

April 3, 2018
ITEM 14.C.1

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Board of County Commissioners

DATE: March 14, 2018

SUBJECT: Oslo Cemetery

FROM: Susan Adams
Commissioner, District 1

The Oslo Cemetery has burials dating back to the early 1900's and is the resting place for several Civil War veterans.

In 1957, the State of Florida transferred to Indian River County, the ownership of a 1.2 acre parcel of land known as the Oslo Cemetery. The tract is located at the intersection of Old Dixie Highway and 3rd Street, SW (305 Old Dixie Highway) and had been used as a cemetery for at least sixty (60) years containing approximately forty (40) to fifty (50) graves.

Rather than continue maintenance of the cemetery or open it up for burials, the Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously (4-0) to investigate the disposal of the cemetery in 1984.

Approved and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on April 23, 1986, the cemetery was sold to Jane Louise Gregory, accepting a bid of \$5,000.00 (see attached Deed and Corrective Deed dated October 16, 1986), with the caveat that "provided always, however, that grantee hereby agrees that said property shall forever be used and maintained solely as a cemetery for the burial of deceased persons, and if this property is ever so not used, it shall automatically revert to the Grantor."

In 2012, Oslo Cemetery, Inc. obtained the site of the Oslo Cemetery by Quit-Claim Deed (copy attached).

Indian River County has recently received complaints from individuals unable to access the Oslo Cemetery to visit the gravesites of their deceased relatives, as well as available plot inquiries from family members of those currently buried in the Cemetery.

Attached is a copy of Florida Statute Chapter 497.263 regulating cemeteries.

By letter dated December 12, 2017 (attached), County Attorney Reingold requested Oslo Cemetery, Inc., afford access to the property so people can visit the gravesites of their deceased relatives. To date, there has been no response.

I would appreciate a discussion regarding the next steps to ensure Oslo Cemetery, Inc. adheres to Florida Laws and the rights of family members of those currently buried in the Oslo Cemetery are protected.

Attachments:

- (1) Deed dated April 23, 1986
- (2) Corrective Deed dated October 16, 1986
- (3) 2012 Quit-Claim Deed
- (4) Florida Statute Chapter 497.263
- (5) County Attorney Reingold letter dated December 12, 2017