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Council tells Board of Health to form subcommittee

The Lubbock Board of Health was tasked Wednesday by the Lubbock City Council to form a subcommittee exploring a possible city-county Health Department.

Posted: December 14, 2011 - 10:52pm | Updated: December 15, 2011 - 12:32am

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By **TOMMY MAGELSSSEN**

AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

The Lubbock Board of Health was tasked Wednesday by the Lubbock City Council to form a subcommittee exploring a possible city-county Health Department.

Dr. Steve Presley, chairman of the Board of Health, said he will seek various members within the health community to be part of the board.

He said he wants to get one or two CEOs of major health care providers in the area and people from Texas Tech's health services to get input from the business community.

Membership of the board should be finalized by the end of this week, he said.

At the council meeting, Presley said the Board of Health had met with the county last month, and the county expressed interest in discussing the matter further.

County Judge Tom Head was at the Nov. 18 meeting, and he said the county could commit to discussing the matter. However, he did not indicate if the county is willing to join forces.

The decision Wednesday is the latest in a series of measures taken by the city, county and Texas Tech to help preserve the Health Department.

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In November, the council voted to preserve the city Health Department as is for the rest of the year. Lubbock Mayor Tom Martin has said he has major concerns about where the continued funding will come from for the preservation of the building.

The council has discussed outsourcing immunization and STD clinics to third parties.

The city has agreed to a joint venture with Texas Tech's Health Sciences Center department of internal medicine residency program.

Fellows would work under supervision at the Health Department in the program. The venture needs to be approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

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