

RURAL SCHOOLS
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dations put forward by the various town officials and administrators.

Smola said he has been pushing for the Chapter 70 formula to be fixed for some time.

“We should have been prepping for this two years ago,” he said. “We should already be here with a solution. We should already have a fix to the Chapter 70 formula.”

He said the formula needs to be wiped out and rebuilt, in order for it to be beneficial to the school districts and the towns.

Smola also raised concerns about the financial cliff created by the Student Opportunity Act, which is set to run out in fiscal year 2027. He also talked about the “unprecedented” number of communities seeking overrides.

“Education is the big one,” he said in terms of costs in the budget. “It

has the biggest impact on municipalities.”

Smola said school districts are facing declining enrollment across the commonwealth, and they are now fighting over the same people. He said many school districts are also holding on to brick and mortar infrastructure that should not be in service.

“That’s not pragmatic and it’s not practical,” he said. “We’ve got to look at this through a different set of eyes.”

Berthiaume said pressure from school administrators and town officials on State House leadership would have more of an impact than just from him and the other legislators.

Smola said they should ask legislators to take roll call votes before an amendment, and “get them on the record.”

“If you want this short-term fix, that would be my recommendation,” Smola said. “Your voice is going

to be important to this process.”

Marsi said it’s the words and actions of citizens that “turns the wheel” of change at the State House.

Durant said legislators face an uphill battle on Beacon Hill, and he also advocated for the need for roll call votes.

“Because that’s where people publicly announce their priorities,” he said.

A unified voice

Mucha passed around a letter for administrators and town officials to sign, showing their unified commitment to advocate for funding changes for rural schools.

Haughey said school districts cannot continue to meet state mandates without a change in funding.

“We can only work with what we’re given. We’re going backwards, not forward, with resources...the Band-Aids are done,” he said.

Public Notices

BARRE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

The Barre Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, May 05, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Henry Woods Municipal Building, 40 West Street, 3rd Floor, Barre, MA, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5, upon the following article to appear on the Warrant for the May 19, 2026 Annual Town Meeting: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Barre Code, Chapter 140 Zoning, Section 140-4, Location of Districts, as follows, §140-4 Location of Districts, A. The location and boundaries of these districts shall be as shown on the Zoning Map of Barre dated March 27, 2026, being the most recent revision of prior Town of Barre Zoning Maps, which shall be on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

A copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, the Planning Board and on the Town’s website at <https://www.townofbarre.com>.

Anyone wishing to comment on this matter should attend the hearing or submit comments in writing prior to the hearing to the Planning Board.

Floyd Kelley, Chairman
04/16, 04/23/2026

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ON **MAY 2, 2026** AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:

2010 Infiniti EX35
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2011 Volkswagen Jetta VIN 3VWVDZ7AJ9BM374160
2013 Honda CR-V VIN 2HKRM4H72DH615582
2014 Subaru Legacy VIN 4S3BMBL68E3018633

2009 Lincoln Navigator VIN 5LMFL28529EJ02048
2015 Audi Q7 VIN WAILGAFE4FD006798
2004 Subaru Impreza VIN JF1GD67594H503868
2000 Toyota Corolla VIN 1NXBR12E3YZ355533
2007 Hyundai SANTA FE VIN 5NMSH73E17H026571
2011 Mazda 6 VIN 1YVHZ8CH2B5M17094
2013 Nissan NV VIN 1N6AFOLY7DN108416
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2007 Hyundai SANTA FE VIN 5NMSG73D67H107012
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04/16, 04/23, 04/30/2026



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