

Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Health Insurance Trust

PUBLIC HEARING

October 13, 2023
12:08 – 12:10 p.m.

Held at Questar III BOCES
10 Empire State Blvd.
Castleton, NY 12033

Public hearing held in connection with a proposed resolution to opt into the enacted amendment of the Open Meetings Law to further permit the use of video conferencing technology to conduct the Trustees' meetings (L. 2022, ch. 56).

Attendees

Trustees: Angelina Maloney, Meghan Lekkas, A. Joseph Dhara, Brian Carey, Michael Wetherbee

Secretary: Barbara Boudreau

Also present: Bonita Maxon, Casey Gannon, Darren Moser, Marissa Dalmata, Vanessa Flynn, Robert Little, Nick Kraft, Patti Scott

Call to Order

Dr. Angelina Maloney, Vice Chair of the RCG Health Insurance Trust, opened the Public Hearing at 12:08 p.m.

Dr. Maloney: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, I am Angelina Maloney, and I am a Trustee of the Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Health Insurance Trust. I hereby call this public hearing to order at 12:08 p.m. on October 13, 2023 for the purpose of taking comments and testimony from the public on the Trustees' proposal to allow for future remote videoconference participation in its meetings under the provisions of the New York State Public Officers Law, as amended by Chapter 56, Part WW of the Laws of 2022. This meeting was previously noticed by the Trustees by publication and posting, and a copy of the Legal Notice and the proposed resolution under consideration by the Trustees are being entered on the official record of the hearing.

This public hearing is being recorded for the purpose of maintaining a record of the hearing.

The purpose of this hearing is to hear comments from the public on the Resolution, which will be acted upon by the Trustees at its meeting this afternoon, and which, if passed, will allow Trustees to participate in meetings of the Trust through electronic means.

Comments on the resolution may be offered during the public hearing by any person wishing to speak and by any person who submits their comments in writing, electronically, to the Trust at bboudreau@questar.org. Comments will be accepted until 12:00p.m. or the official close of the public hearing, whichever is later.

Anyone wishing to speak in person may do so now. Please introduce yourself by name and affiliation. Please limit your remarks to two minutes in duration so that we can ensure that anyone wishing to speak will be able to. If you have written comments with you that you would like to submit for the record, you may provide them to me after you finish speaking. Please speak clearly.

Mr. Wetherbee made comment: He stated it is very difficult to hear the meeting over Zoom. The farther away from the overhead mic that a speaker is, the more difficult it is to hear. Using table microphones should be considered as they would provide better projection into the remote environment. Mr. Wetherbee was thanked for his comment.

Dr. Maloney: At this point, it appears that all persons present who wish to be heard have spoken. Has the Trust received any written comment by email?

Ms. Boudreau replied that no written comment was received.

Dr. Maloney: Having received no further comments and seeing no other persons present for comment, I will hold this public hearing open until 12:10 p.m., at which time it shall be officially closed.

Seeing no one else present seeking to offer comment, and it being 12:10p.m., I hereby officially close this public hearing.

I want to thank the public for its participation in this process. The comments received will be presented to the Trustees as they consider the adoption of the resolution regarding videoconferencing at its meeting this afternoon.

Hearing Closed

Dr. Angelina Maloney closed the Public Hearing at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Barbara Boudreau

RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION

At a duly called meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Health Insurance Trust, upon a motion made by _____, and seconded by _____, the following resolution was placed before the Board of Trustees:

WHEREAS, in accordance with the recently amended Public Officers Law (L.2022, Ch. 56, part WW), the Board of Trustees of the Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Health Insurance Trust called and held a public hearing on October 13, 2023 on whether to allow for expanded use of video conferencing to conduct meetings of the Board of Trustees, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees believes that expanding the use of videoconferencing to facilitate the attendance at meetings by Trustees and committee members who cannot otherwise be present is desirable, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the New York State Open Meetings Law, the Board of Trustees authorizes the conduct of its meetings by videoconferencing in accordance with the following requirements governing member and public attendance, consistent with such law:

- Trustees are expected to be physically present at meetings at a location or locations open to the public provided, however, that a Trustee who is unable to be physically present at a meeting due to Extraordinary Circumstances may participate by videoconferencing from a location that is not open to the public in accordance with these procedures.
- Videoconferencing technology must allow the public to hear and view the open meeting and, where public participation is authorized, to participate.
- Public notice of meetings using videoconferencing must be provided on the Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Health Insurance Trust website and shall include, in addition to any other notice requirements for its meetings, a statement that videoconferencing will be used; directions on how the meeting may be viewed and, where permitted, how the public may participate; where required documents and records will be made available; and the physical location(s) for the meeting where public can attend.
- “Extraordinary Circumstances” includes the following: disability, illness, caregiving responsibilities, and significant or unexpected factors or events which preclude the Trustee’s physical presence at the meeting. A Trustee with extraordinary circumstances who wishes to attend a meeting by videoconference must notify the President and executive Director as soon as practicable, but in no event later than two days before the meeting.
- A Trustee participating by videoconference may participate in the meeting and vote, however, only Trustees who are physically present at locations open to the public shall be counted toward meeting quorum requirements. Meeting minutes shall record Trustees who are present for quorum purposes, present by videoconference, and absent.

- A meeting using videoconferencing must be recorded and then posted or link provided on the Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Health Insurance Trust website within five days of the meeting. The recorded meeting must remain so available for at least five years.
- This policy will remain in effect during the effective period of the provisions L.2022, Ch. 56, part WW, §4 and as that law may be extended.

and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Chair and Secretary take such necessary and desirable to implement this resolution and that they conspicuously post this resolution on the Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Health Insurance Trust's website.

Vote: ____ - In Favor

____ - Opposed

____ - Abstentions

Barbara Boudreau, Secretary

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