

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

The Chase County commissioners will work with retiring Emergency Management Director Paul Kunnemann to discuss his mentoring of new Director Duane Dreiling.

Dreiling was hired Dec. 3 to replace Kunnemann, who submitted a letter of resignation as of Dec. 31.

At that same meeting, Kunnemann rescinded his resignation and indicated that he would no longer attend meetings or work nights or weekends.

The commissioners had not technically accepted his resignation. Commissioner Jodi Thompson said the commissioners hadn't opened or read the letter.

She said Kunnemann indicated that "he'd have another letter to give to us at our next meeting. If he doesn't, we'll say he's resigned as of Dec. 31."

Thompson said it is her impression that Kunnemann "wanted to go, and was on the team to select a new hire.

"We're trying to get the issue resolved," she noted, adding that Kunnemann is hospitalized and unable to respond to questions.

"When he's feeling better we'll discuss his mentoring in some capacity and get it all figured out.

"He knows we've hired someone else. That won't be a problem," Thompson stated.

Dreiling will assume the part-time job Jan. 1, 2014. He has been acting director during a previous illness of Kunnemann's, has been deputy director for seven years and has been a storm spotter for 17 years.

Kunnemann was director for 25 years.