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## Section 1: 8-K (FORM 8-K)

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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): July 14, 2016

**PROVIDENT BANCORP, INC.**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Massachusetts  
(State or Other Jurisdiction)  
of Incorporation)

001-37504  
(Commission File No.)

45-3231576  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

5 Market Street, Amesbury, Massachusetts  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

01913  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (978) 834-8555

Not Applicable  
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

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 (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- 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 2.02      Results of Operations and Financial Condition**

On July 14, 2016, Provident Bancorp, Inc. issued a press release announcing its earnings for the quarter ended June 30, 2016. A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 hereto and incorporated herein by reference. The information contained in this Item 2.02, including the related information set forth in the press release, is being “furnished” and shall not be deemed “filed” for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

**Item 9.01      Financial Statements and Exhibits**

(d) Exhibits

| <u>Exhibit</u> | <u>Description</u>                |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 99.1           | Press release dated July 14, 2016 |

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## 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, hereunto duly authorized.

### PROVIDENT BANCORP, INC.

DATE: July 14, 2016

By: /s/ David P. Mansfield  
David P. Mansfield  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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## Section 2: EX-99.1 (EXHIBIT 99.1)

Exhibit 99.1

### Provident Bancorp, Inc. Reports Earnings of the June 30, 2016 Quarter

Company Release – 07/14/2016

Amesbury, Massachusetts — Provident Bancorp, Inc. (the “Company”) (NasdaqCM: PVBC), the holding company for The Provident Bank (the “Bank”), reported net income attributable to common shareholders for the three months ended June 30, 2016 of \$1.4 million, or \$.15 per share, compared to \$1.2 million for the three months ended June 30, 2015. Net income attributable to common shareholders for the six months ended June 30, 2016 was \$2.9 million, or \$.31 per share, compared to \$2.2 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015. Provident Bancorp, Inc. was not a publicly traded company for the first six months of 2015 and, as a result, earnings per share are not applicable for that period.

David P. Mansfield, Chief Executive Officer, said, “Our strategic objective is to positively impact the vitality of the communities we serve by creating customized banking solutions for small-to-medium size business customers. With this focus, we continue to review and invest in our employees and infrastructure to deliver a high level of service to our customers.”

Net interest income before provision for loan losses increased by \$643,000, or 11.3%, compared to the second quarter of 2015 and increased by \$1.4 million, or 12.5%, compared to the six months ending June 30, 2015. The growth in net interest income this quarter over the prior year’s second quarter is primarily the result of an increase in our average interest earning assets of \$67.6 million or 10.7% and an increase in net interest margin of 2 basis points to 3.62% for the three months ended June 30, 2016. The growth in net interest income for the six months ended June 30, 2016 compared to the six months ended in the same period 2015 is primarily the result of an increase in average interest earning assets of \$70.9 million or 11.2% and an increase of the net interest margin of 4 basis points to 3.60% for the six months ended June 30, 2016.

Provision for loan losses of \$210,000 were booked for the second quarter of 2016 compared to \$193,000 for the same period 2015. For the six months ended June 30, 2016 \$321,000 of provisions were recognized compared to \$471,000 for the six months ended June 30, 2015. The provisions in the allowance for loan losses resulted in primarily an increase in our loan portfolio as we apply historical loss ratios to newly originated loans, which, absent other factors, results in an increase in the allowance for loan losses as the loan portfolio increases. The allowance for loan losses as a percentage of total loans was 1.40% as of June 30, 2016 compared to 1.49% as of June 30, 2015. The allowance for loan losses as a percent of non-performing loans was 601.24% as of June 30, 2016 compared to 231.33% as of June 30, 2015. Non-performing assets were \$1.4 million or .18% to total assets as of June 30, 2016 compared to \$3.3 million or .46% to total asset for the same period 2015.

Non-interest income increased \$108,000, or 12.6% to \$967,000 for the three months ended June 30, 2016. For the six months ended June 30, 2016, non-interest income increased \$219,000, or 13.0%, to \$1.9 million. The primary reason for the increases in both periods presented is due to the increased income with our bank owned life insurance policies (BOLI). Additional

purchases of BOLI were made during the second half of 2015.

Non-interest expense increased \$401,000, or 8.6% to \$5.1 million for the three months ended June 30, 2016. For the six months ended June 30, 2016, non-interest expense increased \$659,000 or 7.1% to \$10.0 million. The primary reasons for the increases are salary expense and professional fees. Increases in salary and employee benefits were \$363,000 or 13.0% for the three months ended June 30, 2016 and \$616,000 or 10.9% for the six months ended June 30, 2016. Increases in professional fees were \$85,000 or 37.3% for the three months ended June 30, 2016 and \$133,000 or 29.9% for the six months ended June 30, 2016.

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As of June 30, 2016 total assets have increased \$17.0 million, or 2.29% to \$760.4 million compared to \$743.4 million at December 31, 2015. The primary reason for the increase is due to net loans with an increase of \$24.9 million or 4.5%. The increase in loans is offset by a decrease in cash and cash equivalents of \$3.5 million or 17.3% to \$16.9 million. On May 31, 2016 the Company transferred all of its held-to-maturity securities to available-for-sale. The cost basis transferred was \$44.2 million with an unrealized net gain of \$2.2 million. The reason for the transfer was for liquidity management. Deposits were \$607.3 million as of June 30, 2016 representing an increase of \$30.1 million or 5.2% compared to December 31, 2015. Borrowings decreased \$18.5 million or 32.2% to \$38.9 million as of June 30, 2016.

As of June 30, 2016, shareholders' equity was \$106.9 million compared to \$101.4 million at December 31, 2015 representing an increase of \$5.5 million, or 5.5%. The increases are primarily due to year-to-date net income of \$2.9 million and an increase in other comprehensive income of \$2.5 million, which includes the \$1.3 million net unrealized gain from transferring the securities.

#### About Provident Bancorp, Inc.

Provident Bancorp, Inc. is a Massachusetts corporation that was formed in 2011 by The Provident Bank to be its holding company. Approximately 53.0% of Provident Bancorp, Inc. outstanding shares are owned by Provident Bancorp, a Massachusetts corporation and a mutual holding company. Established in 1828, The Provident Bank, the 10<sup>th</sup> oldest bank in the country, is a full-service community bank with a focus in commercial lending and business services with offices in Amesbury and Newburyport, Massachusetts and Bedford, Exeter, Hampton, Portsmouth and Seabrook New Hampshire. All deposits are insured in full through a combination of insurance provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the Depositors Insurance Fund (DIF). For more information about The Provident Bank please visit our website [www.the Provident Bank.com](http://www.the Provident Bank.com) or call 877-487-2977.

#### Forward-looking statements

This news release may contain certain forward-looking statements, such as statements of the Company's or the Bank's plans, objectives, expectations, estimates and intentions. Forward-looking statements may be identified by the use of words such as, "expects," "subject," "believe," "will," "intends," "will be" or "would." These statements are subject to change based on various important factors (some of which are beyond the Company's or the Bank's control) and actual results may differ materially. Accordingly, readers should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements (which reflect management's analysis of factors only as of the date of which they are given). These factors include general economic conditions, trends in interest rates, the ability of our borrower to repay their loans, the ability of the Company or the Bank to effectively manage its growth and results of regulatory examinations, among other factors. The foregoing list of important factors is not exclusive. Readers should carefully review the risk factors described in other documents of the Company files from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including Current Reports on Form 8-K.

Provident Bancorp, Inc.

Carol Houle, 978-834-8534

Executive Vice President/CFO

[choule@the Provident Bank.com](mailto:choule@the Provident Bank.com)

Source: Provident Bancorp, Inc

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Provident Bancorp, Inc.  
Consolidated Balance Sheet

| <i>(In thousands)</i>  | At<br>June 30,<br>2016 | At<br>December 31,<br>2015 |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Assets   | <i>(unaudited)</i>     |                            |
| Cash and due from banks  | \$ 11,971              | \$ 7,302                   |
| Interest-bearing demand deposits with other banks  | 4,519                  | 12,865                     |
| Money market mutual funds  | 438                    | 297                        |
| Cash and cash equivalents  | 16,928                 | 20,464                     |
| Investments in available-for-sale securities (at fair value)   | 123,085                | 80,984                     |
| Investments in held-to-maturity securities (fair values of \$46,474 as of December 31, 2015)   | -                      | 44,623                     |
| Federal Home Loan Bank stock, at cost  | 2,367                  | 3,310                      |
| Loans, net   | 579,877                | 554,929                    |
| Bank owned life insurance  | 19,105                 | 18,793                     |
| Premises and equipment, net  | 11,876                 | 11,606                     |
| Accrued interest receivable  | 2,183                  | 2,251                      |
| Deferred tax asset, net  | 3,496                  | 5,056                      |
| Other assets   | 1,508                  | 1,381                      |
| Total assets   | <u>\$ 760,425</u>      | <u>\$ 743,397</u>          |
| Liabilities and Equity   |                        |                            |
| Deposits:  |                        |                            |
| Noninterest-bearing  | \$ 158,612             | \$ 153,093                 |
| Interest-bearing   | 448,717                | 424,142                    |
| Total deposits   | 607,329                | 577,235                    |
| Federal Home Loan Bank advances  | 38,947                 | 57,423                     |
| Other liabilities  | 7,218                  | 7,333                      |
| Total liabilities  | <u>653,494</u>         | <u>641,991</u>             |
| Equity:  |                        |                            |
| Preferred stock; authorized 50,000 shares: senior non-cumulative perpetual, Series A, no par, 0 shares issued and outstanding; liquidation value \$1,000 per share | -                      | -                          |
| Common stock, no par value: 30,000,000 shares authorized; 9,498,722 shares issued and outstanding  | -                      | -                          |
| Additional paid-in capital   | 43,202                 | 43,159                     |
| Retained earnings  | 62,740                 | 59,890                     |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income   | 4,203                  | 1,690                      |
| Unearned compensation - ESOP   | (3,214)                | (3,333)                    |
| Total equity   | <u>106,931</u>         | <u>101,406</u>             |
| Total liabilities and equity   | <u>\$ 760,425</u>      | <u>\$ 743,397</u>          |

Provident Bancorp, Inc.  
Consolidated Income Statements

|  | Three Months Ended |                 | Six Months Ended |                 |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
|  | June 30,           |                 | June 30,         |                 |
|  | 2016               | 2015            | 2016             | 2015            |
| <i>(In thousands, except per share data)</i>                     |                    |                 |                  |                 |
| Interest and dividend income:                                    | (unaudited)        |                 |                  |                 |
| Interest and fees on loans                                       | \$ 6,159           | \$ 5,417        | \$ 12,250        | \$ 10,660       |
| Interest and dividends on securities                             | 861                | 825             | 1,742            | 1,655           |
| Interest on interest-bearing deposits                            | 6                  | 10              | 14               | 11              |
| Total interest and dividend income                               | <u>7,026</u>       | <u>6,252</u>    | <u>14,006</u>    | <u>12,326</u>   |
| Interest expense:  |                    |                 |                  |                 |
| Interest on deposits   | 529                | 411             | 1,084            | 817             |
| Interest on Federal Home Loan Bank advances                      | 152                | 139             | 294              | 280             |
| Total interest expense   | <u>681</u>         | <u>550</u>      | <u>1,378</u>     | <u>1,097</u>    |
| Net interest and dividend income                                 | 6,345              | 5,702           | 12,628           | 11,229          |
| Provision for loan losses  | 210                | 193             | 321              | 471             |
| Net interest and dividend income after provision for loan losses | <u>6,135</u>       | <u>5,509</u>    | <u>12,307</u>    | <u>10,758</u>   |
| Noninterest income:  |                    |                 |                  |                 |
| Customer service fees on deposit accounts                        | 292                | 290             | 597              | 533             |
| Service charges and fees - other                                 | 448                | 440             | 866              | 821             |
| Gain on sales, calls and donated securities, net                 | 17                 | 21              | 37               | 102             |
| Other income   | 210                | 108             | 402              | 227             |
| Total noninterest income   | <u>967</u>         | <u>859</u>      | <u>1,902</u>     | <u>1,683</u>    |
| Noninterest expense:   |                    |                 |                  |                 |
| Salaries and employee benefits                                   | 3,159              | 2,796           | 6,281            | 5,665           |
| Occupancy expense  | 417                | 394             | 782              | 787             |
| Equipment expense  | 164                | 135             | 309              | 268             |
| FDIC assessment  | 96                 | 96              | 190              | 190             |
| Data processing  | 165                | 134             | 328              | 273             |
| Marketing expense  | 51                 | 69              | 108              | 126             |
| Professional fees  | 313                | 228             | 578              | 445             |
| Other  | 715                | 827             | 1,428            | 1,591           |
| Total noninterest expense  | <u>5,080</u>       | <u>4,679</u>    | <u>10,004</u>    | <u>9,345</u>    |
| Income before income tax expense                                 | 2,022              | 1,689           | 4,205            | 3,096           |
| Income tax expense   | 659                | 460             | 1,355            | 854             |
| Net income   | <u>\$ 1,363</u>    | <u>\$ 1,229</u> | <u>\$ 2,850</u>  | <u>\$ 2,242</u> |
| Net Income attributable to common shareholders                   | <u>\$ 1,363</u>    | <u>\$ 1,189</u> | <u>\$ 2,850</u>  | <u>\$ 2,157</u> |
| Income per share:  |                    |                 |                  |                 |
| Basic  | \$ 0.15            | N/A             | \$ 0.31          | N/A             |
| Diluted  | \$ 0.15            | N/A             | \$ 0.31          | N/A             |
| Weighted Average Shares:   |                    |                 |                  |                 |
| Basic  | 9,173,317          | N/A             | 9,170,340        | N/A             |
| Diluted  | 9,173,317          | N/A             | 9,170,340        | N/A             |

Provident Bancorp, Inc.  
Selected Financial Ratios

|   | At or for the three<br>months ended<br>June 30, |         | At or for the six<br>months ended<br>June 30, |         |
|---|---|---------|---|---------|
|   | 2016  | 2015    | 2016  | 2015    |
| (unaudited)   |   |         |   |         |
| Performance Ratios:   |   |         |   |         |
| Return on average assets (1)  | 0.74%   | 0.74%   | 0.77%   | 0.68%   |
| Return on average equity (1)  | 5.20%   | 6.33%   | 5.50%   | 5.81%   |
| Interest rate spread (1) (3)  | 3.43%   | 3.45%   | 3.42%   | 3.42%   |
| Net interest margin (1) (4)   | 3.62%   | 3.60%   | 3.60%   | 3.56%   |
| Non-interest expense to average assets (1)                              | 2.74%   | 2.80%   | 2.70%   | 2.82%   |
| Efficiency ratio (5)  | 69.47%  | 71.32%  | 68.85%  | 72.37%  |
| Average interest-earning assets to average interest-bearing liabilities | 147.93%   | 143.45% | 146.48%                                       | 141.85% |
| Average equity to average assets  | 14.14%  | 11.62%  | 14.00%  | 11.64%  |

|  | At<br>June 30,<br>2016 | At<br>December 31,<br>2015 | At<br>June 30,<br>2015 |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
|  | (unaudited)            |                            |                        |
| Asset Quality Ratios:  |                        |                            |                        |
| Allowance for loan losses as a percent of total loans (2)      | 1.40%                  | 1.40%                      | 1.49%                  |
| Allowance for loan losses as a percent of non-performing loans | 601.24%                | 346.10%                    | 231.33%                |
| Non-performing loans as a percent of total loans (2)           | 0.23%                  | 0.41%                      | 0.64%                  |
| Non-performing loans as a percent of total assets              | 0.18%                  | 0.31%                      | 0.46%                  |
| Non-performing assets as a percent of total assets (6)         | 0.18%                  | 0.31%                      | 0.46%                  |

References which should accompany the table when input into the document:

- (1) Three months ended June 30, 2016 column has been annualized
- (2) Loans are presented before the allowance but include deferred costs/fees. Loans held-for-sale are excluded.
- (3) Represents the difference between the weighted average yield on average interest-earning assets and the weighted average cost of interest-bearing liabilities.
- (4) Represents net interest income as a percent of average interest-earning assets.
- (5) Represents noninterest expense divided by the sum of net interest income and noninterest income.
- (6) Represents non-accrual loans plus loans accruing but 90 days or more overdue and OREO

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