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OHA pay cuts go into effect

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Omaha Housing Authority employees will see cuts in pay and benefits in their next paychecks. The OHA board on Thursday voted to undo a 3 percent raise that went into effect in January and to cut the **housing authority's** contribution to employee pensions. The cuts are an effort to save money in the wake of a retroactive federal subsidy cut and discovery of internal debts.

The cuts go into effect immediately for nonunion employees, who make up about half of OHA's nearly 200-person staff. Union employees will have to agree to the cuts or face layoffs, board members said Thursday.

OHA officials were scheduled to meet with union representatives Thursday afternoon, but union members wouldn't vote on the matter until Monday.

OHA had a wage freeze for two years and had agreed to a 3 percent raise effective Jan. 1 for nonunion as well as union employees.

OHA also is exploring outside charitable funding to pay for an audit and analysis of agency operations.

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