

ADDENDUM TO LOCAL POLICY FOR BOARD MEETINGS AND TOWN OFFICIALS CODE OF ETHICS

Town of Columbus, Columbia County, WI

Prohibition on Non-Disclosure Agreements Related to Town Business

Effective Date: March 9, 2026

Adopted By: Town of Columbus Board

Purpose

This addendum clarifies the authority of Board Members regarding confidentiality agreements and ensures transparency in matters related to Town governance and public business.

Policy Statement

No elected or appointed Board Member shall enter into, execute, or otherwise agree to any Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), confidentiality agreement, or similar legally binding instrument that restricts the disclosure of information related to Town business.

For purposes of this policy, “Town business” includes, but is not limited to:

- Matters involving Town governance, administration, operations, or finances
- Contracts, procurement, and vendor relationships
- Personnel matters handled in accordance with applicable open meeting and public records laws
- Communications, deliberations, or actions undertaken in an official capacity

Exception

This prohibition does not apply to:

- Confidentiality obligations expressly required by state or federal law
- Executive session discussions conducted in compliance with applicable open meeting laws
- Attorney-client privileged communications between the Board and legal counsel

Enforcement

Any agreement signed in violation of this policy shall be considered unauthorized and unenforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law. Board Members who violate this provision may be subject to review or action consistent with applicable laws and governance procedures.

Severability

If any provision of this addendum is found invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.