

RUDGERS JAMES TRACY

Form 4

February 25, 2005

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

Check this box
if no longer
subject to
Section 16.
Form 4 or
Form 5
obligations
may continue.
See Instruction
1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF
SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,
Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section
30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
Number: 3235-0287
Expires: January 31,
2005
Estimated average
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response... 0.5

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
RUDGERS JAMES TRACY

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading
Symbol
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS INC
[FISI]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
220 LIBERTY STREET
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
02/23/2005

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
____X____ Officer (give title below) ____ Other (specify below)
Sr Vice President

WARSAW, NY 14569

4. If Amendment, Date Original
Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
Applicable Line)
____X____ Form filed by One Reporting Person
____ Form filed by More than One Reporting
Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (D) | Price |

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of
information contained in this form are not
required to respond unless the form
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SEC 1474
(9-02)

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

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

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| (Instr. 3) | Price of Derivative Security | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 8) | Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | (Instr. 9) | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | (Instr. 10) |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|------------|---|------------|------|---|-------|-----|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--|-------------|
| Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 21.05 | 02/23/2005 | | | | A | | 8,081 | | <u>(1)</u> | 02/23/2015 | Common Stock | 8,081 | \$ |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| RUDGERS JAMES TRACY 220 LIBERTY STREET WARSAW, NY 14569 | | | Sr Vice President | |

Signatures

Sonia M. Dumbleton for James T. Rudgers
02/25/2005

__Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) The option vests in four equal annual installments beginning on February 23, 2006.

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