserves with respect to possible loss thereon or the charge off of losses incurred thereon; investments; asset/liability management; or other material banking policies, except as may be required by changes in applicable law or regulations, generally accepted accounting principles, or the direction of a governmental entity;

***Employees***

increase in any manner the compensation, bonuses or other fringe benefits of any of its employees or directors other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice and pursuant to the policies then in effect;

pay any bonus, pension, retirement allowance or contribution not required by any existing plan or agreement to any such employees or directors;

become a party to, amend, renew, extend or commit to any pension, retirement, profit-sharing or welfare benefit plan or agreement or employment, severance or change-in-control agreement with or for the benefit of any employee or director, except for amendments to any plan or agreement that are required by law;

amend, modify or revise the terms of any outstanding stock options or voluntarily accelerate the vesting of, or the lapsing of restrictions with respect to, any stock options or other stock-based compensation;

elect to any office with the title of senior vice president or higher any person who does not hold such office as of the date of the agreement and plan of merger or elect a new director;

hire any employee with an annualized salary in excess of \$40,000 except as may be necessary to replace any non-officer employee whose employment is terminated, whether voluntarily or involuntarily;

***Settling Claims***

commence any action other than to enforce any obligation owed to Newport Bancorp or Newport Federal in accordance with past practice;

settle any claim against it for more than \$50,000 or agree to material restrictions on its operations or the operations of any of its subsidiaries;

***Governing Documents***

amend its articles of incorporation or bylaws;

***Deposits***

increase or decrease the rate of interest paid on time deposits or on certificates of deposit, except in the ordinary course of business;  
*Investment in Debt Securities*

purchase any debt security, including mortgage-backed and mortgage-related securities, other than U.S. government and U.S. government agency securities with final maturities less than one year;

**Table of Contents**

***Capital Expenditures***

make any capital expenditures greater than \$50,000, other than pursuant to binding commitments and expenditures reasonably necessary to maintain existing assets in good repair;

***Branches***

establish or commit to establish any new branch or other office or file an a