

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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported):

January 20, 2011

BARRETT BUSINESS SERVICES, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

Maryland
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

0-21886
(SEC File Number)

52-0812977
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

8100 N.E. Parkway Drive, Suite 200
Vancouver, Washington
(Address of principal executive offices)

98662
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

(360) 828-0700

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

(c) On January 20, 2011, the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Barrett Business Services, Inc. (the "Company"), appointed Michael L. Elich as Interim President and Chief Executive Officer. The information regarding Mr. Elich included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 under the heading "Executive Officers of the Registrant" is incorporated herein by reference. There are no relationships or transactions involving Mr. Elich that are required to be disclosed pursuant to Item 401(d) or Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K.

A copy of the news release announcing Mr. Elich's appointment is included as Exhibit 99.1 to this report.

Item 8.01. Other Events.

On January 20, 2011, the Company issued a news release reporting the death of William W. Sherertz, its Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer.

A copy of the news release is included as Exhibit 99.1 to this report.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits: The following exhibit is filed with this Form 8-K:

99.1 News Release dated January 20, 2011.

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.

BARRETT BUSINESS SERVICES, INC.

Dated: January 20, 2011

By: /s/ James D. Miller
James D. Miller
Vice President-Finance, Treasurer and
Secretary

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Michael Elich
Interim President and
Chief Executive Officer
Telephone: (360) 828-0700

BBSI ANNOUNCES THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF ITS CHAIRMAN AND CEO

VANCOUVER, WA, January 20, 2011 – Barrett Business Services, Inc. (Nasdaq: BBSI) announced that William Sherertz, the company's Chairman and CEO, passed away this morning unexpectedly. Mr. Sherertz was 64 years old. He had been hospitalized recently for treatment of respiratory failure.

The Board of Directors issued the following statement: "We are shocked and greatly saddened by the passing of Bill Sherertz. He was a visionary leader, a devoted father to his children and a good friend. The company's directors and employees, as well as the many people he worked with and mentored over the years, mourn his loss. We extend our sympathies to his family, particularly his wife and four children, who meant the world to him."

The Board of Directors appointed Michael Elich, who has been with the company for nearly 10 years, including the past five years as its Chief Operating Officer, as Interim President and Chief Executive Officer. Before joining BBSI, Mr. Elich was chief operating officer of Skills Resource Training Center, a staffing services company with offices in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. The Board of Directors also appointed long-time outside director Anthony Meeker as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Meeker served for seven years as Treasurer of the State of Oregon and retired in 2003 as a Managing Director of Victory Capital Management, Inc. He also served as chairman of the board of First Federal, a federally chartered savings bank headquartered in McMinnville, Oregon.

Mr. Meeker commented, "I am honored to serve as BBSI's newly appointed independent Chairman. Over the years, Bill built an exceptional executive management team with long tenures at the company. This team, led by Mike Elich, has been in charge of day-to-day operations since Bill's original illness in mid-2008."

Conference Call

A conference call will be held at 10 a.m. Pacific time on Friday, January 21, 2011, at which Tony Meeker, Mike Elich and Jim Miller, the company's Chief Financial Officer, will be on hand to answer investors' questions. To participate in the call, dial (877) 214-1511. The call identification number is 39124191. The conference call will also be webcast live at www.barrettbusiness.com. To access the webcast, click on the Investor Relations section of the Web site and select Webcast. A replay of the call will be available beginning Friday, January 21, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. PT and ending on Friday, January 28, 2011. To listen to the recording, dial (800) 642-1687 and enter conference identification code 39124191.

Barrett Business Services, Inc.
Special News Release
January 20, 2011

A conference call to discuss fourth quarter 2010 operating results will be held in early February. Details for participating in the call will be announced next week.

BBSI provides a comprehensive range of human resource management solutions to large and small companies throughout many regions of the United States.

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