

“I am looking forward to reviewing the budget and getting a good grasp of where all the different sources of income are,” said Babcock in a brief phone interview on Wednesday, adding that he’s “not charging in with any particular agenda.”

The state paid a \$495,000 settlement on behalf of Babcock and Dunleavy to two state psychiatrists who had been fired at the start of Dunleavy’s time in office for refusing to sign a so-called “loyalty pledge” to the governor.

Asked about that settlement, Babcock said “that’s certainly something that is in the past.”

“I have a 40-year plus reputation of working in all levels of local and state government and private business. I don’t think there’s going to be any real issue there,” Babcock said. “The Board of Trustees has a wide variety of opinions on it, and represents Alaska well. I’ll hopefully be a positive member in that mix.”