

COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC
Form 10-Q
November 07, 2007

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

FORM 10-Q

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2007

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____.

Commission File Number 001-13695

COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

16-1213679

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

5790 Widewaters Parkway, DeWitt, New York

13214-1883

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

(315) 445-2282

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No .

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of "accelerated filer and large accelerated filer" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer

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

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.
29,673,827 shares of Common Stock, \$1.00 par value, were outstanding on October 31, 2007.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Part I. Financial Information	
Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited)	
<u>Consolidated Statements of Condition</u> <u>September 30, 2007 and December 31, 2006</u>	3
<u>Consolidated Statements of Income</u> <u>Three and nine months ended September 30, 2007 and 2006</u>	4
<u>Consolidated Statement of Changes in Shareholders' Equity</u> <u>Nine months ended September 30, 2007</u>	5
<u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income</u> <u>Three and nine months ended September 30, 2007 and 2006</u>	6
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows</u> <u>Nine months ended September 30, 2007 and 2006</u>	7
<u>Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements</u> <u>September 30, 2007</u>	8
Item 2. <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	13
Item 3. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure about Market Risk</u>	28
Item 4. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	29
Part II. Other Information	
Item 1. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	29
Item 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u>	29
Item 2. <u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u>	29
Item 3. <u>Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u>	29
Item 4. <u>Submission of Matters to a Vote of Securities Holders</u>	29
Item 5. <u>Other Information</u>	29
Item 6. <u>Exhibits</u>	30

Part I. Financial Information**Item 1. Financial Statements**
COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CONDITION
(In Thousands, Except Share Data)

	(Unaudited) September 30, 2007	December 31, 2006
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 205,224	\$ 232,032
Available-for-sale investment securities, at fair value	1,297,124	1,083,412
Held-to-maturity investment securities (fair value of \$134,377 and \$142,694, respectively)	136,806	145,859
Total investment securities	1,433,930	1,229,271
Loans	2,791,910	2,701,558
Allowance for loan losses	(36,447)	(36,313)
Net loans	2,755,463	2,665,245
Core deposit intangibles, net	21,819	24,665
Goodwill	233,279	220,290
Other intangibles, net	1,668	1,181
Intangible assets, net	256,766	246,136
Premises and equipment, net	69,931	66,199
Accrued interest receivable	26,799	26,797
Other assets	44,754	32,117
Total assets	\$ 4,792,867	\$ 4,497,797
Liabilities:		
Noninterest-bearing deposits	\$ 607,756	\$ 578,951
Interest-bearing deposits	2,696,848	2,589,348
Total deposits	3,304,604	3,168,299
Borrowings	821,343	647,481
Subordinated debt held by unconsolidated subsidiary trusts	127,123	158,014
Accrued interest and other liabilities	71,455	62,475
Total liabilities	4,324,525	4,036,269

Commitment and contingencies (See Note I)

Shareholders' equity:

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC - Form 10-Q

(Unaudited)
September 30,
2007 December 31,
2006

Preferred stock \$1.00 par value, 500,000 shares authorized, 0 shares issued	—	—
Common stock, \$1.00 par value, 50,000,000 shares authorized; 32,951,707 and 32,773,320 shares issued in 2007 and 2006, respectively	32,952	32,773
Additional paid-in capital	207,100	203,197
Retained earnings	304,673	291,871
Accumulated other comprehensive income	(4,444)	(4,697)
Treasury stock, at cost (3,279,811 and 2,753,161 shares, respectively)	(71,939)	(61,616)
Total shareholders' equity	468,342	461,528
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 4,792,867	\$ 4,497,797

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (Unaudited)
(In Thousands, Except Per-Share Data)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine months Ended September 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
Interest income:				
Interest and fees on loans	\$ 47,821	\$ 43,482	\$ 138,846	\$ 121,570
Interest and dividends on taxable investments	12,546	10,033	35,488	31,407
Interest and dividends on nontaxable investments	5,239	5,646	16,086	17,324
Total interest income	65,606	59,161	190,420	170,301
Interest expense:				
Interest on deposits	20,291	16,357	58,503	43,998
Interest on borrowings	8,568	7,075	23,461	19,593
Interest on subordinated debt held by unconsolidated subsidiary trusts	2,467	1,937	7,471	5,624
Total interest expense	31,326	25,369	89,435	69,215
Net interest income	34,280	33,792	100,985	101,086
Less: provision for loan losses	510	1,300	1,124	5,175
Net interest income after provision for loan losses	33,770	32,492	99,861	95,911
Noninterest income:				
Deposit service fees	8,382	7,329	23,184	21,001
Other banking services	1,512	1,329	2,607	2,166
Benefit plan administration, consulting and actuarial fees	5,509	3,271	14,248	9,807
Trust, investment and asset management fees	2,185	1,815	6,054	5,631
Loss on sales of investment securities	(16)	—	(24)	—
Total noninterest income	17,572	13,744	46,069	38,605
Operating expenses:				
Salaries and employee benefits	19,099	16,741	55,771	49,948
Occupancy and equipment	4,884	4,350	14,109	13,557
Data processing and communications	4,240	3,264	11,613	9,747
Amortization of intangible assets	1,629	1,520	4,725	4,502
Legal and professional fees	1,365	1,119	3,606	3,510
Office supplies and postage	1,168	1,004	3,222	3,063
Business development and marketing	1,800	1,190	4,288	3,085
Other	2,580	2,652	7,482	7,071
Total operating expenses	36,765	31,840	104,816	94,483

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC - Form 10-Q

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine months Ended September 30,	
Income before income taxes	14,577	14,396	41,114	40,033
Income taxes	3,548	3,517	10,070	9,808
Net income	\$ 11,029	\$ 10,879	\$ 31,044	\$ 30,225
Basic earnings per share	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.36	\$ 1.04	\$ 1.01
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.36	\$ 1.02	\$ 1.00
Dividends declared per share	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.61	\$ 0.58

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY (Unaudited)

Nine months Ended September 30, 2007

(In Thousands, Except Share Data)

	Common Stock		Additional Paid-In Capital	Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income	Treasury Stock	Total
	Shares Outstanding	Amount Issued					
Balance at December 31, 2006	30,020,159	\$ 32,773	\$ 203,197	\$ 291,871	(\$4,697)	(\$61,616)	\$ 461,528
Net income				31,044			31,044
Other comprehensive gain, net of tax					253		253
Dividends declared: Common, \$0.61 per share				(18,242)			(18,242)
Common stock issued under Stock plan, including tax benefits of \$309	178,387	179	2,243				2,422
Stock options earned			1,660				1,660
Treasury stock purchased	(526,650)					(10,323)	(10,323)
Balance at September 30, 2007	29,671,896	\$ 32,952	\$ 207,100	\$ 304,673	(\$4,444)	(\$71,939)	\$ 468,342

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM, INC.**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (Unaudited)****(In Thousands)**

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine months Ended September 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
Other comprehensive loss, before tax:				
Change in pension liability	\$ 0	\$ 0	(\$ 50)	(\$ 117)
Change in unrealized loss on derivative instruments used in cash flow hedging relationship	(1,882)	0	(890)	0
Unrealized gain (loss) on securities:				
Unrealized holding gain (loss) arising during period	13,237	12,063	1,173	(7,432)
Reclassification adjustment for losses included in net income	16	0	24	0
Other comprehensive income (loss), before tax:	11,371	12,063	257	(7,549)
Income tax (expense) benefit related to other comprehensive gain (loss)	(4,206)	(4,627)	(4)	2,927
Other comprehensive gain (loss), net of tax:	7,165	7,436	253	(4,622)
Net income	11,029	10,879	31,044	30,225
Comprehensive income	\$ 18,194	\$ 18,315	\$ 31,297	\$ 25,603

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (Unaudited)
(In Thousands)

	Nine months Ended September 30,	
	2007	2006
Operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 31,044	\$ 30,225
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	6,995	6,456
Amortization of intangible assets	4,725	4,502
Net (accretion) amortization of premiums and discounts on securities and loans	(4,661)	971
Amortization of unearned compensation and discount on subordinated debt	284	95
Provision for loan losses	1,124	5,175
Loss on investment securities and debt extinguishments	24	0
Gain on sale of loans and other assets	(175)	(97)
Proceeds from the sale of loans held for sale	9,261	14,388
Origination of loans held for sale	(9,198)	(14,347)
Excess tax benefits from share-based payment arrangements	(133)	(245)
Change in other operating assets and liabilities	(3,564)	5,644
Net cash provided by operating activities	35,726	52,767
Investing activities:		
Proceeds from sales of available-for-sale investment securities	6,775	33,719
Proceeds from maturities of held-to-maturity investment securities	12,202	3,802
Proceeds from maturities of available-for-sale investment securities	420,420	88,118
Purchases of held-to-maturity investment securities	(3,258)	(6,627)
Purchases of available-for-sale investment securities	(609,082)	(70,909)
Net increase in loans outstanding	(36,529)	(56,110)
Cash paid for acquisition (net of cash acquired of \$9,172 and \$1,097)	(11,821)	(38,971)
Capital expenditures	(7,581)	(4,142)
Net cash used in investing activities	(228,874)	(51,120)
Financing activities:		
Net change in demand deposits, NOW accounts and savings accounts	33,165	(36,124)
Net change in time deposits	19,138	53,091
Net change in short-term borrowings	170,701	(96,400)
Change in long-term borrowings (net of payments of \$1,078 and \$252)	(1,078)	102,648
Payment on subordinated debt held by unconsolidated subsidiary trusts	(30,929)	0
Issuance of common stock	3,527	2,309
Purchase of treasury stock	(10,323)	(5,542)
Cash dividends paid	(17,994)	(17,049)
Tax benefits from share-based payment arrangements	133	245
Net cash provided by financing activities	166,340	3,178
Change in cash and cash equivalents	(26,808)	4,825
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	232,032	114,605
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 205,224	\$ 119,430

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC - Form 10-Q

Nine months Ended
September 30,

Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information:

Cash paid for interest	\$	87,905	\$	66,919
Cash paid for income taxes		6,105		5,621

Supplemental disclosures of noncash financing and investing activities:

Dividends declared and unpaid		6,238		5,972
Gross change in unrealized loss on available-for-sale investment securities		1,197		(7,432)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM, INC.**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)**

September 30, 2007

NOTE A: BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The interim financial data as of September 30, 2007 and for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007 and 2006 is unaudited; however, in the opinion of the Company, the interim data includes all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair statement of the results for the interim periods. The results of operations for the interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the full year or any other interim period.

NOTE B: ACQUISITION AND OTHER MATTERS*Hand Benefits & Trust, Inc.*

On May 18, 2007, Benefit Plans Administrative Services, Inc. (BPAS), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, completed its acquisition of Hand Benefits & Trust, Inc. (HBT) in an all cash transaction. HBT is a Houston, Texas based provider of employee benefit plan administration and trust services. The results of HBT's operations have been included in the consolidated financial statements since that date.

TLNB Financial Corporation

On June 1, 2007, the Company completed its acquisition of TLNB Financial Corporation, parent company of Tupper Lake National Bank (TLNB), in an all-cash transaction valued at approximately \$17.8 million. Based in Tupper Lake, NY, TLNB operated five branches in the northeastern New York State cities of Tupper Lake, Plattsburgh and Saranac Lake, as well as an insurance subsidiary, TLNB Insurance Agency, Inc. The results of TLNB's operations have been included in the consolidated financial statements since that date.

The estimated purchase price allocation of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed in the purchase of HBT and TLNB, collectively, including capitalized acquisition costs, is as follows:

(000's omitted)

Cash and due from banks	\$	9,172
Available-for-sale investment securities		25,966
Loans net of allowance for loan losses of \$747		54,805
Premises and equipment, net		3,034
Other assets		3,989
Goodwill		12,837
Core deposit & customer list intangibles		2,366
Total assets acquired		112,169
Deposits		84,002
Borrowings		4,288
Other liabilities		2,886
Total liabilities assumed		91,176
Net assets acquired	\$	20,993

Acquisitions in 2006

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC - Form 10-Q

The Company completed two acquisitions in 2006: (1) in August, the Company acquired ES&L Bancorp (Elmira), the parent company of Elmira Savings and Loan, FA, a federally chartered thrift based in Elmira, NY with two branches and approximately \$210 million in assets; and (2) in December, the Company acquired ONB Corporation (ONB), the parent company of Ontario National Bank, a federally chartered national bank based in Clifton Springs, NY with four branches and approximately \$95 million in assets.

Stock Repurchase Program

On April 20, 2005, the Company announced a twenty-month authorization to repurchase up to 1,500,000 of its outstanding shares. On December 20, 2006, the Company extended the program through December 31, 2008 and announced an additional two-year authorization to repurchase up to 900,000 of its shares in open market or privately negotiated transactions. Through September 30, 2007, the Company has repurchased pursuant to the program 1,379,811 shares at an aggregate cost of \$29.8 million and an average price per share of \$21.61. The repurchased shares will be used for general corporate purposes, including those related to stock plan activities.

NOTE C: ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Critical Accounting Policies

Allowance for Loan Losses

Management continually evaluates the credit quality of the Company's loan portfolio and performs a formal review of the adequacy of the allowance for loan losses on a quarterly basis. The allowance reflects management's best estimate of probable losses inherent in the loan portfolio. Determination of the allowance is subjective in nature and requires significant estimates. The Company's allowance methodology consists of two broad components, general and specific loan loss allocations.

The general loan loss allocation is composed of two calculations that are computed on four main loan categories: commercial, consumer direct, consumer indirect and residential real estate. The first calculation determines an allowance level based on the latest three years of historical net charge-off data for each loan category (commercial loans exclude balances with specific loan loss allocations). The second calculation is qualitative and takes into consideration five major factors affecting the level of loan loss risk: portfolio risk migration patterns (internal credit quality trends); the growth of the categories of the loan portfolio; economic and business environment trends in the Company's markets (includes review of bankruptcy, unemployment, population, consumer spending and regulatory trends); industry, geographical and product concentrations in the portfolio; and the perceived effectiveness of managerial resources and lending practices and policies. These two calculations are added together to determine the general loan loss allocation. The specific loan loss allocation relates to individual commercial loans that are both greater than \$0.5 million and in a nonaccruing status with respect to interest. Specific losses are based on discounted estimated cash flows, including any cash flows resulting from the conversion of collateral.

Loan losses are charged off against the allowance, while recoveries of amounts previously charged off are credited to the allowance. A provision for loan loss is charged to operations based on management's periodic evaluation of the factors previously mentioned.

Income Taxes

Provisions for income taxes are based on taxes currently payable or refundable, and deferred taxes which are based on temporary differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and their reported amounts in the financial statements. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are reported in the financial statements at currently enacted income tax rates applicable to the period in which the deferred tax assets and liabilities are expected to be realized or settled.

Intangible Assets

Intangible assets include core deposit intangibles, customer relationship intangibles and goodwill arising from acquisitions. Core deposit intangibles and customer relationship intangibles are amortized on either an accelerated or straight-line basis over periods ranging from 7 to 20 years. Goodwill is evaluated at least annually for impairment. The carrying value of goodwill and other intangible assets is based upon discounted cash flow modeling techniques that require management to make estimates regarding the amount and timing of expected future cash flows. It also requires use of a discount rate that reflects the current return requirements of the market in relation to present risk-free interest rates, required equity market premiums, and company-specific risk indicators.

Retirement Benefits

The Company provides defined benefit pension benefits and post-retirement health and life insurance benefits to eligible employees. The Company also provides deferred compensation and supplemental executive retirement plans for selected current and former employees and officers. Expense under these plans is charged to current operations and consists of several components of net periodic benefit cost based on various actuarial assumptions regarding future experience under the plans, including discount rate, rate of future compensation increases and expected return on plan assets.

New Accounting Pronouncements

In February 2007, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued SFAS No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities* (SFAS No. 159). SFAS No. 159 permits entities to choose to measure many financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value. Unrealized gains and losses on items for which the fair value option has been elected are reported in earnings. SFAS No. 159 is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. The Company is

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC - Form 10-Q

currently assessing the impact of SFAS No. 159 on its consolidated statements of condition and income.

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements* (SFAS 157). SFAS 157 does not address “what” to measure at fair value; instead, it addresses “how” to measure fair value. SFAS 157 applies (with limited exceptions) to existing standards that require assets or liabilities to be measured at fair value. SFAS 157 establishes a fair value hierarchy, giving the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets and the lowest priority to unobservable data and requires new disclosures for assets and liabilities measured at fair value based on their level in the hierarchy. SFAS 157 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of adopting SFAS 157.

NOTE D: EARNINGS PER SHARE

Basic earnings per share are computed based on the weighted-average common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted earnings per share are based on the weighted-average shares outstanding adjusted for the dilutive effect of the assumed exercise of stock options during the year. The dilutive effect of options is calculated using the treasury stock method of accounting. The treasury stock method determines the number of common shares that would be outstanding if all the dilutive options (those where the average market price is greater than the exercise price) were exercised and the proceeds were used to repurchase common shares in the open market at the average market price for the applicable time period. There were approximately 1.7 million anti-dilutive stock options outstanding at September 30, 2007 compared to approximately 1.4 million weighted-average anti-dilutive stock options outstanding at September 30, 2006. The following is a reconciliation of basic to diluted earnings per share for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007 and 2006.

(000's omitted, except per share data)	Income	Shares	Per Share Amount
<i>Three Months Ended September 30, 2007</i>			
Basic EPS	\$ 11,029	29,792	\$ 0.37
Stock options and restricted stock		286	
Diluted EPS	\$ 11,029	30,078	\$ 0.37

<i>Three Months Ended September 30, 2006</i>			
Basic EPS	\$ 10,879	29,932	\$ 0.36
Stock options and restricted stock		402	
Diluted EPS	\$ 10,879	30,334	\$ 0.36

<i>Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007</i>			
Basic EPS	\$ 31,044	29,988	\$ 1.04
Stock options and restricted stock		320	
Diluted EPS	\$ 31,044	30,308	\$ 1.02

<i>Nine Months Ended September 30, 2006</i>			
Basic EPS	\$ 30,225	29,967	\$ 1.01
Stock options and restricted stock		406	
Diluted EPS	\$ 30,225	30,373	\$ 1.00

NOTE E: INTANGIBLE ASSETS

The gross carrying amount and accumulated amortization for each type of intangible asset are as follows:

(000's omitted)	As of September 30, 2007			As of December 31, 2006		
	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Carrying Amount	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Carrying Amount

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC - Form 10-Q

	As of September 30, 2007			As of December 31, 2006		
<i>Amortizing intangible assets:</i>						
Core deposit intangibles	\$ 66,973	(\$45,154)	\$ 21,819	\$ 65,351	(\$40,686)	\$ 24,665
Other intangibles	3,383	(1,715)	1,668	2,750	(1,569)	1,181
Total amortizing intangibles	70,356	(46,869)	23,487	68,101	(42,255)	25,846
<i>Non-amortizing intangible assets:</i>						
Goodwill	233,279	0	233,279	220,290	0	220,290
Total intangible assets, net	\$ 303,635	(\$46,869)	\$ 256,766	\$ 288,391	(\$42,255)	\$ 246,136

No goodwill impairment adjustments were recognized in 2007 or 2006.

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC - Form 10-Q

The estimated aggregate amortization expense for each of the succeeding fiscal years ended December 31 is as follows:

(000's omitted)	Amount
Sep-Dec 2007	\$ 1,623
2008	6,117
2009	5,517
2010	3,590
2011	1,484
Thereafter	5,156
Total	\$ 23,487

NOTE F: MANDATORILY REDEEMABLE PREFERRED SECURITIES

The Company sponsors three business trusts, Community Capital Trust II, Community Statutory Trust III and Community Capital Trust IV (Trust IV), of which 100% of the common stock is owned by the Company. The trusts were formed for the purpose of issuing company-obligated mandatorily redeemable preferred securities to third-party investors and investing the proceeds from the sale of such preferred securities solely in junior subordinated debt securities of the Company. The debentures held by each trust are the sole assets of that trust. Distributions on the preferred securities issued by each trust are payable semi-annually or quarterly at a rate per annum equal to the interest rate being earned by the trust on the debentures held by that trust and are recorded as interest expense in the consolidated financial statements. The preferred securities are subject to mandatory redemption, in whole or in part, upon repayment of the debentures. The Company has entered into agreements which, taken collectively, fully and unconditionally guarantee the preferred securities subject to the terms of each of the guarantees. The terms of the preferred securities of each trust are as follows:

	Issuance Date	Par Amount	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Call Provision	Call Price
II	7/16/2001	\$25 million	6 month LIBOR plus 3.75% (9.12%)	7/16/2031	5 year beginning 2006	107.6875% declining to par in 2011
III	7/31/2001	\$24.5 million	3 month LIBOR plus 3.58% (8.94%)	7/31/2031	5 year beginning 2006	107.5000% declining to par in 2011
IV	12/8/2006	\$75 million	3 month LIBOR plus 1.65% (7.34%)	12/15/2036	5 year beginning 2012	Par

The Company also entered into an interest rate swap agreement to convert Trust IV's variable rate trust preferred securities into a fixed rate security for a term of five years at a fixed rate of 6.43%. A net gain of \$334,000 was recognized for the interest rate swap agreement for the nine months ended September 30, 2007 and was used to offset the interest expense for the trust preferred securities.

NOTE G: INCOME TAXES

The Company adopted the provisions of FASB Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes* (FIN 48) an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109 (SFAS 109) on January 1, 2007. As a result of the implementation of FIN 48, the Company recognized no material adjustment in the liability for uncertain tax positions. As of the adoption date of January 1, 2007, the liability, net of applicable deferred tax assets, for unrecognized income tax benefits was \$12.2 million, of which \$11.1 million, if recognized, would favorably affect the Company's effective tax rate. As of September 30, 2007, the liability, net of applicable deferred tax assets, for unrecognized income tax benefits was approximately \$12.9 million. During the first nine months of 2007, there were additions of \$0.7 million for tax positions related to the current year, all of which was provided through the effective tax rate.

The Company recognizes interest and penalties related to uncertain tax positions in income tax expense. As of September 30, 2007, the Company had approximately \$3.2 million of accrued interest related to uncertain tax positions.

The tax years 2003 – 2006 remain open to examination by the Federal taxing authority. The tax years 1997 - 2006 remain open to examination by New York State. Total unrecognized tax benefits could change significantly during the next twelve months if the NYS examinations for tax years 1997 – 2004, which are currently in progress, are completed during that time. The amount of this change, if any, cannot reasonably be determined at this time.

NOTE H: BENEFIT PLANS

The Company provides defined benefit pension benefits and post-retirement health and life insurance benefits to eligible employees. The Company also provides supplemental pension retirement benefits for several current and former key employees. The Company accrues for the estimated cost of these benefits through charges to expense during the years that employees earn these benefits. The net periodic benefit cost for the three and nine months ended September 30 is as follows:

(000's omitted)	Pension Benefits				Post-retirement Benefits			
	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine months Ended September 30,		Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine months Ended September 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006
Service cost	\$ 837	\$ 719	\$ 2,349	\$ 2,216	\$ 148	\$ 130	\$ 444	\$ 391
Interest cost	680	635	2,039	1,902	131	119	392	355
Expected return on plan assets	(1,007)	(827)	(3,021)	(2,482)	0	0	0	0
Net amortization and deferral	247	270	742	900	29	27	88	81
Amortization of prior service cost	(18)	13	(52)	(71)	28	27	82	82
Amortization of transition obligation	0	0	0	0	10	10	31	31
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 739	\$ 810	\$ 2,057	\$ 2,465	\$ 346	\$ 313	\$ 1,037	\$ 940

During the second quarter, the Company made a contribution to its defined benefit pension plan of \$9.2 million. No additional contributions in 2007 are required for regulatory purposes.

NOTE I: COMMITMENTS, CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND RESTRICTIONS

The Company is a party to financial instruments with off-balance-sheet risk in the normal course of business to meet the financing needs of its customers. These financial instruments consist primarily of commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit. Commitments to extend credit are agreements to lend to customers, generally having fixed expiration dates or other termination clauses that may require payment of a fee. These commitments consist principally of unused commercial and consumer credit lines. Standby letters of credit generally are contingent upon the failure of the customer to perform according to the terms of an underlying contract with a third party. The credit risks associated with commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit are essentially the same as that involved with extending loans to customers and are subject to normal credit policies. Collateral may be obtained based on management's assessment of the customer's creditworthiness.

The contract amount of commitment and contingencies are as follows:

(000's omitted)	September 30, 2007	December 31, 2006
Commitments to extend credit	\$ 477,623	\$ 443,367
Standby letters of credit	10,940	10,082
Total	\$ 488,563	\$ 453,449

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Introduction

This Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (MD&A) primarily reviews the financial condition and results of operations of Community Bank System, Inc. (the Company or CBSI) as of and for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007 and 2006, although in some circumstances the second quarter of 2007 is also discussed in order to more fully explain recent trends. The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements and related notes that appear on pages 3 through 12. All references in the discussion to the financial condition and results of operations are to those of the Company and its subsidiaries taken as a whole.

Unless otherwise noted, the term "this year" refers to results in calendar year 2007, "third quarter" refers to the quarter ended September 30, 2007, earnings per share (EPS) figures refer to diluted EPS, and net interest income and net interest margin are presented on a fully tax-equivalent (FTE) basis.

This MD&A contains certain forward-looking statements with respect to the financial condition, results of operations and business of the Company. These forward-looking statements involve certain risks and uncertainties. Factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from those proposed by such forward-looking statements are set herein under the caption, "Forward-Looking Statements," on page 27.

Critical Accounting Policies

As a result of the complex and dynamic nature of the Company's business, management must exercise judgment in selecting and applying the most appropriate accounting policies for its various areas of operations. The policy decision process not only ensures compliance with the latest generally accepted accounting principles, but also reflects on management's discretion with regard to choosing the most suitable methodology for reporting the Company's financial performance. It is management's opinion that the accounting estimates covering certain aspects of the business have more significance than others due to the relative importance of those areas to overall performance, or the level of subjectivity in the selection process. These estimates affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Management believes that critical accounting estimates include:

- Allowance for loan losses - The allowance for loan losses reflects management's best estimate of probable losses inherent in the loan portfolio. Determination of the allowance is inherently subjective. It requires significant estimates including the amounts and timing of expected future cash flows on impaired loans and the amount of estimated losses on pools of homogeneous loans which is based on historical loss experience and consideration of current economic trends, all of which may be susceptible to significant change.
- Actuarial assumptions associated with pension, post-retirement and other employee benefit plans - These assumptions include discount rate, rate of future compensation increases and expected return on plan assets.
- Provision for income taxes - The Company is subject to examinations from various taxing authorities. Such examinations may result in challenges to the tax return treatment applied by the Company to specific transactions. Management believes that the assumptions and judgements used to record tax related assets or liabilities have been appropriate. Should tax laws change or the taxing authorities determine that management's assumptions were inappropriate an adjustment may be required which could have a material effect on the Company's results of operations.
- Carrying value of goodwill and other intangible assets - The carrying value of goodwill and other intangible assets is based upon discounted cash flow modeling techniques that require management to make estimates regarding the amount and timing of expected future cash flows. It also requires use of a discount rate that reflects the current return requirements of the market in relation to present risk-free interest rates, required equity market premiums, and company-specific risk indicators.

A summary of the accounting policies used by management is disclosed in Note A, "Summary of Significant Accounting Policies" on pages 46-51 of the most recent Form 10-K (fiscal year ended December 31, 2006) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 15, 2007.

Executive Summary

The Company's business philosophy is to operate as a community bank with local decision-making, principally in non-metropolitan markets, providing a broad array of banking and financial services to retail, commercial and municipal customers.

The Company's core operating objectives are: (i) grow the branch network, primarily through a disciplined acquisition strategy, and certain selective de novo expansions, (ii) build high-quality, profitable loan and deposit portfolios using both organic and acquisition strategies, (iii) increase the noninterest income component of total revenues through development of banking-related fee income, growth in existing financial services business units, and the acquisition of additional financial services and banking businesses, and (iv) utilize technology to deliver customer-responsive products and services and to reduce operating costs.

Significant factors management reviews to evaluate achievement of the Company's operating objectives and its operating results and financial condition include, but are not limited to: net income and earnings per share, return on assets and equity, net interest margins, noninterest income, operating expenses, asset quality, loan and deposit growth, capital management, performance of individual banking and financial services units, liquidity and interest rate sensitivity, enhancements to customer products and services, technology enhancements, market share, peer comparisons, and the performance of acquisition and integration activities.

On June 1, 2007, the Company completed its acquisition of TLNB Financial Corporation, parent company of Tupper Lake National Bank (TLNB), in an all-cash transaction valued at approximately \$17.8 million. Based in Tupper Lake, NY, TLNB operated five branches in the northeastern New York State cities of Tupper Lake, Plattsburgh and Saranac Lake, as well as an insurance subsidiary, TLNB Insurance Agency, Inc. On a consolidated basis, TLNB had approximately \$100 million in assets and \$87 million of deposits.

On May 18, 2007, the Company's subsidiary, Benefit Plans Administrative Services, Inc. (BPAS), completed its acquisition of Hand Benefits & Trust, Inc. (HBT) in an all cash transaction. HBT is a Houston, Texas based provider of employee benefit plan administration and trust services.

The Company completed two acquisitions in 2006: (1) in August, the Company acquired ES&L Bancorp (Elmira), the parent company of Elmira Savings and Loan, FA, a federally chartered thrift based in Elmira, NY with two branches and approximately \$210 million in assets; and (2) in December, the Company acquired ONB Corporation (ONB), the parent company of Ontario National Bank, a federally chartered national bank based in Clifton Springs, NY with four branches and \$95 million in assets.

Third quarter and September year-to-date (YTD) earnings per share were \$0.37 and \$1.02, respectively, an increase of \$0.01 and \$0.02 as compared to the respective prior year periods. The increase was driven by increased interest income on loans and investments, significantly higher noninterest income, and favorable asset quality results. These were partially offset by higher cost of funds and higher operating expenses. Cash earnings per share (which excludes the after-tax effect of the amortization of intangibles assets and acquisition-related market value adjustments) were \$0.41 versus \$0.40 for the prior year's third quarter and \$0.39 for the second quarter of 2007.

Asset quality in the third quarter of 2007 was improved in comparison to the same period last year, with reductions in the net charge-off, nonperforming loan and total delinquent loan ratios. The Company experienced year-over-year loan growth in all portfolios: consumer installment, consumer mortgage and business lending, due to organic growth and the acquisitions of TLNB, Elmira and ONB. The size of the investment portfolio increased from both the prior year-end and the third quarter of 2006, principally due to higher short-term investments and cash equivalents, which were up \$248 million from September 30, 2006. Average deposits increased in the third quarter of 2007 as compared to both the second quarter of 2007 and the third quarter of 2006, due to organic growth and the TLNB, Elmira and ONB acquisitions. External borrowings increased from the end of December 2006 due to a \$200 million short term investment leverage strategy implemented in the third quarter, partially offset by the early redemption of \$30 million of fixed-rate trust preferred securities in the beginning of the first quarter of 2007.

Net Income and Profitability

As shown in Table 2, earnings per share for the third quarter and September YTD of \$0.37 and \$1.02, respectively, were \$0.01 and \$0.02 higher than the EPS generated in the same periods of last year. Net income for the quarter of \$11.0 million was up 1.4% over the third quarter of 2006 and net income of \$31.0 million for the first nine months of 2007 increased 2.7% from the amount earned in the first nine months of 2006. As compared to the second quarter of 2007, net income increased \$0.7 million

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC - Form 10-Q

or 6.5%, and earnings per share increased \$0.03, or 8.8%.

Third quarter net interest income of \$34.3 million was up \$0.5 million or 1.4% from the comparable prior year period, while net interest income for the first nine months of 2007 decreased \$0.1 million as compared to the first nine months of 2006. The current quarter's provision for loan losses decreased \$0.8 million as compared to the third quarter of 2006 and decreased \$4.1 million for the first nine months of 2007 as compared to 2006 as a result of favorable and improved asset quality attributes. Third quarter noninterest income, excluding securities losses, was \$17.6 million, up \$3.8 million or 28% from the third quarter of 2006, while YTD noninterest

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC - Form 10-Q

income of \$46.1 million increased \$7.5 million or 19% from the prior year level. Operating expenses of \$36.8 million for the quarter and \$104.8 million for the first nine months of 2007 were up \$4.9 million or 15% and \$10.3 million or 10.9%, respectively, from the comparable prior year periods, a significant portion due to the acquisitions of TLNB and HBT during the second quarter of 2007 and Elmira and ONB in the third and fourth quarters of 2006.

In addition to the earnings results presented above in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), the Company provides cash earnings per share, which excludes the after-tax effect of the amortization of intangible assets and acquisition-related market value adjustments. Management believes that this information helps investors better understand the effect of acquisition activity in reported results. Cash earnings per share for the third quarter and the first nine months of 2007 were \$0.41 and \$1.16, respectively, up 2.5% and 2.7% from the \$0.40 and \$1.13 earned in the comparable periods of 2006.

As reflected in Table 2, the primary reasons for higher earnings in both periods were a lower loan loss provision and higher noninterest income, partially offset by higher operating expenses. Net interest income for the third quarter of 2007 increased slightly as compared to both the third quarter of 2006 and the second quarter of 2007 as acquired and organic loan growth and higher loan yields had a greater impact than the higher cost of funds in the same periods. Excluding security losses, noninterest income increased due to a strong performance by the Company's employee benefits consulting and plan administration business, due to both significant organic growth and the acquisition of HBT, as well as higher banking service fees, including higher debit card related revenues. Improved net charge-off and nonperforming loan ratios were the primary reasons for the decrease in loan loss provision, despite an increase in total loans outstanding. Operating expenses increased for the quarter and year to date periods primarily due to costs associated with the four acquisitions in the last year, as well as employee merit increases, higher medical costs, business development and marketing expenditures, and data processing and communication costs.

A reconciliation of GAAP-based earnings results to cash-based earnings results and a condensed income statement are as follows:

Table 1: Reconciliation of GAAP Net Income to Cash Net Income (Non-GAAP measure)

(000's omitted)	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine months Ended September 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
Net income	\$ 11,029	\$ 10,879	\$ 31,044	\$ 30,225
After-tax cash adjustments:				
Amortization of market value adjustments				
On net assets acquired in mergers	172	200	526	612
Amortization of intangible assets	1,233	1,149	3,568	3,399
Net income – cash	\$ 12,434	\$ 12,228	\$ 35,138	\$ 34,236
Diluted earnings per share – cash	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.40	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.13

Table 2: Summary Income Statements

(000's omitted, except per share data)	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine months Ended September 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
Net interest income	\$ 34,280	\$ 33,792	\$ 100,985	\$ 101,086
Provision for loan losses	510	1,300	1,124	5,175
Noninterest income excluding security losses	17,588	13,744	46,093	38,605
Loss on sales of investment securities	(16)	0	(24)	0
Operating expenses	36,765	31,840	104,816	94,483

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC - Form 10-Q

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine months Ended September 30,	
Income before taxes	14,577	14,396	41,114	40,033
Income taxes	3,548	3,517	10,070	9,808
Net income	\$ 11,029	\$ 10,879	\$ 31,044	\$ 30,225
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.36	\$ 1.02	\$ 1.00

Net Interest Income

Net interest income is the amount by which interest and fees on earning assets (loans, investments and cash) exceed the cost of funds, primarily interest paid to the Company's depositors and interest on external borrowings. Net interest margin is the difference between the gross yield on earning assets and the cost of interest-bearing funds as a percentage of earning assets.

As shown in Table 3, net interest income (with nontaxable income converted to a fully tax-equivalent basis) for the third quarter of 2007 was \$37.9 million, a slight increase from the same period last year and a \$0.9 million increase from the second quarter of 2007. A \$377 million increase in third quarter interest-earning assets versus the prior year offset a \$379 million increase in average interest-bearing liabilities and a 31 basis point decrease in the net interest margin. As reflected in Table 4, the volume and rate increases from interest bearing assets had a \$6.3 million favorable impact on net interest income, while the volume and rate increases from interest bearing liabilities had a \$6.0 million negative impact on net interest income. September 2007 YTD net interest income of \$112.1 million was up \$0.1 million or 0.1% from the year earlier period. A \$344 million increase in interest bearing assets more than offset a \$366 million increase in interest-bearing liabilities and a 33 basis point decrease in the net interest margin. The volume and rate increases from interest bearing assets contributed a positive \$20.3 million variance on net interest income, while the volume and rate increases from interest bearing liabilities had a slightly smaller \$20.2 million negative impact on net interest income.

Higher third quarter and September YTD average loan balances were attributable to \$33.2 million of quarterly average organic loan growth since the third quarter of 2006, driven by growth in the consumer mortgage and consumer installment portfolios. Additionally, contributing to the increase in the average third quarter loan balance was \$184 million of loans acquired in the TLNB, Elmira and ONB acquisitions. Average investments for the third quarter and YTD periods were \$160 million and \$82 million higher than the respective periods of 2006, primarily due to higher interest-earning cash balances and a short-term investment leverage strategy put into place during the third quarter of 2007. In comparison to the prior year, total average deposits were up \$222 million or 7.2% and \$215 million or 7.1% for the quarter and YTD periods, respectively, as a result of organic growth and three banking acquisitions during the past 14 months. Quarterly and YTD average deposits from acquired TLNB, Elmira and ONB branches were \$259 million and \$217 million, respectively. Quarterly and YTD average borrowings increased \$184 million and \$144 million as compared to the third quarter and first nine months of 2006 due to the \$200 million short-term investment leverage strategy put into place during the third quarter of 2007, the all-cash acquisitions of TLNB, Elmira and ONB, and the issuance of \$75 million of trust preferred securities in the fourth quarter of 2006, partially offset by the early redemption of \$30 million of fixed rate trust preferred securities in the first quarter of 2007.

The net interest margin of 3.56% for the third quarter and 3.65% for the year to date period dropped 31 basis points and 33 basis points, respectively, versus the same periods in the prior year. These declines were primarily attributable to an increase in the cost of funds (quarter up 31 basis points, YTD up 45 basis points), due to continued customer migration to time deposit products and the impact of completed acquisitions, while earning assets yields increased at a slower rate (quarter up one basis point, YTD up 12 basis points). The change in the earning-asset yield was driven by an increase in loan yields of nine basis points for the quarter and 22 basis points for the YTD period, while investment yields declined 12 basis points for the quarter and eight basis points for the YTD period. Results include the impact of the TLNB, Elmira and ONB acquisitions, which had lower net interest margin attributes than the Company's historical averages. Excluding the \$200 million short-term investment leverage strategy in the third quarter, the net interest margin for the third quarter of 2007 would have been 3.69%, an 18 basis point decline from the third quarter of 2006 and a five basis point increase from the second quarter of 2007. This strategy not only produced positive net interest income, but it also served to demonstrate the Company's ability to freely access liquidity sources despite tightened credit market conditions.

The third quarter cost of funds increased 31 basis points versus the prior year quarter due to a 39 basis point increase on interest-bearing deposits rates, partially offset by a 23 basis point decrease in the average interest rate paid on external borrowings. The increase in the YTD cost of funds was driven by a 53 basis point increase in deposit costs while borrowing rates remained stable, increasing one basis point. Interest rates on selected categories of deposit accounts were raised throughout 2006 and early 2007 in response to market conditions. Additionally, customers continued to move funds from low rate and noninterest-earning accounts to higher yielding checking and time deposit accounts. Additionally, the long-term rate was impacted by the approximately 15 basis point decrease in the three and six month LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rates) over the last twelve months, from which the interest rate on \$50 million of the mandatorily redeemable preferred securities is based. The rate on external borrowings was also positively impacted by retiring \$30 million of trust preferred securities early in 2007 and replacing it with a new issuance that carried an interest rate approximately 300 basis points lower.

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC - Form 10-Q

Tables 3a and 3b below sets forth information related to average interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities and their associated yields and rates for the periods indicated. Interest income and yields are on a fully tax-equivalent basis using marginal income tax rates of 38.8% in 2007 and 38.4% in 2006. Average balances are computed by accumulating the daily ending balances in a period and dividing by the number of days in that period. Loan yields and amounts earned include loan fees. Average loan balances include nonaccrual loans and loans held for sale.

Table 3a: Quarterly Average Balance Sheet

(000's omitted except yields and rates)	Three Months Ended September 30, 2007			Three Months Ended September 30, 2006		
	Average Balance	Interest	Avg. Yield/Rate Paid	Average Balance	Interest	Avg. Yield/Rate Paid
Interest-earning assets:						
Cash equivalents	\$ 90,140	\$ 1,181	5.20%	\$ 34,264	\$ 431	4.99%
Taxable investment securities ⁽¹⁾	881,200	11,891	5.35%	741,764	10,031	5.37%
Nontaxable investment securities ⁽¹⁾	477,369	8,184	6.80%	512,721	8,823	6.83%
Loans (net of unearned discount)	2,775,337	47,995	6.86%	2,558,137	43,640	6.77%
	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total interest-earning assets	4,224,046	69,251	6.50%	3,846,886	62,925	6.49%
	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	
Noninterest-earning assets	455,272			425,166		
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
Total assets	\$ 4,679,318			\$ 4,272,052		
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
Interest-bearing liabilities:						
Interest checking, savings and money market deposits						
	\$ 1,255,656	3,640	1.15%	\$ 1,161,076	3,186	1.09%
Time deposits	1,479,693	16,651	4.46%	1,379,074	13,171	3.79%
Short-term borrowings	307,090	3,147	4.07%	125,013	1,327	4.21%
Long-term borrowings	536,859	7,888	5.83%	534,811	7,685	5.70%
	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total interest-bearing liabilities	3,579,298	31,326	3.47%	3,199,974	25,369	3.15%
	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	
Noninterest-bearing liabilities:						
Demand deposits	583,946			557,398		
Other liabilities	53,902			57,684		
Shareholders' equity	462,172			456,996		
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 4,679,318			\$ 4,272,052		
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
Net interest earnings		\$ 37,925			\$ 37,556	
		<hr/>			<hr/>	
Net interest spread			3.03%			3.34%
Net interest margin on interest-earnings assets			3.56%			3.87%
Fully tax-equivalent adjustment		\$ 3,645			\$ 3,764	
		<hr/>			<hr/>	

⁽¹⁾ Averages for investment securities are based on historical cost basis and the yields do not give effect to changes in fair value that is reflected as a component of shareholders' equity and deferred taxes.

Table 3b: Year-to-Date Average Balance Sheet

(000's omitted except yields and rates)	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007			Nine Months Ended September 30, 2006		
	Average Balance	Interest	Avg. Yield/Rate Paid	Average Balance	Interest	Avg. Yield/Rate Paid
Interest-earning assets:						
Cash equivalents	\$ 93,305	\$ 3,658	5.24%	\$ 24,917	\$ 910	4.88%
Taxable investment securities ⁽¹⁾	807,283	33,384	5.53%	764,116	31,715	5.55%
Nontaxable investment securities ⁽¹⁾	487,771	25,178	6.90%	517,680	26,689	6.89%
Loans (net of unearned discount)	2,724,307	139,364	6.84%	2,462,185	121,962	6.62%
Total interest-earning assets	4,112,666	201,584	6.55%	3,768,898	181,276	6.43%
Noninterest-earning assets	449,740			426,185		
Total assets	\$ 4,562,406			\$ 4,195,083		
Interest-bearing liabilities:						
Interest checking, savings and money market deposits	\$ 1,222,630	10,415	1.14%	\$ 1,139,608	8,475	0.99%
Time deposits	1,469,769	48,088	4.37%	1,331,294	35,523	3.57%
Short-term borrowings	207,652	6,406	4.12%	138,578	3,935	3.80%
Long-term borrowings	579,775	24,526	5.66%	504,507	21,282	5.64%
Total interest-bearing liabilities	3,479,826	89,435	3.44%	3,113,987	69,215	2.97%
Noninterest-bearing liabilities:						
Demand deposits	564,526			570,552		
Other liabilities	53,914			54,692		
Shareholders' equity	464,140			455,852		
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 4,562,406			\$ 4,195,083		
Net interest earnings		\$ 112,149			\$ 112,061	
Net interest spread			3.11%			3.46%
Net interest margin on interest-earnings assets			3.65%			3.98%
Fully tax-equivalent adjustment		\$ 11,164			\$ 10,975	

⁽¹⁾ Averages for investment securities are based on historical cost basis and the yields do not give effect to changes in fair value that is reflected as a component of shareholders' equity and deferred taxes.

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC - Form 10-Q

As discussed above and disclosed in Table 4 below, the quarterly change in net interest income (fully tax-equivalent basis) may be analyzed by segregating the volume and rate components of the changes in interest income and interest expense for each underlying category.

Table 4: Rate/Volume

	3rd Quarter 2007 versus 3rd Quarter 2006			Nine Months Ended September 30, 2007 versus September 30, 2006		
	Increase (Decrease) Due to Change in ⁽¹⁾			Increase (Decrease) Due to Change in ⁽¹⁾		
	Volume	Rate	Net Change	Volume	Rate	Net Change
(000's omitted)						
Interest earned on:						
Cash equivalents	\$ 731	\$ 19	\$ 750	\$ 2,676	\$ 72	\$ 2,748
Taxable investment securities	1,882	(22)	1,860	1,785	(116)	1,669
Nontaxable investment securities	(607)	(32)	(639)	(1,543)	32	(1,511)
Loans (net of unearned discount)	3,748	607	4,355	13,310	4,092	17,402
Total interest-earning assets ⁽²⁾	6,182	144	6,326	16,797	3,511	20,308
Interest paid on:						
Interest checking, savings and money						
market deposits	268	186	454	647	1,293	1,940
Time deposits	1,011	2,469	3,480	3,958	8,607	12,565
Short-term borrowings	1,867	(47)	1,820	2,105	366	2,471
Long-term borrowings	29	174	203	3,184	60	3,244
Total interest-bearing liabilities ⁽²⁾	3,173	2,784	5,957	8,677	11,543	20,220
Net interest earnings ⁽²⁾	3,519	(3,151)	369	9,778	(9,691)	88

⁽¹⁾ The change in interest due to both rate and volume has been allocated in proportion to the relationship of the absolute dollar amounts of change in each component.

⁽²⁾ Changes due to volume and rate are computed from the respective changes in average balances and rates and are not a summation of the changes of the components.

Noninterest Income

The Company's sources of noninterest income are of three primary types: general banking services related to loans, deposits and other core customer activities typically provided through the branch network and electronic banking channels; employee benefit plan administration, actuarial and consulting services (performed by BPA-Harbridge and HBT), trust services, investment and insurance products (performed by Community Investment Services, Inc. or CISI and CBNA Insurance Agency, Inc.) and asset management (performed by Nottingham Advisors or Nottingham); and periodic transactions, most often net gains (losses) from the sale of investment securities and prepayment of debt instruments.

Table 5: Noninterest Income

(000's omitted)	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine months Ended September 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
Deposit service charges and fees	\$ 8,382	\$ 7,329	\$ 23,184	\$ 21,001
Benefit plan administration, consulting and actuarial fees	5,509	3,271	14,248	9,807
Trust, investment and asset management fees	2,185	1,815	6,054	5,631
Other banking services	1,337	1,113	2,006	1,706
Mortgage banking	175	216	601	460
Subtotal	17,588	13,744	46,093	38,605
Loss on sales of investment securities	(16)	0	(24)	0
Total noninterest income	\$ 17,572	\$ 13,744	\$ 46,069	\$ 38,605
Noninterest income/total income (FTE)	31.7%	26.8%	29.1%	25.6%

As displayed in Table 5, noninterest income (excluding securities gains) was \$17.6 million in the third quarter and \$46.1 million for the first nine months of 2007. This represents an increase of \$3.8 million or 28% for the quarter, and \$7.5 million or 19% for the YTD period in comparison to one year earlier. A significant portion of the growth in both time intervals was attributable to growth in benefit plan administration, consulting and actuarial fees, a large portion of which was organic. The acquisition of HBT in mid May 2007 generated approximately \$1.6 million of revenue growth in the quarter and \$2.3 million in the year to date period. General recurring banking fees of \$9.9 million for the third quarter and \$25.8 million for the first nine months of 2007 were up \$1.2 million or 14.3% and \$2.6 million or 11.3%, respectively, as compared to the prior year periods, driven by organic core deposit account growth, higher electronic banking related revenues and incremental income generated from the recently acquired TLNB, Elmira and ONB branches. Consistent with prior years, other banking revenues for the third quarter include the annual dividends from creditor insurance programs in which the Company participates approximating \$0.8 million.

Strong performance at BPA-Harbridge, combined with the acquisition of HBT, generated revenue growth of \$2.2 million (68%) for the quarter and \$4.4 million (45%) for the first nine months. The organic growth was achieved primarily through enhanced service offerings to both new and existing clients. Third quarter trust, investment, asset management, and insurance-related revenues increased \$0.4 million as compared to both the prior year and the year-to-date period, a majority of which was attributable to organic growth, with the balance of the increase coming the acquisition of TLNB's Insurance Agency business.

The ratio of noninterest income to total income (FTE basis) was 31.7% for the quarter and 29.1% for the year-to-date period versus 26.8% and 25.6% for the comparable periods in 2006. This improvement is a function of increased noninterest banking and financial services income (excluding net security losses), combined with small increases in net interest income.

Operating Expenses

Table 6 below sets forth the quarterly results of the major operating expense categories for the current and prior year, as well as efficiency ratios (defined below), a standard measure of expense utilization effectiveness used in the banking industry.

Table 6: Operating Expenses

(000's omitted)	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine months Ended September 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
Salaries and employee benefits	\$ 19,099	\$ 16,741	\$ 55,771	\$ 49,948
Occupancy and equipment	4,884	4,350	14,109	13,557
Data processing and communications	4,240	3,264	11,613	9,747
Amortization of intangible assets	1,629	1,520	4,725	4,502
Legal and professional fees	1,365	1,119	3,606	3,510
Office supplies and postage	1,168	1,004	3,222	3,063
Business development and marketing	1,800	1,190	4,288	3,085
Other	2,580	2,652	7,482	7,071
Total operating expenses	\$ 36,765	\$ 31,840	\$ 104,816	\$ 94,483
Operating expenses/average assets	3.12%	2.96%	3.07%	3.01%
Efficiency ratio	63.1%	58.8%	63.0%	59.6%

As shown in Table 6, third quarter 2007 operating expenses were \$36.8 million, up \$4.9 million or 15.5% from the prior year level. Year-to-date operating expenses of \$104.8 million rose \$10.3 million or 10.9% compared to 2006. The increase was primarily attributable to incremental operating expenses related to the TLNB, HBT, Elmira and ONB acquisitions. Additionally, the increase in operating expenses can be attributable to annual merit increases (approximately \$0.5 million for the quarter, \$1.4 million YTD), higher data processing and communication costs (\$1.0 million for the quarter, \$1.9 million YTD), and an increased level of business development and marketing expense (\$0.6 million for the quarter, \$1.2 million YTD). Included in total operating expenses of \$36.8 million and \$104.8 million for the third quarter and first nine months of 2007, are non-recurring transaction related acquisition expenses of \$0.1 million and \$0.4 million, respectively. The increase in data processing and communications costs as well as the increase in business development and marketing expenses reflects the Company's continued investments in strategic technology and business development initiatives to grow and enhance our service offerings.

The Company's efficiency ratio (recurring operating expense excluding intangible amortization and acquisition expenses divided by the sum of net interest income (FTE) and recurring noninterest income) was 63.1% for the third quarter, 4.3 percentage points above the comparable quarter of 2006. This resulted from operating expenses (as described above) increasing 16% primarily due to the acquisitions in the last year, while recurring operating income increased at a slower rate of 8.2% due to a \$3.8 million increase in noninterest income excluding security gains and a slight increase in net interest income quarter over quarter. The efficiency ratio of 63.0% for the first nine months of 2007 was up 3.4 percentage points from a year earlier due to core operating expenses increasing 11.0% while recurring operating income increased at a slower rate of 5.0%. In both periods, operating income growth was inhibited by the contraction of the net interest margin. In addition, the efficiency ratios were adversely affected by the growing proportion of financial services activities, which due to the differing nature of their business carry high efficiency ratios. Operating expenses as a percentage of average assets increased 16 and six basis points for the quarter and year-to-date periods, respectively, as operating expenses increased 15.5% and 10.9%, while average assets increased 9.5% and 8.8% during the same time periods. This ratio was impacted by the comparatively high growth rates of the financial services businesses, which are less asset-intensive with higher efficiency ratio attributes.

Income Taxes

The third quarter effective income tax rate was 24.3%, compared to the 24.4% effective tax rate in the third quarter of 2006. The year-to-date effective tax rate was 24.5% consistent with the first nine months of 2006.

Investments

As reflected in Table 7 below, the carrying value of investments (including unrealized gains on available-for-sale securities) was \$1.43 billion at the end of the third quarter, an increase of \$204.7 million and \$183.7 million from December 31, 2006 and September 30, 2006, respectively. The book value (excluding unrealized gains) of investments increased \$203.5 million and \$181.0 million from December 31, 2006 and September 30, 2006, respectively. During 2006, the investment portfolio was allowed to run off in the flat yield curve environment. Cash flows were used to support loan growth and repay borrowings until more advantageous investment opportunities became available. During the first nine months of 2007, cash flows were reinvested in short-term agency securities and other cash equivalents. Additionally, during the third quarter of 2007, a \$200 million short-term investment leverage strategy was undertaken. The overall mix of securities within the portfolio over the last year changed somewhat, with an increase in the proportion of U.S. Treasury and Agency securities, the purchase of asset-backed securities and a slight decrease in obligations of state and political subdivisions and mortgage-backed securities. The change in the carrying value of investments is impacted by the amount of net unrealized gains in the available for sale portfolio at a point in time. At September 30, 2007, the portfolio had a \$9.0 million net unrealized gain, an increase of \$1.2 million from the unrealized gain at December 31, 2006 and an improvement of \$2.7 million from the unrealized gain at September 30, 2006. This fluctuation is indicative of the interest rate movements during the respective time periods and the changes in the size and composition of the portfolio.

Table 7: Investments

(000's omitted)	September 30, 2007		December 31, 2006		September 30, 2006	
	Amortized Cost/Book Value	Fair Value	Amortized Cost/Book Value	Fair Value	Amortized Cost/Book Value	Fair Value
<i>Held-to-Maturity Portfolio:</i>						
U.S. Treasury and Agency securities	\$ 127,092	\$ 124,658	\$ 127,200	\$ 124,020	\$ 127,236	\$ 122,998
Obligations of state and political subdivisions	5,718	5,723	7,242	7,257	8,495	8,508
Other securities	3,996	3,996	11,417	11,417	9,326	9,326
Total held-to-maturity portfolio	136,806	134,377	145,859	142,694	145,057	140,832
<i>Available-for-Sale Portfolio:</i>						
U.S. Treasury and Agency securities	563,041	564,020	372,706	370,787	385,424	382,178
Obligations of state and political subdivisions	475,338	484,823	502,677	514,647	507,804	519,697
Corporate securities	40,492	39,708	35,603	35,080	35,639	35,021
Collateralized mortgage obligations	36,265	36,058	43,768	43,107	49,081	48,374
Asset-backed securities	48,072	48,071	0	0	0	0
Mortgage-backed securities	72,479	71,985	76,266	75,181	78,247	77,204
Subtotal	1,235,687	1,244,665	1,031,020	1,038,802	1,056,195	1,062,474
Equity securities	52,459	52,459	44,610	44,610	42,720	42,720
Total available-for-sale portfolio	1,288,146	1,297,124	1,075,630	1,083,412	1,098,915	1,105,194
Net unrealized gain on available-for-sale portfolio	8,978	0	7,782	0	6,279	0
Total	\$ 1,433,930	\$ 1,431,501	\$ 1,229,271	\$ 1,226,106	\$ 1,250,251	\$ 1,246,026

Loans

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC - Form 10-Q

As shown in Table 8, loans ended the third quarter at \$2.79 billion, up \$90.4 million (3.3%) from year-end 2006 and up \$130.3 million (4.9%) versus one year earlier. The TLNB, ONB and Elmira acquisitions added approximately \$98.1 million of loans to the loan portfolio as of September 30, 2007. Excluding the impact of the TLNB, ONB and Elmira acquisitions, loans increased \$32.2 million or 1.3% from the third quarter of 2006 with organic growth in both the consumer mortgage and consumer installment portfolios, offset by a small decline in the business lending portfolio. During the third quarter, loans increased \$24.7 million with increases in the consumer installment portfolio (\$20.1 million) and the consumer mortgage portfolio (\$21.1 million), partially offset by a decrease in the business lending portfolio (\$16.5 million).

Table 8: Loans

(000's omitted)	September 30, 2007		December 31, 2006		September 30, 2006	
Business lending	\$ 972,394	34.8%	\$ 960,034	35.5%	\$ 953,808	35.8%
Consumer mortgage	969,567	34.7%	912,505	33.8%	890,939	33.5%
Consumer installment	849,949	30.5%	829,019	30.7%	816,815	30.7%
Total loans	\$ 2,791,910	100.0%	\$ 2,701,558	100.0%	\$ 2,661,562	100.0%

Business lending increased \$12.4 million in the first nine months of 2007 and increased \$18.6 million versus one year ago. Excluding the impact of the TLNB, ONB and Elmira acquisitions, business lending declined \$1.8 million over the last nine months and \$14.7 million over the last year. The reduction in business lending during the period was impacted by certain unscheduled payoffs and line of credit reductions, including ownership changes and other capital-raising initiatives. The Company continues to face competitive conditions in most of its markets and it maintains its commitment to generating growth in its business portfolio in a manner that adheres to its twin goals of maintaining strong asset quality and producing profitable margins.

Consumer mortgages increased \$78.6 million, year-over-year, and \$57.1 million in the first nine months of 2007, despite the sale of a portion of longer-term fixed-rate new mortgage originations in the secondary market. Excluding the impact of the TLNB, ONB and Elmira acquisitions, consumer mortgages increased \$30.0 million and \$30.1 million for the past nine and twelve month periods, respectively. Consumer mortgage growth has been strong over the last few quarters despite interest rates rising above prior year levels. The consumer real estate portfolio does not include exposure to subprime, Alt-A, or other higher-risk mortgage products. The Company's solid performance during a tumultuous period in the overall industry is a testament to the stable, low-risk profile of its portfolio and its ability to successfully meet customer needs at a time when some national mortgage lenders are restricting their lending activities in many of our markets.

Consumer installment loans, including borrowings originated in automobile, marine and recreational vehicle dealerships, as well as branch originated home equity and installment loans, increased \$20.9 million in the first nine months of 2007 and increased \$33.1 million on a year-over-year basis. Excluding the impact of the TLNB, ONB and Elmira acquisitions, consumer installment lending increased \$15.9 million for the first nine months of 2007 and increased \$16.8 million for the year-over-year period. Continued moderate interest rates (by historical standards), aggressive dealer and manufacturer incentives on new vehicles, and enhanced business development efforts have helped drive profitable growth in this segment in all the Company's markets over the last year.

Asset Quality

Table 9 below exhibits the major components of nonperforming loans and assets and key asset quality metrics for the periods ending September 30, 2007 and 2006 and December 31, 2006.

Table 9: Nonperforming Assets

(000's omitted)	September 30, 2007	December 31, 2006	September 30, 2006
Nonaccrual loans	\$ 7,774	\$ 10,107	\$ 10,114
Accruing loans 90+ days delinquent	451	1,207	1,133
Restructured loans	1,158	1,275	1,300
Total nonperforming loans	9,383	12,589	12,547
Other real estate (OREO)	1,097	1,838	1,320
Total nonperforming assets	\$ 10,480	\$ 14,427	\$ 13,867

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC - Form 10-Q

(000's omitted)	September 30, 2007	December 31, 2006	September 30, 2006
Allowance for loan losses to total loans	1.31%	1.34%	1.33%
Allowance for loan losses to nonperforming loans	388%	288%	283%
Nonperforming loans to total loans	0.34%	0.47%	0.47%
Nonperforming assets to total loans and other real estate	0.38%	0.53%	0.52%
Delinquent loans (30 days old to nonaccruing) to total loans	1.10%	1.33%	1.22%
Net charge-offs to average loans outstanding (quarterly)	0.11%	0.21%	0.17%
Loan loss provision to net charge-offs (quarterly)	68%	101%	117%

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC - Form 10-Q

As displayed in Table 9, nonperforming assets at September 30, 2007 were \$10.5 million, a decrease of \$3.4 million versus one year earlier and a \$3.9 million decrease as compared to the level at the end of 2006. Nonperforming loans ratios remain at the lowest level in over three years, reflective of disciplined credit management and a relatively stable economic condition over the past few years. Other real estate decreased \$0.2 million from one-year ago and decreased \$0.7 million from year-end 2006, a result of the Company managing 18 properties at September 30, 2007 as compared to 23 OREO properties at December 31, 2006. No single property has a carrying value in excess of \$250,000.

Nonperforming loans were 0.34% of total loans outstanding at the end of the third quarter, significantly below the 0.47% at both December 31, 2006 and September 30, 2006. The allowance for loan losses to nonperforming loans ratio, a general measure of coverage adequacy, was 388% at the end of the third quarter compared to 288% at year-end 2006 and 283% at September 30, 2006, reflective of the low level of nonperforming loans.

Delinquent loans (30 days through nonaccruing) as a percent of total loans was 1.10% at the end of the third quarter, substantially below the 1.33% at year-end 2006 and 1.22% at September 30, 2006. Commercial and real estate loan delinquency ratios at the end of the third quarter improved in comparison to both of the earlier periods. The delinquency rate for installment loans decreased as compared to the December 31, 2006, increased slightly as compared to September 30, 2006, and remained below the average level of the past eight quarters. The delinquency level at the end of the current quarter was 13 basis points below the Company's average of 1.23% over the previous eight quarters.

Table 10: Allowance for Loan Losses Activity

(000's omitted)	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine months Ended September 30,	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
Allowance for loan losses at beginning of period	\$ 36,690	\$ 32,900	\$ 36,313	\$ 32,581
<i>Charge-offs:</i>				
Business lending	241	582	776	3,138
Consumer mortgage	37	54	317	156
Consumer installment	1,229	1,548	3,641	4,410
Total charge-offs	1,507	2,184	4,734	7,704
<i>Recoveries:</i>				
Business lending	116	425	762	664
Consumer mortgage	47	23	68	100
Consumer installment	591	621	2,167	2,269
Total recoveries	754	1,069	2,997	3,033
Net charge-offs	753	1,115	1,737	4,671
Provision for loans losses	510	1,300	1,124	5,175
Allowance for acquired loans	0	2,432	747	2,432
Allowance for loan losses at end of period	\$ 36,447	\$ 35,517	\$ 36,447	\$ 35,517
<i>Net charge-offs to average loans outstanding:</i>				
Business lending	0.05%	0.07%	0.00%	0.39%
Consumer mortgage	0.00%	0.01%	0.04%	0.01%
Consumer installment	0.30%	0.46%	0.24%	0.36%
Total loans	0.11%	0.17%	0.09%	0.25%

As displayed in Table 10, net charge-offs during the third quarter were \$0.8 million, \$0.4 million lower than the equivalent 2006 period. The consumer installment and business lending portfolios experienced declines in the level of charge-offs, while

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC - Form 10-Q

the consumer mortgage portfolio experienced a net recovery position in the third quarter of 2007. The nine months ended September 30, 2006 included charge-offs of \$1.7 million related to three dealer floor plan relationships. The net charge-off ratio (net charge-offs as a percentage of average loans outstanding) for the third quarter was 0.11%, six basis points lower than the comparable quarter of 2006 and 11 basis points below the average charge-off ratio for the previous eight quarters. Net charge-offs and the corresponding net charge-off ratios continue to be significantly below the average net charge-off levels of the past several years.

The consumer mortgage portfolio experienced a net recovery for the quarter, while the consumer installment and business lending net charge-off ratios for the third quarter of 0.30% and 0.05%, respectively, decreased 16 basis points and two basis points versus prior year levels. For the year-to-date period, the business lending portfolio experienced almost no net charge-offs, the consumer installment net charge-off ratio improved 12 basis points compared to one year earlier, while the consumer mortgage charge-off ratio was higher by three basis points, but still at a favorable level.

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC - Form 10-Q

A loan loss allowance of \$36.4 million was determined as of September 30, 2007, necessitating a \$0.5 million loan loss provision for the quarter, compared to \$1.3 million one year earlier. The third quarter 2007 loan loss provision was \$0.2 million below quarterly net charge-offs. The allowance for loan losses rose \$0.9 million or 2.6% over the last 12 months, less than the 4.9% growth in the loan portfolio. Contributing to the changes was the favorable charge-off, nonperforming and delinquency trends experienced over the last twelve months. This contributed to the ratio of allowance for loan loss to loans outstanding decreasing two basis points to 1.31% for the third quarter, as compared to the levels at September 30, 2006 and declining three basis points from the level at December 31, 2006. The decrease was also slightly impacted by the increased proportion of low-risk consumer mortgage and home equity loans in the overall loan portfolio, as a result of both organic and acquired growth.

Deposits

As shown in Table 11, average deposits of \$3.3 billion in the third quarter were up \$184.8 million compared to fourth quarter 2006 and increased \$221.7 million versus the same quarter of last year. Excluding the impact of the TLNB, Elmira and ONB acquisitions, average deposits increased \$66.6 million as compared to the fourth quarter of 2006 and increased \$31.0 million as compared to the third quarter of the prior year. The mix of average deposits changed slightly since the third quarter of 2006. The weightings of time deposits and interest checking deposits increased from their year-ago levels, while demand, savings and money market deposit weightings decreased. During a period of rising rates, time deposits continued to attract more funds, as evidenced by their 2.4% and 0.5% increases, excluding the impact of the TLNB, Elmira and ONB acquisitions, as compared to the fourth and third quarters of 2006, respectively. Interest checking account balances are above the prior year levels primarily as a result of new product initiatives that commenced in the second quarter of 2006. This shift in mix, combined with higher interest rates on money market and time deposit accounts increased the quarterly cost of interest-bearing deposits from 2.55% in the third quarter of 2006 to 2.94% in the most recent quarter.

Average third quarter non-public fund deposits increased \$172.9 million or 5.9% versus the fourth quarter of 2006, and were up \$228.3 million or 7.9% compared to the year earlier period. Average public funds have increased \$12.0 million or 5.8% from the fourth quarter of 2006 and decreased \$6.5 million or 2.9% from the third quarter of 2006. The Company continues to focus heavily on growing its core deposits through enhanced marketing and training programs and new product offerings introduced throughout 2006 and the first nine months of 2007.

Table 11: Quarterly Average Deposits

(000's omitted)	September 30, 2007	December 31, 2006	September 30, 2006
Demand deposits	\$ 583,946	\$ 558,439	\$ 557,398
Interest checking deposits	458,994	389,336	364,762
Savings deposits	462,895	458,320	464,037
Money market deposits	333,767	330,150	332,277
Time deposits	1,479,693	1,398,235	1,379,074
Total deposits	\$ 3,319,295	\$ 3,134,480	\$ 3,097,548
Non-public fund deposits	\$ 3,102,204	\$ 2,929,343	\$ 2,873,922
Public fund deposits	217,091	205,137	223,626
Total deposits	\$ 3,319,295	\$ 3,134,480	\$ 3,097,548

Borrowings

At the end of the third quarter, borrowings of \$948.5 million were up \$143.0 million from December 31, 2006 and were up \$239.5 million versus the end of the third quarter of 2006 as a result of the all-cash fundings of three acquisitions, the issuance of trust preferred securities and the initiation of a short term investment leverage strategy in the third quarter. This short term investment leverage strategy not only produced positive net interest income, it also served to demonstrate the Company's ability

Edgar Filing: COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC - Form 10-Q

to readily access liquidity sources despite tightened credit market conditions.

The Company is currently in the process of reviewing early extinguishment of its two \$25 million, variable-rate trust preferred obligations, which include premium call provisions slightly over 6%. The Company estimates the impact of the one-time charge associated with this potential action to be between \$0.08 and \$0.10 per share, but this action would have a positive impact on future net interest income and margins. The Company expects to conclude its evaluation prior to year-end.

Shareholders' Equity

On April 20, 2005, the Company announced a twenty-month authorization to repurchase up to 1.5 million of its outstanding shares in open market or privately negotiated transactions. On December 20, 2006, the Company extended the program through December 31, 2008 and announced an additional two-year authorization to repurchase up to 900,000 of its outstanding shares in open market or privately negotiated transactions. All reacquired shares will become treasury shares and will be used for general corporate purposes, including those related to employee and director stock plan activities. Through September 30, 2007, the Company had repurchased 1,379,811 shares at an aggregate cost of \$29.8 million under this program.

Total shareholders' equity of \$468.3 million at the end of the third quarter increased \$6.8 million from the balance at December 31, 2006. This change consisted of net income of \$31.0 million, \$2.4 million from shares issued under the employee stock plan, \$1.7 million from employee stock options earned, and a \$0.3 million increase in the after-tax market value adjustment on the available-for-sale investment portfolio partially offset by dividends declared of \$18.2 million and treasury stock purchases of \$10.3 million. Over the past 12 months total shareholders' equity increased by \$3.7 million, as net income, positive contributions from shares issued under the employee stock plan and a higher market value adjustment more than offset dividends declared, treasury stock purchases, and the impact of the adoption of SFAS 158, *Employers' Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans an Amendment of FASB Statements No. 87, 88, 106, and 132(R)* (SFAS 158).

The Company's Tier I leverage ratio, a primary measure of regulatory capital for which 5% is the requirement to be "well-capitalized," was 7.67% at the end of the third quarter, down 114 basis points from year-end 2006 and 41 basis points higher than its level one year ago. The decrease in the Tier I leverage ratio compared to December 31, 2006 is primarily the result of the early call of the \$30 million of fixed-rate trust preferred securities in the first quarter and assets from the ONB and TLNB acquisitions being included in the average assets for a full quarter versus only one month of ONB assets at December 31, 2006. The increase in Tier I, as compared to the prior year third quarter, is the result of a 15.8% increase in shareholders equity, excluding intangibles and market value adjustment, combined with a smaller 9.6% increase in average assets excluding intangibles and market value adjustment and the \$51.4 million net increase in trust preferred securities. The tangible equity-to-assets ratio of 4.66% decreased 41 basis points versus December 31, 2006 and was down 78 basis points versus September 30, 2006, mostly due to the acquisitions of HBT, TLNB, Elmira and ONB, treasury share purchases, and the adoption of SFAS 158.

The dividend payout ratio (dividends declared divided by net income) for the first nine months of 2007 was 58.8%, up from 57.3% for the first nine months of 2006. The ratio increased because dividends declared increased 5.3%, while net income including securities gains increased a lesser 2.7%. The Company's quarterly dividend was raised 5.0% in August 2007, from \$0.20 to \$0.21. On a cash earnings basis, the dividend payout ratio was 51.9% for the first nine months of 2007 as compared to 50.6% for the first nine months of 2006.

Liquidity

Management of the Company's liquidity is critical due to the potential for unexpected fluctuations in deposits and loans. Adequate sources of both on and off-balance sheet funding are in place to effectively respond to such unexpected fluctuations.

The Company's primary approach to measuring liquidity is known as the Basic Surplus/Deficit model. It is used to calculate liquidity over two time periods: first, the amount of cash that could be made available within 30 days (calculated as liquid assets less short-term liabilities); and second, a projection of subsequent cash availability over an additional 60 days. The minimum policy level of liquidity under the Basic Surplus/Deficit approach is 7.5% of total assets for both the 30 and 90-day time horizons. As of September 30, 2007, this ratio was 17.5% for 30 days and 17.4% for 90 days, excluding the Company's capacity to borrow additional funds from the Federal Home Loan Bank.

To measure longer-term liquidity, a baseline projection of loan and deposit growth for five years is made to reflect how current liquidity levels could change over time. This five-year measure reflects adequate liquidity to fund loan and other asset growth over the next five years.

Forward-Looking Statements

This document contains comments or information that constitute forward-looking statements (within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995), which involve significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from the results discussed in the forward-looking statements. Moreover, the Company's plans, objectives and intentions are subject to change based on various factors (some of which are beyond the Company's control). Factors that could cause actual results to differ from those discussed in the forward-looking statements include: (1) risks related to credit quality, interest rate sensitivity and liquidity; (2) the strength of the U.S. economy in general and the strength of the local economies where the Company conducts its business; (3) the effect of, and changes in, monetary and fiscal policies and laws, including interest rate policies of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; (4) inflation, interest rate, market and monetary fluctuations; (5) the timely development of new products and services and customer perception of the overall value thereof (including features, pricing and quality) compared to competing products and services; (6) changes in consumer spending, borrowing and savings habits; (7) technological changes; (8) any acquisitions or mergers that might be considered or consummated by the Company and the costs and factors associated therewith; (9) the ability to maintain and increase market share and control expenses; (10) the effect of changes in laws and regulations (including laws and regulations concerning taxes, banking, securities and insurance) and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States; (11) changes in the Company's organization, compensation and benefit plans and in the availability of, and compensation levels for, employees in its geographic markets; (12) the costs and effects of litigation and of any adverse outcome in such litigation; (13) other risk factors outlined in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission from time to time; and (14) the success of the Company at managing the risks of the foregoing.

The foregoing list of important factors is not all-inclusive. Such forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which they are made and the Company does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statement, whether written or oral, to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which such statement is made. If the Company does update or correct one or more forward-looking statements, investors and others should not conclude that the Company would make additional updates or corrections with respect thereto or with respect to other forward-looking statements.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure about Market Risk

Market risk is the risk of loss in a financial instrument arising from adverse changes in market rates, prices or credit risk. Credit risk associated with the Company’s loan portfolio has been previously discussed in the asset quality section of Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations. Management believes that the tax risk of the Company’s municipal investments associated with potential future changes in statutory, judicial and regulatory actions is minimal. The Company has an insignificant amount of credit risk in its investment portfolio because essentially all of the fixed-income securities in the portfolio are AAA-rated (highest possible rating). Therefore, almost all the market risk in the investment portfolio is related to interest rates.

The ongoing monitoring and management of both interest rate risk and liquidity, in the short and long term time horizons is an important component of the Company’s asset/liability management process, which is governed by limits established in the policies reviewed and approved annually by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors delegates responsibility for carrying out the policies to the Asset/Liability Committee (ALCO) which meets each month and is made up of the Company’s senior management as well as regional and line-of-business managers who oversee specific earning asset classes and various funding sources. As the Company does not believe it is possible to reliably predict future interest rate movements, it has maintained an appropriate process and set of measurement tools, which enable it to identify and quantify sources of interest rate risk in varying rate environments. The primary tool used by the Company in managing interest rate risk is income simulation.

While a wide variety of strategic balance sheet and treasury yield curve scenarios are tested on an ongoing basis, the following reflects the Company’s projected net interest income sensitivity over the subsequent twelve months based on:

- Asset and liability levels using September 30, 2007 as a starting point.
- There are assumed to be conservative levels of balance sheet growth—low to mid single digit growth in loans and deposits, while using the cashflows from investment contractual maturities and prepayments to repay short-term capital market borrowings.
- The prime rate and federal funds rates are assumed to move up 200 basis points and down 100 basis points over a 12-month period while moving the long end of the treasury curve to spreads over federal funds that are more consistent with historical norms. Deposit rates are assumed to move in a manner that reflects the historical relationship between deposit rate movement and changes in the federal funds rate.
- Cash flows are based on contractual maturity, optionality and amortization schedules along with applicable prepayments derived from internal historical data and external sources.

Net Interest Income Sensitivity Model

Change in interest rates	Calculated annualized increase (decrease) in projected net interest income at September 30, 2007
+ 200 basis points	(0.6%)
- 100 basis points	(1.2%)

The modeled net interest income does not significantly change as interest rates increase/decrease over a 12-month period. The Bank remains fairly neutral in each of the above rate environments. Over a longer time period, however, the Bank is asset sensitive as net interest income improves in a rising rate environment as a result of lower yielding earning assets running off and being replaced at increased rates having a greater impact than increases in funding costs.

The analysis does not represent a Company forecast and should not be relied upon as being indicative of expected operating results. These hypothetical estimates are based upon numerous assumptions: the nature and timing of interest rate levels (including yield curve shape), prepayments on loans and securities, deposit decay rates, pricing decisions on loans and deposits, reinvestment/replacement of asset and liability cash flows, and other factors. While the assumptions are developed based upon current economic and local market conditions, the Company cannot make any assurances as to the predictive nature of these assumptions, including how customer preferences or competitor influences might change. Furthermore, the sensitivity analysis does not reflect actions that ALCO might take in responding to or anticipating changes in interest rates.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

The Company maintains disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rule 13a – 15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, designed to: (i) record, process, summarize, and report within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) rules and forms, and (ii) accumulate and communicate to management, including the principal executive and principal financial officers, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding disclosure. Based on management's evaluation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures, with the participation of the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, it has concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, these disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of September 30, 2007.

There have been no changes in the Company's internal controls over financial reporting in connection with the evaluation referenced in the paragraph above that occurred during the Company's last fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Part II. Other Information**Item 1. Legal Proceedings**

The Company and its subsidiaries are subject in the normal course of business to various pending and threatened legal proceedings in which claims for monetary damages are asserted. Management, after consultation with legal counsel, does not anticipate that the aggregate liability, if any, arising out of litigation pending against the Company or its subsidiaries will have a material effect on the Company's consolidated financial position or results of operations.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

There has not been any material change in the risk factors disclosure from that contained in the Company's 2006 Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006 (filed with the SEC on March 15, 2007).

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

On April 20, 2005, the Company announced a twenty-month authorization to repurchase up to 1,500,000 of its outstanding shares in open market or privately negotiated transactions. On December 20, 2006, the Company extended the program through December 31, 2008 and announced an additional two-year authorization to repurchase up to 900,000 of its shares in open market or privately negotiated transactions. These repurchases will be for general corporate purposes, including those related to stock plan activities. The following table shows treasury stock purchases during the third quarter of 2007.

	Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid Per share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number of Shares That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
July 2007	73,050	\$ 18.12	1,220,011	1,179,989
August 2007	120,100	17.97	1,340,111	1,059,889
September 2007	39,700	19.71	1,379,811	1,020,189
Total	232,850	\$ 18.31		

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

Not applicable.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders

There were no matters submitted to a vote of the shareholders during the quarter ending September 30, 2007.

Item 5. Other Information

Not applicable.

Item 6. Exhibits

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
31.1	<u>Certification of Mark E. Tryniski, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Registrant, pursuant to Rule 13a-15(e) or Rule 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u>
31.2	<u>Certification of Scott Kingsley, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer of the Registrant, pursuant to Rule 13a-15(e) or Rule 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u>
32.1	<u>Certification of Mark E. Tryniski, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Registrant, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u>
32.2	<u>Certification of Scott Kingsley, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer of the Registrant, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u>

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Community Bank System, Inc.

Date: November 7, 2007

/s/ Mark E. Tryniski

Mark E. Tryniski, President and Chief
Executive Officer

Date: November 7, 2007

/s/ Scott Kingsley

Scott Kingsley, Treasurer and Chief
Financial Officer