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## **Citing discord, OHA board chairman resigns The mayor will appoint Wayne's successor as the agency struggles with a budget crisis.**

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**WRITER** **Date:** March 13, 2011 **Section:** News

The board chairman of the financially troubled **Omaha Housing Authority** has resigned. Phil Wayne, a board member since September 2009, said disagreements among his colleagues led to his departure. He has led the agency's governing body for five months.

"The board has been divided in how to proceed for quite some time," he said Saturday.

Wayne said he concluded it was "better" if he stepped down and on Thursday submitted his resignation in a letter to Mayor Jim Suttle.

Suttle will appoint Wayne's successor on the board, though the nominee must be approved by the City Council.

Suttle has chosen a replacement. But his spokeswoman, Aida Amoura, declined to identify the person before a formal announcement Monday.

Nell Winford, vice chairwoman of the board, is next in line in the board's succession plan, but the next chairman or chairwoman will be chosen by the board.

Wayne declined to elaborate on the nature of the board members' disagreements ahead of a special meeting the board has scheduled for Tuesday.

"It has to do with process," he said.

The OHA is struggling with how to adjust to a retroactive cut in its federal subsidy and other debts.

The **authority's** executive director, Stan Timm, resigned in late January. A union representing about half of OHA's 200 employees has voted to reject a board proposal that would effectively cut salaries and pension benefits.

Wayne said he had been working on OHA matters "virtually full-time" and had struggled to align the **authority's** staff and its board in a plan.

"It's a big boat to turn around on the ocean," he said of the agency.

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