REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: 18 October 2006

SUBJECT: Application for county control of an abandoned public cemetery

(lower section, Mill Pond Cemetery)

ATTACHMENT(S): (1) Application as received (lower section, Mill Pond Cemetery)

(2) Survey of lower section, Mill Pond Cemetary

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Henderson County has received an application from Jay Jackson, Chair of the Henderson County Cemetery Advisory Committee, for Henderson County to assume possession and control of an abandoned public cemetery. The cemetery is described in the attached survey, with Henderson County PIN 0096409780045, and is known as "lower section, Mill Pond Cemetery".

Under your ordinance:

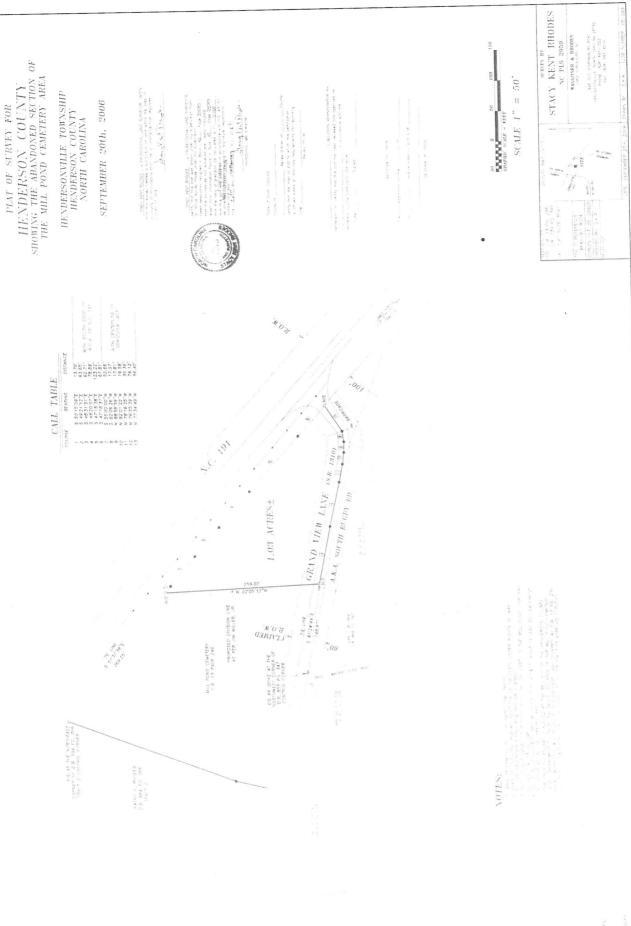
- 1) The Board must "assume possession and control" of all abandoned public cemeteries. (Code §76-6)
- 2) "An abandoned cemetery is a cemetery for which there is no ascertainable person or entity responsible for maintenance and care, and which has not actually been maintained or cared for so that it has fallen into a state of disrepair as evidenced by overgrown foliage, broken grave markers, loss of grave identity, or such other circumstances indicating neglect or abandonment." (§76-4(a))
- 3) "A public cemetery is a cemetery that:
 - (1) Is or was last owned or controlled by a public body without any relinquishment of ownership or control by said public body; or
 - (2) Has been (i) dedicated for use by the public generally by an express or implied dedication, and (ii) accepted by the public expressly by an act of a public body or impliedly by the actual use of the cemetery by the general public." (§76-4(c))

The only substantial issue identified by staff as a concern with this application is the location of the boundaries of the "lower section, Mill Pond Cemetery". As under §76-6, the Board is responsible to insure that the cemetery "boundaries and lines are clearly laid out, defined and marked, and shall take proper steps to preserve them from encroachment", the location of these boundaries is required information. This is especially true as the remainder of Mill Pond Cemetery is well cared for, and clearly not an abandoned cemetery of any sort.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

If the Board is so inclined, the following motion is suggested:

I move that the Board assume and exercise possession and control of the lower section of Mill Pond Cemetery as surveyed as an abandoned public cemetery pursuant to Chapter 76 of the Henderson County Code.



PLAT NORTH SLIDE 3590